

## Community Emergency Response Team









### Terrorism

Released: 20 January 2023      **Contra Costa CERT Coalition**

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## Community Emergency Response Team


-  Personal safety is **ALWAYS** the number one priority
-  Show up prepared
  - Wear appropriate clothing and footwear, have **WATER**
  - Wear PPE – your personal protective equipment ...gloves, helmet, goggles, mask, boots, etc.
  - Have at least one communications device: cell, radio, etc.
-  Work as a team
-  Size-up - maintain situational awareness
-  The CERT goal is to do the  
**Greatest Good for the Greatest Number**
-  *Hope for the best but plan for the worst!*

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## Unit Objectives

- 👮 What is terrorism
- 👮 Targets, Tactics & Weapons
- 👮 What to do if involved in a terrorist attack
- 👮 How to counter terrorism
- 👮 How to prepare




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## What is Terrorism?

- 👮 The U.S. Department of Justice defines terrorism as:
  - 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



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What is terrorism?

“the threatened or actual use of illegal force and violence by a non-state actor to attain a political, economic, religious, or social goal through fear, coercion, or intimidation”

- 👤 Recognizes the psychological impact it has on a society for many years
- 👤 Must be intended to coerce, intimidate, or convey some other message to a larger audience other than to the immediate victims
- 👤 Outside the precepts of international humanitarian law

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Long history in the United States



1916



Wall Street 1920 - 38 deaths



1975



Unibomber 1996



2015



9/11/2001

286 Fatalities Between 2015 and 2019

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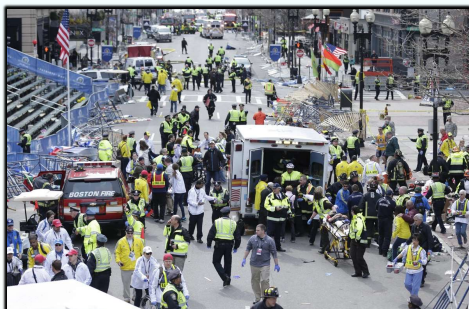
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## Some Terrorist Goals: Are Tactical

- 👮 Mass casualties
- 👮 Loss of critical resources
- 👮 Disruption of vital services
- 👮 Recruiting & fund raising



<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2013/04/photos-of-the-boston-marathon-bombing/100495/>

**Attention to surroundings can defeat terrorist's tactical goals**

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## Some Terrorist Goals: Are Strategic

- 👮 Undermine confidence in the Government
- 👮 Disruption of the economy
- 👮 Geopolitical change
- 👮 Heightened fear and spreading of misinformation-  
**Social Amplification**



**Terrorists DO NOT achieve strategic goals if we do not over react**

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### Hazards in Contra Costa for which we prepare


#### Natural

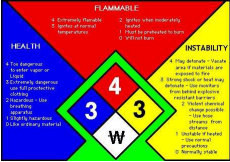
- Fires
- Floods
- Earthquake
- Tsunami
- Disease
- Extreme Weather



#### Technological

- Hazardous Materials
- Planes
- Trains
- Refineries and Pipelines
- Cyber





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### Preparing for Hazards - Prepares for Terrorism

#### Natural

- Fires
- Floods
- Disease



#### Icons & “soft” targets

- Public buildings
- Large public gatherings
- Parks, cafes



#### Technological

- Hazardous Materials
- Planes
- Trains
- Refineries
- Cyber



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Terrorist Tactics and Weapons

 Improvised & Homemade Explosive Devices (IEDs)

 Firearms

 Vehicles

 Chemical (Toxic Industrial Chemicals-TICs)

 Biological

 Radiological

 Nuclear

 Cyber

Any may be used in complex coordinated attacks

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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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### Potential Indicators of Terrorism

-  Look for unusual/suspicious behavior – out of the ordinary events or items
  - Unattended bags or leaking packages
  - People not dressed for the situation
  - People taking pictures of security arrangements
-  **If you see something, say something!**
  - Contact local law enforcement
  - Use the FBI Suspicious Activity Reporting Tip Line at <https://www.fbi.gov/tips>








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### CBRNE Indicators

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosive (CBRNE) Indicators

-  Vapor clouds or mists that are unusual for the area or for the time of day
-  Out of place and unattended packages, boxes, or vehicles
-  Multiple victims exhibiting similar symptoms
-  If you observe any indicators
  - Do not touch
  - Move away
  - Report it



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## If You See Indicators

***IF YOU FIND A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE:***

-  Do not touch it!
-  Move away from the object
-  Report it to authorities











**Caution: Using cellular phones or two-way radios may detonate an explosive device!**

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## 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








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### Until Help Arrives




-  CERT volunteers are NOT equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents
-  If you find yourself in a situation that you believe to be a terrorist attack, focus on the most lifesaving interventions:
  - Move those in grave danger to a safe place
  - Open airway
  - Stop bleeding
  - Prevent shock
-  Consider the impacts of stress & fear on yourself and others
-  Be alert to the possibility of a second coordinated attack




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### Basic Personal Decontamination Procedures

-  Leave the immediate contaminated area
-  Take decontamination action
  - Remove everything
  - Wash hands before using them to shower
  - Shower or flush with cool water
  - Blot dry
-  Report for professional decontamination



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## What Professional Responders Will Do



### Follow size-up steps

- What is going on?
- How bad is the situation and how much worse could it get?
- Is there a possibility of a secondary attack
- What measures can be taken to control the incident safely?
- What resources will be needed?

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## Active Shooter



### Run

- If there is an accessible escape path, attempt to evacuate the premises



### Hide

- If evacuation is not possible, find a place to hide where the active shooter is less likely to find you



### Fight

- If you are unable to run, evacuate or hide and when your life is in imminent danger, you may attempt to disrupt and/or incapacitate the active shooter

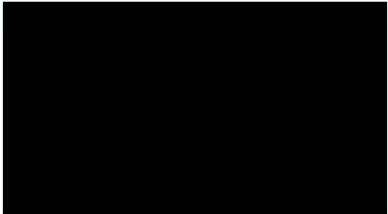
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Active Shooter



Visual TERR.20

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Preparing for Terrorism – Sound Familiar?

 Assemble a disaster supply kit

 Identify a safe room and meeting place outside of the home or workplace

 Develop a family communication plan

 Learn shelter-in-place procedures

 Stay informed: Only use authoritative & official sources of information




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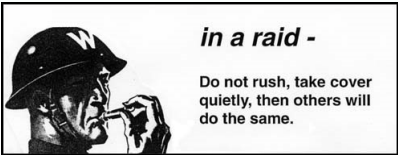
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### What Else Might CERTs Do?



**Air Raid Wardens  
WANTED**  
AND THEY ARE WANTED NOW  
GET INTO TOUCH WITH YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL



**in a raid -**  
Do not rush, take cover quietly, then others will do the same.

- 🧑 Fear is contagious, but so is confidence: Stay Calm
- 🧑 Studies show social amplification can be mitigated by:
  - Trust in authorities
  - Accurate, consistent information even if the answer is “we’re not sure but stay tuned”
  - CERTs may be an avenue for disseminating authorized, accurate information

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### Questions ?



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Takeaways

 **When terrorists attack, their goals are to:**

- Create mass casualties
- Disrupt critical resources, vital services, and the economy
- Cause widespread fear
- **STAY CALM**

 **Terrorism is old but some tactics are new**

- Active Shooter
- Vehicles
- Improvised Explosive Devices
- Complex Coordinated Attacks
- Cyber Attacks

- BE ALERT: If you see something Say Something

 **CERT volunteers are NOT equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents**

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