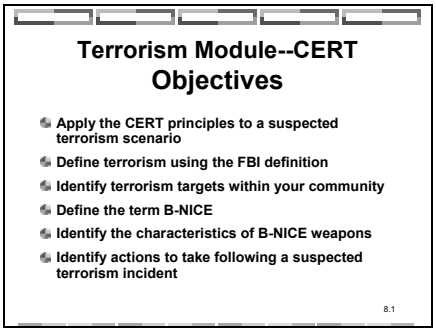
MODULE 8: TERRORISM AND CERT

OBJECTIVES

Visual 8.1



- Apply the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) principles to a suspected terrorism scenario.
- Define terrorism using the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) definition.
- Identify possible terrorism targets within your community.
- Define the terms Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, and Explosive (B-NICE).
- Identify the characteristics of B-NICE weapons.
- Identify actions to take following a suspected terrorism event.

SCOPE

This module uses lecture to review the B-NICE agents. It covers indicators regarding their use. Participants are given actions that they can take if they are at or near an incident involving these agents including procedures for decontamination and sheltering in place. Participants apply the knowledge learned in this module by describing actions that they would take in a scenario presented to them at the beginning of the module and again at the end.

RESOURCES

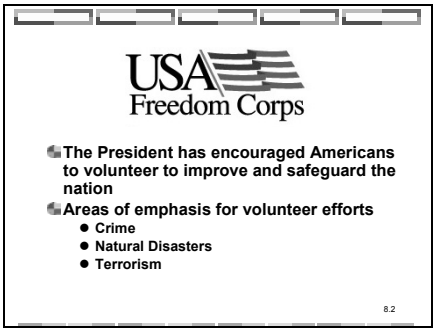
- Centers for Disease Control Website at http://www.bt.cdc.gov/
- Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program Website at http://cseppweb-emc.ornl.gov
- *Terrorism Planning Course,* E-408, Emergency Management Institute, March 2002.
- *Emergency Response to Terrorism, Self-Study,* FEMA/USFA/NFA-ERT: SS. June 1999.

INTRODUCTION

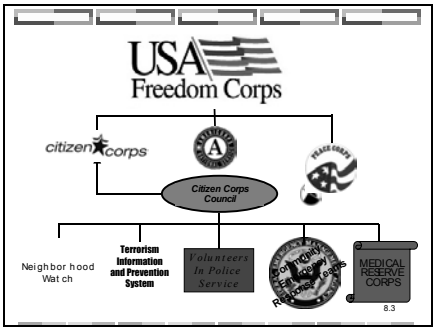
In his January 29, 2002, State of the Union address, the President asked that Americans volunteer their services to improve and safeguard our country. The three areas of emphasis for these volunteer efforts are crime, natural disasters, and terrorism. The Citizen Corps Program was created to help Americans meet this call to service. One of the volunteer opportunities offered to the American public under the Citizen Corps umbrella is the CERT program.

Now, with the possibility of an intentional event caused by terrorism, CERT members must be educated about potential terrorist weapons and actions to take following a possible terrorism event.

