

# Terrorism Refresher

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

# 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

# Terrorist Weapons - wmd

- Chemical
- Biological
- Radiological
- Nuclear
- High-yield Explosives

# 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

# 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

# Eight signs of terrorism

- Surveillance
- Elicitation
- Tests of security
- Funding
- Acquiring supplies
- Impersonation or suspicious people
- Rehearsals and dry runs
- Deployment

# 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

# 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

# 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

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