

# Terrorism and CERT



## CERT Basic Training Unit 8

# Unit Objectives

- Define terrorism
- Identify potential targets in the community
- Identify the eight signs of terrorism
- Identify CERT operating procedures for a terrorist incident
- Describe the actions to take following a suspected terrorist incident

# Unit Topics

- What Is Terrorism?
- Terrorist Targets
- Terrorist Weapons
- CBRNE Indicators
- Preparing at Home, Work, and in Your Neighborhood
- CERTs and Terrorist Incidents



# 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



# Terrorism in the Past



# 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

# Terrorist Weapons

1. **C**hemical
2. **B**iological
3. **R**adiological
4. **N**uclear
5. **H**igh-yield  
**E**xplosives





# Chemical Weapons

1. Blister agents
2. Blood agents
3. Choking agents
4. Nerve agents
5. Riot-control agents



# Biological Weapons



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 terrorist weapons in order of greatest risk (least to greatest):
  - Nuclear
  - Chemical
  - Radiological
  - Biological
  - High-yield explosives



# Eight Signs of Terrorism

1. Surveillance
2. Elicitation
3. Tests of security
4. Funding
5. Acquiring supplies
6. Impersonation or suspicious people
7. Rehearsals and dry runs
8. 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 victims 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
- Review Unit 1 guidelines
- 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

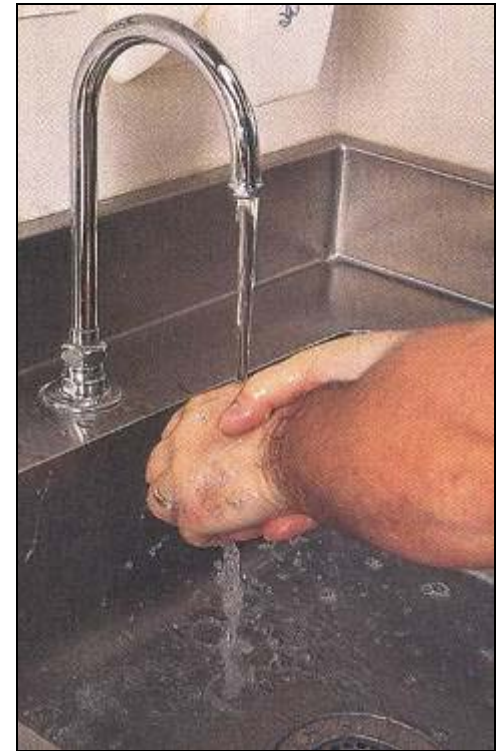


# Protection from Radioactive Fallout

- 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 victims in contaminated area
  - Tell victims 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



# Unit 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

# Unit Summary (cont'd)

## Terrorist Weapons

1. **C**hemical
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**E**xplosives



# Unit 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

# Homework Assignment

- Review the materials from the previous units
- Wear appropriate clothing for disaster simulation exercise