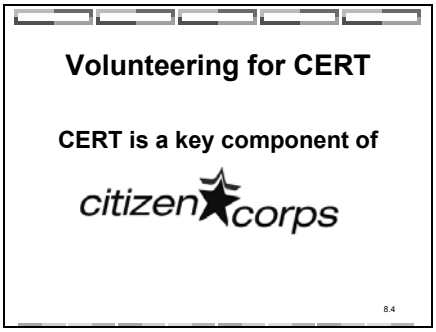
Visual 8.2



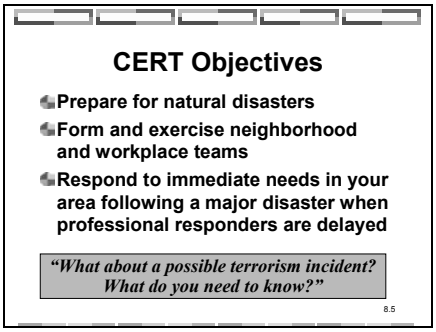
Visual 8.3



Visual 8.4



Visual 8.5



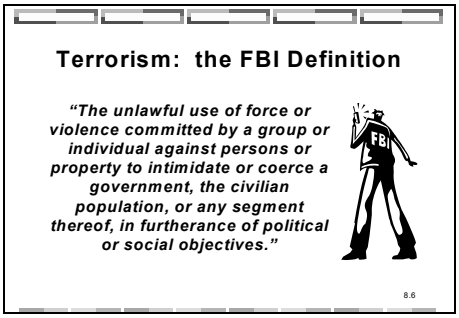
Basic objectives for CERT training are to:

- Prepare for a natural disaster.
- Form and exercise neighborhood and workplace teams.
- Respond to immediate needs in your area following a major disaster when professional responders are delayed.

OVERVIEW OF TERRORISM **10 min**

DEFINE TERRORISM USING THE FBI DEFINITION

Visual 8.6



The FBI defines terrorism as

"The unlawful use of force or violence committed by a group or individual against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

The Oklahoma City bombing, the 1993 bombing, the September 11 destruction of the World Trade Center, the sending of anthrax in the U.S. mail, the bombing at the Olympics, and abortion clinics demonstrate that we live with the possibility of terrorism.

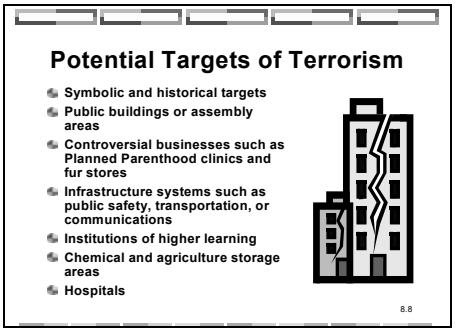
Visual 8.7

Terrorism attacks can occur with or without warning. An attack can result in mass casualties and fatalities, curtailment of critical resources, disruption of transportation systems, disruption of work, economic impact, and increased emotional stress.

IDENTIFY TERRORISM TARGETS WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY

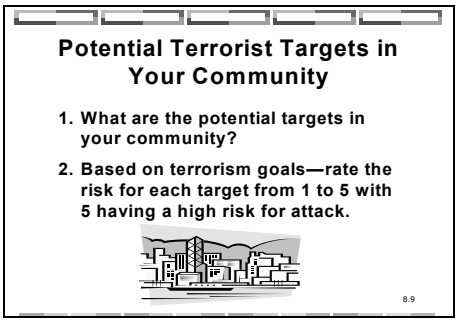
Target Selection
Terrorists usually choose targets that permit easy access and allow them to avoid detection. The attack can result in the loss of many lives and the destruction of property. Beyond this, there is the desire to create fear and disrupt lives to achieve political and social objectives.

Visual 8.8



What would you identify as possible terrorist targets in your community? Based on terrorism goals—rate the risk from 1 to 5 with 5 having a high risk for attack.

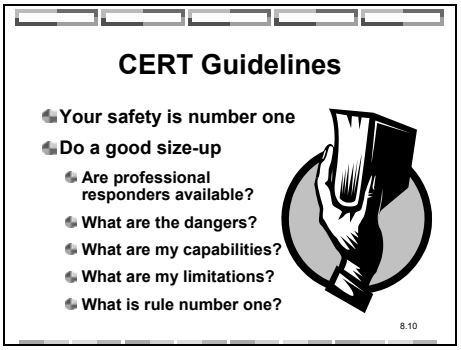
Visual 8.9



Some terrorism acts target specific, highly recognizable, open and vulnerable structures such as:

- Symbolic and historical targets
- Public buildings or assembly areas
- Controversial businesses such as Planned Parenthood clinics and fur stores
- Infrastructure systems such as public safety, transportation, or communications
- Institutions of higher learning

Visual 8.10



Basic CERT training emphasizes several primary guiding principles that apply to any incident including terrorism:

- Your safety is number one—A CERT member owes it to him or herself and their loved ones not to become victims while trying to help others.
- Do a good size-up—Stop, look, and think before acting.
    - Are professional responders available?
    - What are the dangers?
    - What are my capabilities?
    - What are my limitations?
    - What is rule number one?

