

What is Terrorism?

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. Terrorists often use these threats to create fear among the public, to try to convince citizens that their government is powerless to prevent terrorism, and to get immediate publicity for their causes.

High-risk targets could 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. They are capable of spreading fear by sending explosives or chemical and biological agents through the mail.

In the event of a public health emergency, local and state public health departments, police, fire, and other governmental officials will give instructions on what actions individuals need to take.

For More Information

**Jefferson County Public Health
Emergency Preparedness and
Response**

**Emergency Preparedness
and Response
Coordinator
(303) 271-8394**

Lakewood

(303) 232-6301

Fax: (303) 271-5702

jeffco.us/public-health



Take Charge! Be Prepared!

Biological, Chemical, Nuclear, and Radiological Attacks



Biological Attack

Biological agents are organisms or toxins that can kill or incapacitate people, livestock and crops. There are three basic groups of biological agents that would most likely be used as weapons:

Bacteria: The diseases these small free-living organisms produce often respond to antibiotic treatment.

Viruses: Viruses require living cells to reproduce and are dependent on the body they infect. Just like a cold, viruses generally do not respond to antibiotics; however, antiviral drugs are sometimes effective.

Toxins: Poisonous substances that are found naturally in the environment or produced by chemical means. Some toxins can be treated with specific antitoxins and drugs.

Pre-Attack Plan

- ✓ Stockpile 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (3 gallons) per person.
- ✓ Develop a family contact plan including phone numbers and e-mails; buy a phone card to use.
- ✓ *DO NOT* stockpile antibiotics.
- ✓ *DO NOT* buy a gas mask.

Post-Attack Plan

- ✓ If possible, stay home and watch TV or listen to radio for Emergency Information.
- ✓ If needed, you will be told where to go to receive treatment.
- ✓ *DO NOT* rush immediately to the Emergency Room.



Chemical Attack

Chemical warfare agents can be poisonous vapors, aerosols, liquids or solids that have toxic effects on people, animals or plants. They can have an immediate effect or a delayed effect of several hours to several days. Outdoors, the chemical agents often blow away quickly and are difficult to deliver in lethal doses.

There are 6 types of agents: Lung-damaging agents; Cyanide; Vesicants or blister agents such as mustard; Nerve agents such as GA (tabun), GB (sarin), GD (soman), GF and VX; Incapacitating agents such as BZ; and riot-control agents (similar to MACE).

Pre-Attack Plan

- ✓ Stockpile 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (3 gallons) per person.
- ✓ Develop a family contact plan including phone numbers, e-mails; buy a phone card to use.
- ✓ *DO NOT* buy a gas mask.

Post-Attack Plan

- ✓ Immediately leave if you are in the chemical attack area.
- ✓ Remove contaminated clothing (avoiding eyes, nose and mouth) and put in plastic bag.
- ✓ Shower if you have been exposed, washing with soap and rinsing with water.
- ✓ Avoid puddles of liquid.
- ✓ Remember: chemical clouds blow away quickly.
- ✓ *DO NOT* rush to the Emergency Room, unless you have been exposed to the chemical either by direct contact or breathing it in.



Radiological Attack

Radiological attacks can cause deadly effects in two ways:

1. Nuclear explosions can have blinding light, intense heat (thermal radiation), initial nuclear radiation, blast, fires started by the heat pulse, and secondary fires caused by the destruction.

2. Attacks can produce radioactive particles called fallout that can be blown by the wind for hundreds of miles.

Radiological weapons are a combination of conventional explosives and radioactive materials. They are designed to scatter dangerous and sub-lethal amounts of radioactive materials over a general area. The fallout radiation loses its intensity fairly rapidly, with the greatest threat to people in the first two weeks.

Pre-Attack Plan

- ✓ Stockpile 3-day supply of non-perishable food and water (3 gallons) per person.
- ✓ Develop a family contact plan including phone numbers, e-mails; buy a phone card to use.
- ✓ Designate a protective shelter in your home, work or in local buildings.
- ✓ *DO NOT* stockpile antibiotics.
- ✓ *DO NOT* buy a gas mask, potassium iodide tablets, or a Geiger Counter.

Post-Attack Plan

- ✓ Follow instructions given by Emergency personnel.
- ✓ You have time. The amount of radiation given off by an attack is unlikely to give you radiation sickness or cancer.
- ✓ *DO NOT* immediately rush to the Emergency Room, unless you have been injured.

