Community Emergency Response Team

Contra Costa CERT Coalition

Terrorism

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0

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

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

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

Long history in the United States



1916



Wall Street 1920 – 38 dea

NYC 1975





9/11/2001



Unibomber 1996

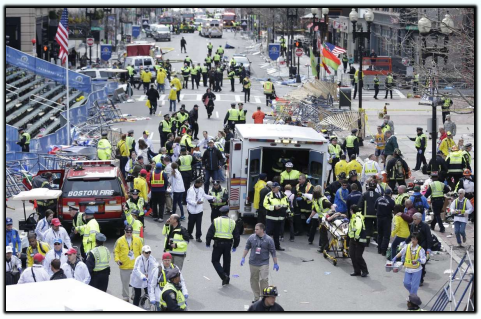


2015

286 Fatalities Between 2015 and 2019

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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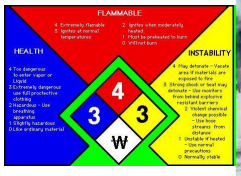
7

Hazards in Contra Costa for which we prepare

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

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







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8

Preparing for Hazards - Prepares for Terrorism

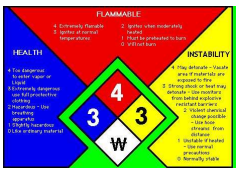
Natural
- Fires
- Floods
- Disease

Icons & "soft" targets
- Public buildings
- Large public gatherings
- Parks, cafes

Technological
- Hazardous Materials
- Planes
- Trains
- Refineries
- Cyber







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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

10

Signs of Terrorism



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

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

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?

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

19

Active Shooter



20

Preparing for Terrorism – Sound Familiar?

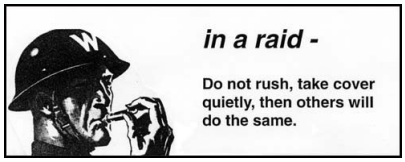
- Assemble a disaster supply kit
- Identify a safe room and meeting place outside of the home or workplace
- Develop a family communication plan
- Learn shelter-in-place procedures
- Stay informed: Only use authoritative & official sources of information



21

What Else Might CERTs Do?





- 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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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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24