ACTIVITY 1.1

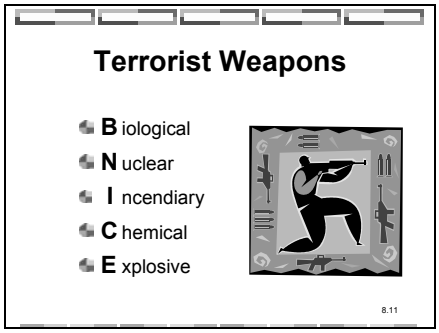
Apply the CERT Principles to a Suspected Terrorist Incident

Scenario 1: It is a bright sunny spring day. It is the kind of day that makes you glad to be alive. You are stopping at the Post Office on the way home. As you enter the parking lot, you are shaken by a loud explosion and see glass from the Post Office windows fly through the air over the parking lot. It takes you a few seconds to comprehend that there has been some kind of explosion inside the building. You see four people exiting the building who are obviously hurt.

Scenario 2: It is a bright sunny spring day. It is the kind of day that makes you glad to be alive. You are stopping at the Post Office on the way home. As you enter the parking lot, you see several people exiting the building and falling to the ground. They are clutching their chests and rubbing their faces. They seem to be disoriented.

TERRORISM WEAPONS

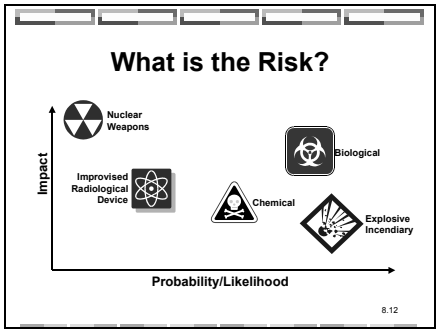
Visual 8.11



Experts generally agree that there are five categories of possible terrorist weapons:

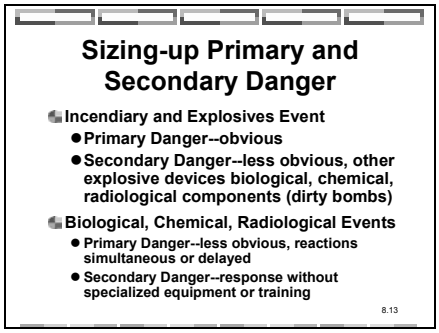
1. **B**iological
2. **N**uclear
3. **I**ncendiary
4. **C**hemical
5. **E**xplosive

Visual 8.12



What is the risk? Shows the impact and probability relationship.

Visual 8.13



There are obvious signs of danger with incendiary and explosive events. Biological, nuclear, and chemical agents are less obvious when part of these events or separate events.

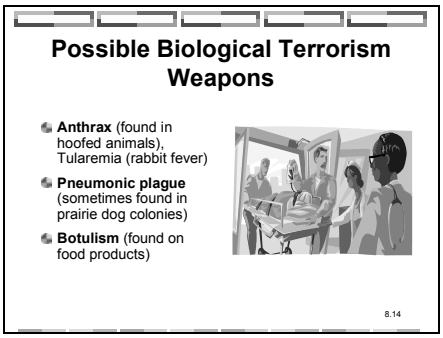
When sizing up primary and secondary dangers, point out that incendiary and explosive incidents are obvious. Biological, chemical, and radiological incidents may be less obvious immediately. All suspected terrorist incidents require responders with specialized training and equipment.

IDENTIFY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF B-NICE

1. Biological Incidents

We are exposed to biological agents daily. Most do not harm us because of natural resistance, inoculations, or good hygiene and nutrition. However, these are biological agents found in nature that are easily accessible and have the potential for rapid spread (i.e., contagious).

