

Be Aware!

First and foremost, you can prepare for a terrorist incident by adapting the same techniques used to prepare for other crises (Build a kit. Make a plan. Be aware.)

- Be aware of your surroundings. The nature of terrorism suggests there may be little or no warning. Be aware of heavy or breakable objects that could move, fall or break in an explosion.
- Move or leave the area if you feel uncomfortable or something doesn't "seem right."
- Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers or leave your personal items unattended. Report all unusual behavior, suspicious or unattended packages, and strange devices promptly to law enforcement or security personnel. **"If You See Something, Say Something™"**
- Know where emergency exits and stairs are located, and think ahead about how to evacuate a building, subway or congested public area in a hurry.
- Be prepared to do without certain services: electricity, telephone, gas pumps, ATMs, and internet.
- Work with building owners/managers to ensure the following are located on each floor of the buildings you work/frequent:
 - Portable, battery-operated radio
 - Several flashlights
 - Extra batteries
 - First aid kit and manual
 - Hard hats and dust masks
 - Fluorescent tape to rope off dangerous areas



Our Mission

To support, coordinate and maintain state and local homeland security and emergency management activities in order to establish sustainable communities and assure economic opportunities for Iowa and its citizens.

Be Ready Iowa!

www.beready.iowa.gov

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Terrorism

A Guide to Prepare and Respond to the Human Threat



April, 1995 – Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma City. (FEMA file photo)



Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division

Terrorism is the use of violence or the threat of violence to attain political, religious or ideological goals. Terrorists accomplish this threat through intimidation, coercion and fear.

Acts of terrorism include assassinations, bombings, cyber attacks, hijackings, kidnappings, and the use of chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological weapons.

Terrorists often choose targets in areas with relatively easy public access that offer little danger to themselves. Some targets include:

- Government facilities (military and civilian)
- International airports
- Large cities
- High-profile landmarks
- Major international events
- Resorts
- Large public gatherings
- Water/food supplies or utilities
- Corporate centers

Terrorists are also capable of spreading fear by sending explosives or chemical and biological agents through the mail.



Bomb Threats and Explosions

If you receive a **bomb threat**, get as much information from the caller as possible. Keep the caller on the line and record everything that is said. Notify police and building management.



After you've been notified of a bomb threat, do not touch any suspicious packages. Clear the area around the suspicious package and notify the police immediately. When evacuating a building, avoid standing in front of windows or other potentially hazardous areas. Do not restrict sidewalk or streets to be used by emergency officials.

Should you find yourself in a building when there is an **explosion**:

- Get out of the building as quickly and calmly as possible.
- If items are falling around you, get under a sturdy table or desk.
- If you are trapped under debris, stay in your area so you don't kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing. Tap on a pipe or wall so rescuers can hear where you are. Use a whistle if available. Only shout as a last resort (shouting can cause a person to inhale dangerous amounts of dust).

Do not attempt to rescue people inside a collapsed building. Wait for emergency personnel to arrive.

Chemical and Biological Attacks

Most **chemical** agents (poisonous gases, liquids or solids) can cause serious injury or death. If a chemical attack were to occur, authorities would instruct citizens to either seek shelter and seal the premises or evacuate immediately.

When sheltering, turn off all ventilation (furnaces, air conditioners, vents, fans) and seek shelter in an internal room with your emergency kit. **Listen to your radio for instructions from authorities.** Leaving a shelter to rescue or assist victims can be deadly; any assistance that the untrained can offer would likely be of no value to victims of chemical agents.

Because **biological** agents (organisms or toxins that have illness-producing effects on people, animals or crops) cannot necessarily be detected and may take time to grow and cause disease, it is almost impossible to know that a biological attack has occurred. The instructions from authorities would be the same as in a chemical attack: seek shelter or evacuate. Follow instructions of doctors and other public health officials. In a declared biological emergency or developing epidemic, there may be reason to stay away from crowds where others may be infected.

A person affected by a biological agent requires immediate medical attention.

Find out more at www.beready.iowa.gov.