



Odontology Section – 2011

F18 Identification of David Koresh by Dental Records

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the process of identification of unidentified human remains by dental records as applied to the Mount Carmel incident near Waco, Texas, in 1993.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by providing a review of one forensic science discipline's contribution to the resolution of a significant mass-fatality incident.

Eighty-six people died as a result of the Mount Carmel incident: ten people in the initial raid on the compound on February 28, 1993 (six residents of the compound and four BATF agents), and 76 people died in the fire that subsequently occurred at the compound on April 19, 1993.

The Texas Justice of the Peace with jurisdiction in this matter ordered the decedents to be taken to the morgue at the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's District (TCMED) in Fort Worth, Texas, for autopsy and examination under the direction of Chief Medical Examiner. The Director of the TCMED Human Identification Lab at the time was Rodney Crow, DDS. The "Dental Disaster Squad," composed of many members of the Fort Worth District Dental Society had been well prepared for such a mass-fatality incident by: (1) training at the Southwest Symposium on Forensic Dentistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio Dental School; and, (2) participation in actual, local incidents involving Delta Airline flights 191 (1983) and 1141 (1985) at D/FW International Airport in Fort Worth/Dallas, Texas. Approximately 40 to 50 unpaid volunteers from the dental society donated almost countless hours of professional services extending over a period of three months.

Dental ID, Mount Carmel, David Koresh