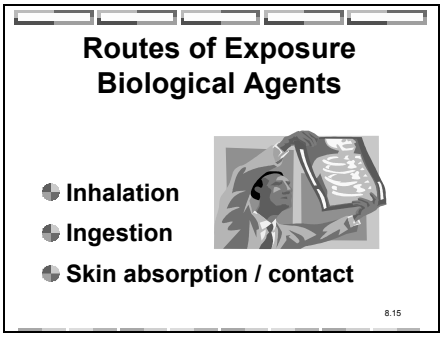
Visual 8.14



Several biological agents can be adapted and used as terrorist weapons. These include anthrax (found in hoofed animals), tularemia (or rabbit fever), the pneumonic plague (sometimes found in prairie dog colonies), and botulism (found on food products).

Routes of Exposure

Visual 8.15



The routes of exposure for biological agents are inhalation, ingestion, and skin absorption/contact. In the case of a biological incident, the onset of some symptoms may take days to weeks. Typically there will be no characteristic signatures, because biological agents are usually odorless and colorless. Because of the delayed onset of symptoms, the number of victims and the areas affected may be greater due to the migration of infected individuals. On the other hand, some effects may be very rapid (as short as 4 to 6 hours).

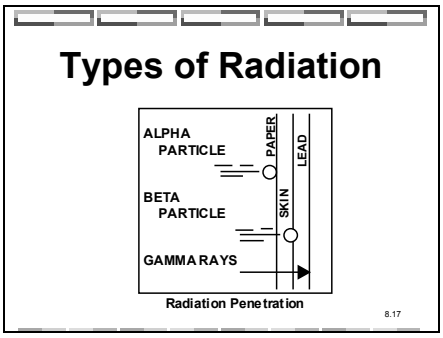
2. Nuclear Incidents

We all are exposed to low levels of radiological substances in our daily life—sun, soil, X-rays. It is exposure to an uncontrolled and massive dose of radioactive material that threatens life and well-being. Everyone has seen and understands the impact of a nuclear detonation. Nuclear material could also be used with explosives, the so-called dirty bomb.

Visual 8.16

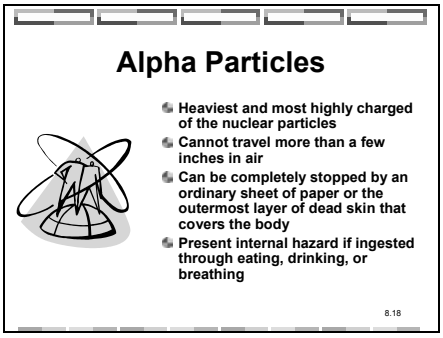
Possible sources of radiation are nuclear bomb, dirty bomb, or material release.

Visual 8.17



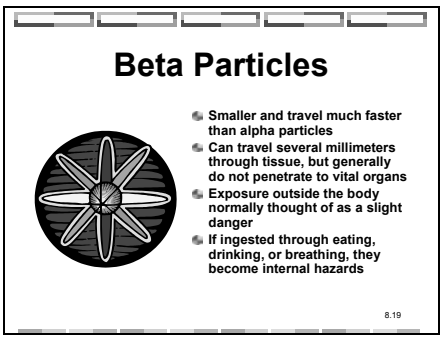
There are three types of radiation emitted from nuclear material: alpha, beta, and gamma.

Visual 8.18



- **Alpha** particles are the heaviest and most highly charged of the nuclear particles. However, they cannot travel more than a few inches in air and are completely stopped by an ordinary sheet of paper or the outermost layer of dead skin that covers the body. However, if ingested through eating, drinking, or breathing, they become internal hazards and cause massive internal damage.

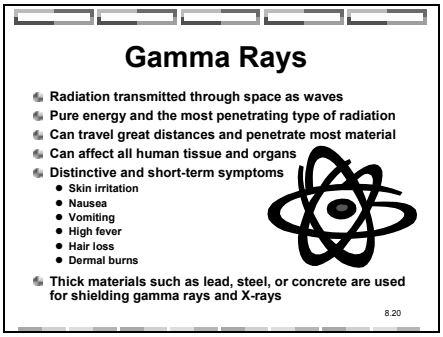
Visual 8.19



- **Beta** particles are smaller and travel much faster than alpha particles. Typical beta particles can travel several millimeters through tissue. Generally, they do not penetrate far enough to reach vital organs. Exposure to beta particles outside the body is normally thought of as a slight danger.

