



Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

PREPARATION GUIDE TO A TERRORIST EVENT

User's Guide for the General Public

Q: How can I help my family be prepared in case of a terrorist event or other disaster?

A: You can develop an emergency plan for your household or work place. Meet with your family or coworkers and prepare for a disaster before one occurs. You should:

- Discuss the types of disasters most likely to happen. Explain what to do in each case.

- Post emergency telephone numbers by your phones. Teach your children how and when to call 911 or your local emergency medical services number.



- Learn first aid and CPR. Have fire extinguishers on hand and know how to use them properly.



- Determine the best escape routes from your home or office building. Find two ways out of each room. Find the safe spots in your home or office building for each type of disaster.



- Assemble a disaster kit. Stock emergency supplies.

- Have a battery-operated radio on hand with extra batteries. Identify your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio and television stations.



- Know how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home at the main switches. If tools are needed to disconnect these utilities, keep them nearby.

- Pick two places for your family to meet if you are separated during a disaster:

- Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire.
- Outside your neighborhood in case, you can't return home.

- Ask an out-of-state friend or relative to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance.

- Your selected contact should live far enough away that they are unlikely to be directly affected by the same event as you. They will need to know they are your contact.
 - Make sure all family members know your contact's telephone numbers and/or e-mail address. Your children should have these numbers at school and the numbers should be at your workplace.
 - Following a disaster, family members should call their contact and tell them where they are.
- Plan what to do in case of an evacuation. Know your children's schools' emergency plans.
 - Decide how to provide for your pets.
 - Meet with neighbors to develop a neighborhood plan.
 - Practice and maintain your plan.

Q: Explosions happen quickly, is there any way that I can prepare for an explosion?

A: You can take some basic precautions:

- Review emergency evacuation procedures. Know where fire exits are located.
- Keep fire extinguishers in working order. Know where they are located, and how to use them.
- Learn first aid.

Keep the following items in a designated place on each floor of a multi-level building:

- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries.
- Several flashlights and extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual.
- Several hard hats.
- Fluorescent tape to rope off dangerous areas.
- A small disaster kit, which should contain water, small high- energy foods and a whistle.



Emergency Water Supply

Q: Who is responsible for protecting Hamilton County's public water supply?

A: The Cincinnati and Hamilton County Departments of Health are responsible for all public water supplies. The Health Department, however, is not responsible for private water supplies or bottled water.

Q: Should I keep a supply of water on hand in case of a terrorist attack?



A: In general, emergency officials recommend that households keep a supply of water available for disasters and that they rotate the supply about every six months. If you are concerned about the reliability of your waterworks (or of your household well) during an emergency, you may want to keep on hand an available supply of commercially bottled water.

You should plan on a three-day emergency supply of about one-gallon per person in your household. That should give health authorities enough time to secure a supply of drinking water.

Q: Why can't you let me know in advance what I should do?

A: In a normal disaster, there are standardized procedures on transporting emergency water supplies or disinfecting and using available water. However, because of the uncertain nature of terrorist weapons of mass destruction, there is no way to know in advance what you should do for drinking water. What might work in one type of situation might not work in another.

Q: I heard an announcement that we're not supposed to drink water from the tap. What do I do now?

A: Follow the recommendations broadcast over your local Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or television station about the availability of safe water.



Q: Will I be notified if something is wrong with my water?

A: Your local waterworks (the utility or organization that sells you your drinking water) is responsible by law to notify the public if there is an

Q: Will my pharmacist give me several months worth of medicine at one time?

A: Your medical provider and pharmacist will determine this based on need and availability.

Q: Should I have a supply of antibiotics on hand in case there is a biological terrorist attack?

A: Keeping a supply of antibiotics on hand is not recommended for several reasons:

- Each organism requires a specific antibiotic. If a doctor hasn't diagnosed your condition, the antibiotic you take may not be the right one to eliminate the organism causing the infection.
- Only those who have been exposed to an agent should take antibiotics and sometimes antibiotics are only prescribed once you are actually sick. Antibiotics should only be taken on the advice of health authorities.
- Individuals may have adverse reactions to antibiotics.
- Some organisms do not respond to antibiotics.
- Some antibiotics have limited shelf life.

Protective gear

Q: Should I buy a gas mask to protect me if there's a biological or chemical attack?

A: It is not recommended that the public buy gas masks in anticipation of a possible terrorist attack because:

- Most attacks will occur without warning. For a gas mask to be effective, you would have to wear it at all times.
- Gas masks are designed to protect wearers from specific types of contamination. There is no single all-purpose type of mask.
- Each mask must be custom fitted to work properly.
- Many people with respiratory problems cannot wear gas masks.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AWARENESS

RECOGNIZE - Always assess your surroundings

AVOID - Avoid direct contact with any victims. Some biological agents are contagious and chemical agents can cause death by skin contact.

EVACUATE/SHELTER IN PLACE – If in your home, remain inside. Don't go onto the street where you suspect any incidents have taken place. Close all your windows and doors and turn on your TV or radio. If you are outside immediately leave the area and move upwind.

NOTIFY – Notify the proper authorities, describing the scene, the number of casualties, and symptoms.

The most rapid acting chemical agents are nerve agents. The term "SLUDGE" is a good way to remember nerve agent symptoms:

S–Salivation
L–Lacrimation (tearing)
U–Urination
D–Defecation
G–Gastrointestinal
E–Emesis (vomiting)

- If more than one victim/animal/bird is exhibiting signs, avoid the area.
- If you expected crowds at a shopping area but none are present, you should be suspicious.
- If you are detecting strange smells or see unexplained liquids, these may be signs of a potential Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) incident
- If you witness something that is not an explosion and more than one person begins to collapse and exhibit twitching, runny nose, difficulty breathing, etc: DO NOT GO OVER TO ASSIST. Leave the immediate area and call emergency personnel. It could be a terrorist chemical attack.
- If an incident such as an explosion occurs leave the area immediately. It is common for terrorist groups to plant secondary devices, such as a secondary bomb. Their intent is to take out emergency personnel, or additional innocent victims who stayed to assist the injured.

When faced with a WMD incident remember to remain in your home unless told to evacuate by emergency personnel. If outside or inside a building

(not your home), exit the area or building and move upwind. The wind should be hitting you in the face. Move away a safe distance and wait for instruction from emergency personnel.

- Keep emergency phone numbers in your wallet. Be sure of your surroundings. Know where the local police station/fire department is located.
- Keep calm and report where the incident took place. Be able to explain what you saw: victims were gasping for breath, vomiting, convulsing, or any type of symptoms you observed.
- Ask the authorities if they need you to stay on the phone for further information, or if they need your identification for possible assistance in the investigation of the incident at a later date.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE INFORMATION

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

www.fema.gov

U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION

www.usfa.fema.gov

OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE

<http://www.state.oh.us/odps/division/ema/>

AMERICAN RED CROSS

<http://www.redcross.org/>