

# TERRORISM REFRESHER

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Volcano CERT

# WHAT IS TERRORISM?

The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives

# TERRORIST GOALS

- Mass casualties
  - Loss of critical resources
  - Disruption of vital services
  - Disruption of the economy
  - Heightened fear
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# TERRORIST TARGETS

- Seats of government
  - Key industries
  - Bridges, subways, tunnels, and other key transportation facilities
  - Water supplies and utilities
  - Telecommunications/Power grid
  - Symbolic sites
  - Public
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# TERRORIST WEAPONS - WMD

- **C**hemical
- **B**iological
- **R**adiological
- **N**uclear
- High-yield **E**xplosives

# CHEMICAL WEAPONS

- Blister agents – cause severe burns
- Blood agents - interrupts Hemoglobin transport
- Choking agents – stress respiratory system
- Nerve agents - disrupt the central nervous system
- Riot-control agents – tearing, respiratory distress

# BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

- Anthrax
  - Plague
  - Cholera
  - Viruses
  - Routes of exposure:
    - Inhalation
    - Ingestion
    - Absorption
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# RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

- Considered a higher threat because components are easy to obtain



# NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- Derives destructive force from nuclear reaction
- Affected area is larger as contaminated objects spread
- Potential for casualties extends beyond initial attack
- Long-term effects difficult to monitor and track

# HIGH-YIELD EXPLOSIVES

- Weapon of choice for terrorists
- Used in 80% of attacks
- Military munitions: grenades, mortars, surface-to-air missiles
- Newer explosives called improvised explosive devices or IEDs
- Any device created in an improvised manner used to destroy, disfigure, distract, or harass

# ASSESSING THE RISK

- Types of WMD terrorist weapons in order of greatest risk (least to greatest):
    - Nuclear
    - Chemical
    - Radiological
    - Biological
    - High-yield explosives
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# EIGHT SIGNS OF TERRORISM

- Surveillance
  - Elicitation
  - Tests of security
  - Funding
  - Acquiring supplies
  - Impersonation or suspicious people
  - Rehearsals and dry runs
  - Deployment
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# ATTACK HAS OCCURRED OR IS UNDERWAY

- Vapor clouds or mists
  - Unscheduled spraying
  - Materials or equipment unusual for the area
  - Unusual odors or tastes
  - Out of place and unattended packages
  - Leaking packages
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# SEE CBRNE INDICATORS?

- If you observe any indications of a terrorist incident you should:
  - Not touch it
  - Move away from object or area
  - Report it to authorities immediately

# PHYSICAL SIGNS OF CHEMICAL-BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

- Sick or dead animals, fish, or birds
- Large number of persons seeking medical attention
- Multiple survivors exhibiting similar symptoms
- Multiple casualties without obvious signs of trauma

# PREPARING AT HOME, WORK, NEIGHBORHOOD

- Personal and family safety is first priority!
- CERT members are NOT equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents
- Terrorism incident scenes are also crime scenes



# PREPARE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY

- CBRNE events are survivable
- Preparing for terrorist incidents similar to preparing for natural hazards
- Certain actions more relevant to CBRNE

# SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURES

- Shut off ventilation systems
- Go to your shelter-in-place room
- Use precut plastic sheeting to cover air openings
- Tape sheeting over doors, windows, vents
- Use duct tape to seal other areas
- Listen to a battery-powered radio
- Ventilate room once contaminants are gone

# PROTECTION FROM RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT

- Go deep inside a building  
(distance/shielding)
- Stay inside (time)
- Stay tuned

# BASIC DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

- Leave the contaminated area
  - Take decontamination action
    - Remove everything
    - Wash hands
    - Flush the entire body
    - Blot dry
  - Report for decontamination
  - Food safety
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# TREATING OTHERS

- First priority for a CERT member is personal safety
  - Take self-protective measures only
  - Do not attempt to treat survivors in contaminated area
  - Tell survivors about decontamination procedures

# WHAT PROFESSIONAL RESPONDERS WILL DO

- Follow sizeup steps:
  - What is going on
  - How bad the situation is and how much worse it could get
  - What measures can be taken to control the incident safely
  - What resources will be needed

# SUMMARY

- Terrorists attack to:
  - Intimidate the government or the civilian population
  - Further their objectives
- Their goals are to:
  - Create mass casualties
  - Disrupt critical resources, vital services, and the economy
  - Cause fear

# SUMMARY (CONT'D)

## CERT Protocol for Terrorist Incidents

- Terrorist incidents are a stop sign!
- Do not proceed if you suspect terrorist activity
- Simple guidelines:
  - Do not touch
  - Move away from object or area
  - Report it to authorities immediately



# OTHER CONSIDERATIONS – ACTIVE SHOOTER

Escape if possible, help others if possible, follow LEO instructions, keep hands visible

Defend in place

- Hide out, keep out of view
- Lock and blockade the door
- Silence cell phone, turn off noise sources
- Hide behind large items
- Remain quiet and calm
- Dial 911 if possible, leave line open
- Take action against active shooter

# MORE CONSIDERATIONS

- “If you see something, say something”
- Always be aware of your surroundings, be alert for suspicious activities, take precautions when traveling
- Leave an area if something isn’t quite right
- Protect your belongings, your identity
- Follow instructions in an event, don’t add to the problem, don’t become a victim
- Explosions are often followed by a secondary explosion targeting responders

**VOLCANO**



**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE TEAM**