  However, if the skin is exposed to large amounts of beta radiation for long periods of time, skin burns may result. Beta-emitting contamination enters the body from eating, drinking, breathing, and unprotected open wounds. They are primarily internal hazards like alpha particles.

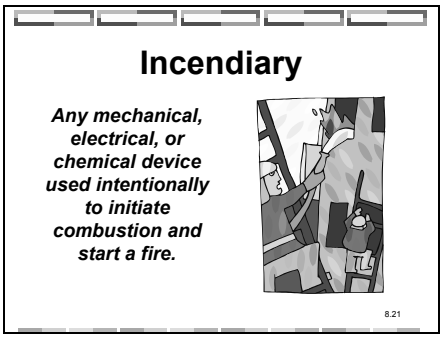
Visual 8.20



- **Gamma** rays are a type of electromagnetic radiation transmitted through space in the form of waves. These rays are pure energy and the most penetrating type of radiation. They can travel great distances and penetrate most material. These rays can affect all human tissue and organs as they pass through the body. Gamma radiation has distinctive and short-term symptoms such as skin irritation, nausea, vomiting, high fever, hair loss, and dermal burns. Acute radiation sickness occurs when an individual is exposed to a large amount of radiation within a short period of time. Thick materials such as lead, steel, or concrete are used for shielding gamma rays and X-rays.

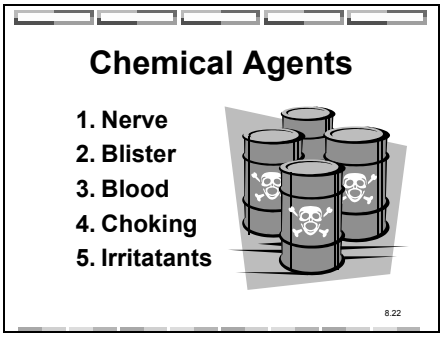
3. Incendiary Incidents

Visual 8.21



An incendiary device is any mechanical, electrical, or chemical device used intentionally to initiate combustion and start a fire. Each device consists of three basic components: an igniter or fuse; a container or body; and an incendiary material or filler. The container can be glass, metal, plastic, or paper, depending on its desired use. A device containing chemical materials usually will be in a metal or other nonbreakable container. An incendiary device that uses a liquid accelerator usually will be in a breakable container, e.g., glass.

Visual 8.22



4. Chemical Incidents

Chemical agents fall into five classes:

a. Nerve agents disrupt nerve impulse transmissions. The victims will experience uncontrolled salivation, lacrimation (tears), muscle twitching and contraction without much control. Nerve agents resemble a heavy, oily substance. The most efficient distribution is as an aerosol. Small explosions and equipment to generate mists (spray devices) may be used. Nerve agents kill insect life, birds, and other animals as well as humans. Many dead animals at the scene of an incident may be another outward warning sign or detection clue.

b. Blister agents, also called vesicants, cause redness that is possibly followed by blisters. They are similar in nature to other corrosive materials that first responders encounter. They readily penetrate layers of clothing and are quickly absorbed into the skin.

Blister agents are heavy, oily liquids dispersed by aerosol or vaporization, so small explosions or spray equipment may be used. In a pure state they are nearly colorless and odorless, but slight impurities give them a dark color and an odor suggesting mustard, garlic, or onions. Outward signs of blister agents include complaints of eye and respiratory irritation along with reports of a garlic-like odor.

