

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 dead



1975



Unibomber 1996



9/11/2001



2015

286 Fatalities Between 2015 and 2019

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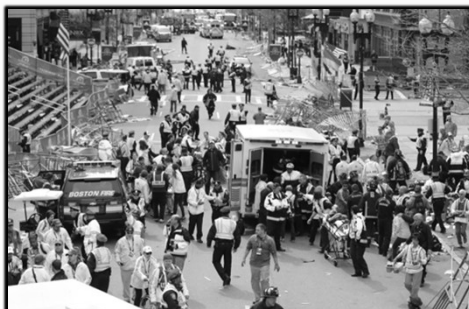
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Some Terrorist Goals: Are Tactical

- 👤 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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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

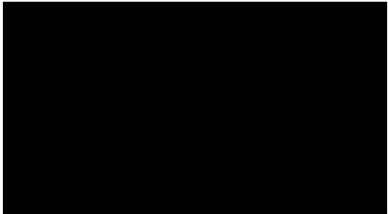
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Active Shooter



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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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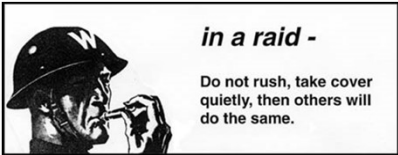
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What Else Might CERTs Do?



**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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