

Community Emergency Response Team



Terrorism

Released: 28 February 2026

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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1

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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2

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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3

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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4

Long history in the United States

1916

NYC 1975

9/11/2001

Wall Street 1920 - 38 dec

Unibomber 1996

2015


286 Fatalities Between 2015 and 2019

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5

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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6

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

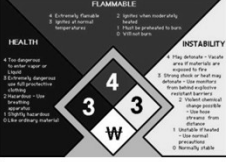
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7

Hazards in Contra Costa for which we prepare

<p>Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Fires 👤 Floods 👤 Earthquake 👤 Tsunami 👤 Disease 👤 Extreme Weather 	<p>Technological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Hazardous Materials 👤 Planes 👤 Trains 👤 Refineries and Pipelines 👤 Cyber
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8

Preparing for Hazards - Prepares for Terrorism

<p>Natural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Fires 👤 Floods 👤 Disease 	<p>Icons & “soft” targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Public buildings 👤 Large public gatherings 👤 Parks, cafes 	<p>Technological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👤 Hazardous Materials 👤 Planes 👤 Trains 👤 Refineries 👤 Cyber
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9

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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10

Signs of Terrorism




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11

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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12

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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13

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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14

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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15

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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16

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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17

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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18

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

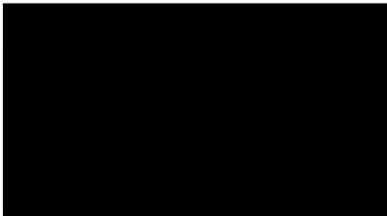
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19

Active Shooter



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20

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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21

What Else Might CERTs Do?



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

- 👤 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



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

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22

Questions ?



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23


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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