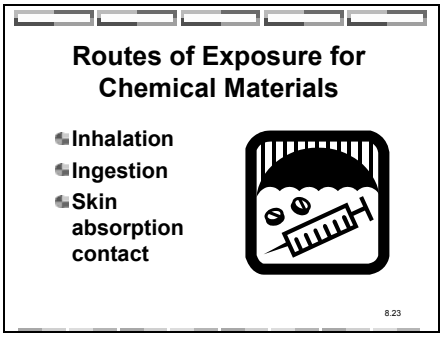
c. Blood agents interfere with the ability of blood to transport oxygen; this ultimately results in asphyxiation. Common blood agents include hydrogen cyanide (AC) and cyanogen chloride (CK). Cyanide and cyanide compounds are common industrial chemicals with which emergency responders sometimes deal. CK can cause tearing of the eyes and irritate the lungs. All blood agents are toxic at high concentrations and lead to rapid death. Affected persons require removal to fresh air and respiratory therapy.

Under pressure, blood agents are liquids. In pure form, they are gases. All have the aroma of burnt almond or peach kernel. They are common industrial chemicals and are readily available.

d. Choking agents stress respiratory system tissues. Severe distress causes edema (fluid in the lungs), which can result in asphyxiation resembling drowning. Chlorine (CL) and phosgene (CG), common industrial chemicals, are choking agents. Clinical symptoms include severe eye irritation and respiratory distress (coughing and choking). Most people recognize the odor of chlorine. Phosgene has the odor of newly cut hay. As both are gases, they must be stored and transported in bottles or cylinders.

e. Irritatants cause respiratory distress and tearing and are designed to incapacitate. They can cause intense pain to the skin, especially in moist areas of the body. They also are called Riot Control Agents or tear gas. Generally, they are nonlethal; however, they can result in asphyxiation under certain circumstances. Common irritants are Mace® (CN), tear gas (CS), and capsicum/pepper spray.

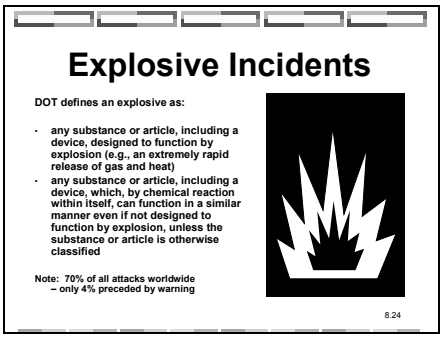
Visual 8.23



Routes of exposure are inhalation, ingestion, and skin absorption/contact.

5. Explosive Incidents

Visual 8.24



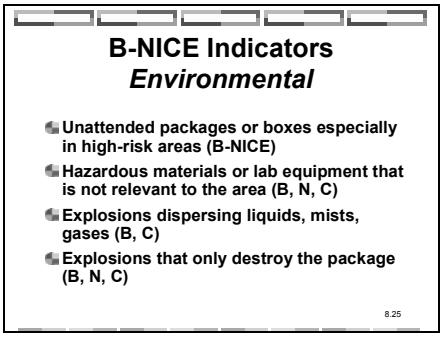
The DOT defines an explosive as a substance fitting into one of these two categories:

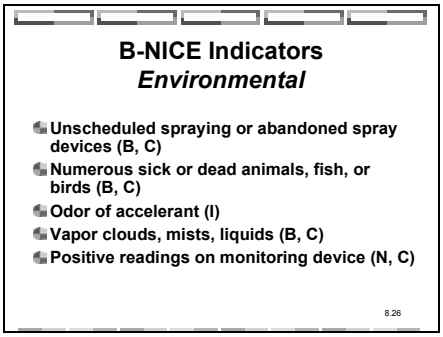
1. any substance or article, including a device, designed to function by explosion (e.g., an extremely rapid release of gas and heat).

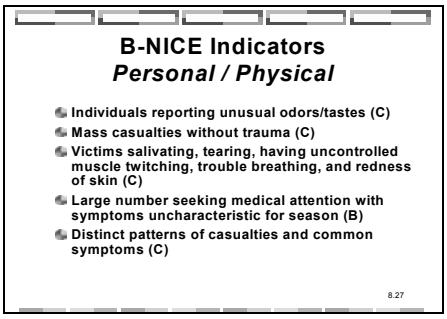
2. any substance or article, including a device, which, by chemical reaction within itself, can function in a similar manner even if not designed to function by explosion.

