

# TERRORISM DISASTER RESPONSE

## Background:

Terrorists look for visible targets where they can avoid detection before or after an attack such as international airports, large cities, major international events, resorts, and high-profile landmarks. Terrorism is the use of force or violence against persons or property in violation of the criminal laws of the United States for purposes of intimidation, coercion, or ransom.

High-risk targets for acts of terrorism include military and civilian government facilities, international airports, large cities, and high-profile landmarks. Terrorists might also target large public gatherings, water and food supplies, utilities, and corporate centers. Further, terrorists are capable of spreading fear by sending explosives or chemical and biological agents through the mail.

<b>Terrorists often use Threats to:</b>	<b>Acts of Terrorism Include:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create fear among the public.</li><li>• Try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism.</li><li>• Get immediate publicity for their causes.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Threats of terrorism; assassinations; kidnappings; hijackings; bomb scares and bombings; cyber attacks (computer-based); and the use of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons.</li></ul>

Within the immediate area of a terrorist event, you would need to rely on police, fire, and other officials for instructions. However, you can prepare in much the same way you would prepare for other crisis events.

## **When Terrorism Strikes:**

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Report conspicuous behavior.
- Take precautions when traveling.
  - Do not accept packages from strangers.
  - Do not leave luggage unattended.
  - Promptly report unusual behavior, suspicious or unattended packages and strange devices to the police or security personnel.
- Learn where emergency exits are located in buildings you frequent.
- Plan evacuation routes in case of an emergency.
- Be prepared to do without services you normally depend on—electricity, telephone, natural gas, gasoline pumps, cash registers, ATMs and Internet transactions.
- Work with building owners to ensure the following items are located on each floor of the building:
  - *Portable*, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
  - Several flashlights and extra batteries
  - First aid kit and manual



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- Hard hats and dust masks
- Fire extinguisher
- Fluorescent tape to rope off dangerous areas

