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# Terrorism and MCC

The definition by the US Department of Justice is “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.” These acts may be done by both foreign and domestic individuals and groups.

Recently, terrorist attacks have trended away from large resource intensive plots to smaller, local events. Some types are identified below.

- **Active Shooter:** An individual or group actively engaged in killing people in a confined or populated area. Usually without a pattern or method to their selection of targets. Many have some training or experience with weaponry. These are unpredictable and evolve quickly.
- **Improvised Explosive Device:** This is a homemade bomb ranging from a small pipe bomb to a sophisticated device capable of causing massive injury. It is easy to find instructions on how to make an IED. The IED can be “enhanced” by adding nails, glass or metal fragments that cause extensive injury when propelled by the explosive device.
- **Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks:** This is a synchronized attack to hit multiple sites simultaneously. This can have a large impact within a short period of time.
- **Cyber Attack:** A deliberate large-scale disruption of computer networks. One type used is a virus that can erase entire systems. This can be linked to organized crime, individual hackers, with the intent of monetary gain or social disruption.

## MCC Role

We all have a responsibility to play a role in keeping our community safe. The phrase, “If you see something, say something” took on additional recognition after it was successful in preventing a couple attacks. There are eight signs that may indicate the possibility of a terrorist attack. The FBI is contacted through 911 calls, in addition to local law enforcement.

1. Surveillance: There is an area being watched and/or recorded
2. Elicitation: Information is being gathered specific to a target by mail, phone or in person.
3. Tests of security: Local tests are run against security to see the response.
4. Funding: Raising money, laundering money to collect resources.
5. Acquiring supplies: Supplies are collected and stored, usually with cash.
6. Impersonation or suspicious people who do not belong: People who don’t fit in who are trying to do so.
7. Rehearsal and dry runs: Often there are timing maps and rehearsals run prior to the event.
8. Deployment: This is getting the gear and people in position.

## Active Shooter Situations

Quickly determine the most reasonable way to protect your own life. Others will soon follow the lead of the person leading the way, especially with communication of your intent to others. Below are the actions most law enforcement agencies support.

### Run

If there is an escape path, attempt to evacuate. Have an escape route in mind. Leave stuff behind. Help others to go with you. Keep hands visible. Call 911 when safe.

### Hide

If you can't leave, find a place to hide out of shooters view. Look for protective barriers. Silence cell phone and any source of noise. Lock the door and barricade. Dial 911 and leave your line open to allow the dispatcher to listen.

### Fight

Take decisive action. Throwing objects, yelling, improvise weapons. Another source of weaponry is PRAYER. God has mighty angels available. Pray for others involved and for how God will allow you to help. If you are willing to be used by God, miracles happen.

## Meeting Law enforcement

The purpose of the officers is to stop the shooter, who they may not yet be able to identify. Try to stay calm. Follow their instructions. Keep your hands empty and visible. Don't feel that you have to stop, go ahead and run past them to a safe zone. The first officers at the scene will NOT stop to help the wounded. Their job is to stop further damage. This is where your training on evacuation and caring for people may help. The officers once you are identified may use your help.

## Until Help Arrives

Stay in a safe environment. Help others to join you. Stop any active bleeding. Help people maintain a normal body temperature. Open airways as needed. Provide comfort to others. Pray. Quote scriptures. Try to do the greatest good for the greatest number.

## Secondary Attacks and Impacts

Attacks that involve explosions are typically followed with a second wave designed to impact those providing care. One explosion can set off other secondary explosions if gasoline, natural gas, or other material is ignited. Note that the blast has a physical impact. Debris is sent flying and people are hurled off the ground. Overpressure can damage the lungs, ears, and abdomen. Projectiles can be lethal. Thermal injuries are possible. Toxic substances can be generated.

## HAZMAT Decontamination Procedures

Although rather unlikely, some basic guidelines are noted for dealing with hazardous material events.

- Remove from the area by about 1000 feet.
- Limit the time the contaminant is on the skin by removing everything. Cut off clothes that would go over your head to reduce breathing more particles.
- Wash hands before starting to shower.
- Water bottles can be used if the only thing available.
- It takes a lot of water as some chemicals will start to react more if exposed to a small amount of water. So a hose will work well.
- Use soap in the water is readily available. Use COLD water. This keeps skin pores closed.
- Wash hair. Do not use conditioners or cream rinse as this keeps the contaminant on the hair.
- Ideally, the water should be contained done outside or to be decontaminated later.
- Blot your skin dry, do not rub, this can injury skin more.

## CBRNE

This stands for chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive. This causes mass casualties and great public unrest.

Biological and chemical attacks are not as obvious at times. Indicators include

Vapor clouds or mists unusual for place or time

Out of place packages, boxes, vehicles

Obvious and odd changes to unattended materials in color, odor, and temperature.

Do not touch these objects. Move away from the area. Report to authorities.

## Nuclear Attack

There are three factors that significantly affect your safety after an incident: time, distance, and shielding. Listen to emergency radio or TV stations for further information.

- Stay Inside (time). You may have to be there for a month before it is safe to leave.
- Go Deep inside (distance). Move away from windows, flat roofs, and exterior walls.
- Don't look at the flash or fireball. Take cover. If the blast is far away the blast wave could take up to 30 seconds to reach you, so run.
- Shelter in Place. Shut off ventilation systems. Shut doors and windows. Cover your interior safe room with plastic sheeting, sealing with duct tape.

## Exercises

1. Break into squads or teams. Come up with a list of things that can help your church, home, and friends prepare for a terrorism related emergency. Come together as a large group again to discuss the groups' ideas. Some examples: Have a communication plan for family members. Know nearest hospital to your location. Know where the fire exit maps are posted at church and school for the areas you are frequently in. Have a plan for evacuation routes out of the area.
2. Discuss if you can prepare yourself to be helpful to others in sudden extreme emergencies.
3. Determine if there are buildings with hazardous material management near to your home, school, or church.
4. What objects should be in a safe room? For example: duct tape, tarps, plastic, food, water, batteries, radio, and Bible.
5. Do you think everyone should have a safe room?
6. If possible, practice how to barricade a room.
7. Practice an emergency evacuation that has you assisting others in your meeting place. Some members can be in wheelchairs or using walkers.
8. What would be good Bible verses to know to use to calm people around you. Make a poster or do art work to display the verse or verses to memorize before the next meeting.

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For course certification, the form must be filled out.

Member Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Position Number \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor Position Number \_\_\_\_\_

Member FEMA SID \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor FEMA SID \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Instruction \_\_\_\_\_



Recognize the different types of terrorist attacks.



List the three options of action for an active shooter event.



Know some things you can do while waiting for help in a contained active shooter event.



Understand the ways to decontaminate you or others until help arrives.

\_\_\_\_\_ Review the safety guidelines for Sheltering in Place for a nuclear event.

\_\_\_\_\_ List the Bible verses that you memorized for this type of event.

With a complete sheet of initials, the instructor's signature signifies certification of completion for the Disaster Psychology course.

Instructor Signature \_\_\_\_\_