Possible B-NICE Indicators

Visuals 8.25-8.27







Environmental surroundings

- Unattended packages or boxes especially in high-risk areas (B-NICE)
- Hazardous materials or lab equipment that is not relevant to the area (B, N, C)
- Explosions dispersing liquids, mists, or gases (B, C)
- Explosions seeming only to destroy the package (B, N, C)
- Unscheduled spraying or abandoned spray devices (B, C)
- Numerous sick or dead animals, fish, or birds (B, C)
- Odor of accelerant (I)
- Vapor clouds, mists, liquids (B, C)
- Positive readings on monitoring device (N, C)

Personal/Physical

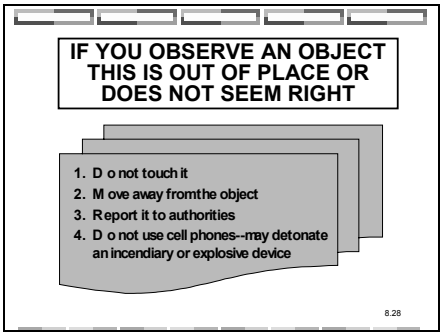
- Individuals reporting unusual odors/tastes (C)
- Mass causalities without obvious trauma (C)
- Victims salivating, tearing, having uncontrolled muscle twitching, trouble breathing, and redness of skin (C)
- Large number seeking medical attention with symptoms uncharacteristic for season. (B)
- Distinct patterns of casualties and common symptoms (C)

CERT MEMBERS AND A TERRORIST INCIDENT

CERT MEMBER SAFETY

The five types of incidents previously discussed may have similarities, in some respects, to routine emergencies. Probably there will be people who need help. If there is an incident at a pre-identified terrorist target, then a hazardous substance or condition should be suspected. Only qualified personnel should secure the scene. Responders to potential terrorist incidents need specialized training and equipment.

Visual 8.28



If you observe an object that is out of place or does not seem right:

- Do not touch it.
- Move away from the object.
- Report it to authorities.

Caution: *A cell phone call may detonate an incendiary or explosive device.*

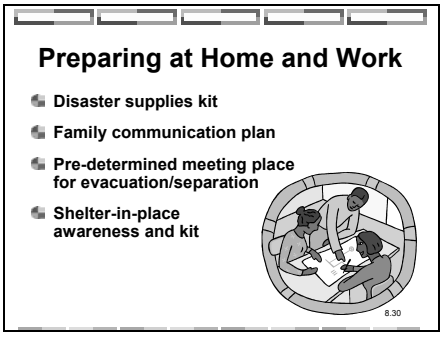
Safety, the Most Important Issue

Visual 8.29

As a civilian near a suspected terrorist event, your safety is the number one priority. As with any hazardous material, direct response to a terrorist event is a stop sign for you. During your size-up, you should stop, look, think, and report. Even professional, well-trained first responders need to take the time to evaluate the scene before taking action. If terrorism is suspected, they will be limited in what they can immediately do and will need specialized equipment and personnel to handle the scene.

PREPARING AT HOME AND WORK

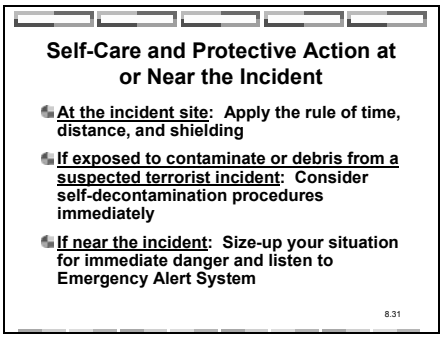
Visual 8.30



As with natural hazards, you can plan and prepare for an event.

- Have a Disaster Supplies Kit prepared.
- Have a family communication plan—local and out-of-State contacts.
- Have a pre-determined meeting place if you have to evacuate your area or become separated.
- Maintain material to shelter-in-place.

Visual 8.31



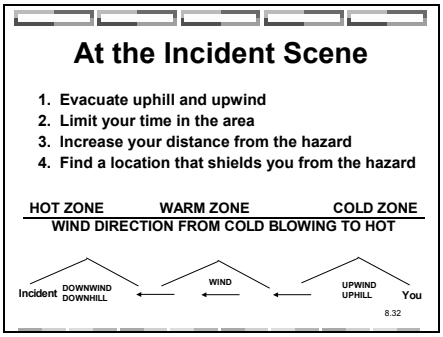
Self-care and protective action at or near the incident:

If there is an incident that may involve a B-NICE agent, you should know what actions to take:

- If you are at the incident.
- If you think that you were exposed to a chemical or biological agent.
- If you are in the area of an incident.

If you are at the incident, there are three factors that you can apply for your safety: Time, Distance, and Shielding.

Visual 8.32



Time: You should take actions to limit the amount of time that you are in the area of the event. There could be secondary devices or hazardous materials at the scene. Leave the area. If you have liquid or aerosol agent on you or your clothes, begin basic decontamination procedures on yourself immediately. When responders arrive, follow their decontamination instructions carefully.

Distance: Evacuate from the area. A rule for first responders is to be a distance of 1,000 to 1,500 feet away while sizing up the event. Responders will establish a hot, warm, and cold zone for response. We recommend that you move away from the incident and follow the directions of responders.

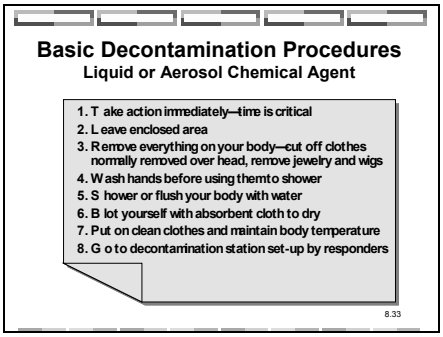
- As you leave the area, remember to go uphill and upwind. When responders arrive and set up the response, proceed to the medical treatment area for evaluation.

Shielding:

- When you evacuate the scene and go a safe distance, try to shield yourself from any subsequent explosions or further contamination.
- If inside a building near the incident that is in no direct danger of collapse, you should listen for instructions over the Emergency Alert System (EAS) about evacuating or sheltering-in-place. Remember that you should have a battery-operated radio in your disaster supplies kit that you can use in emergencies when there is no power.

Basic Decontamination Procedures for Liquid or Aerosol Chemical Agents

Visual 8.33



The following procedures apply if you have liquid or aerosol chemical agent on your skin or clothes. When in doubt, decontaminate.

If you believe you have been exposed to an agent, you need to take steps to decontaminate yourself immediately. Do it fast within the first few minutes of exposure.

1. Take action immediately, minutes count. Limit the amount of time the agent is in contact with skin.

2. Leave the immediate area, especially an enclosed area. Put distance between you and the agent. However, after going a safe distance, wait for a professional responder who will help you with decontamination.

3. Remove all your clothing, jewelry, glasses, wigs, etc.
   - Clothing normally removed over the head should be cut off.
   - If you initially balk at removing your clothes, remember that clothing allows the contaminants to stay in contact with you and increases your risk. Most of the agent will probably be on your clothes.

?

What challenges do you face in making this decision?

4. Wash hands. Make sure hands are clean before using them to shower.

5. Water alone is a universal way to decontaminate yourself. Make sure your hands are washed before you touch other parts of your body. Thoroughly flush your body from the head down including your eyes, underarms, and groin area.

   If soap (liquid or powder) is immediately available to use, mix with water to decontaminate yourself. Avoid scrubbing with soap (especially hard soap) which can reduce the layer of protective skin over an area. Do not delay decontamination to get soap.

   - If you have a buddy, work together to decontaminate each other. If you are hosing someone else off, avoid physical contact with the person and the runoff throughout this procedure.

6. Blot clean and dry with an absorbent cloth. You want to absorb the water without scrubbing which can remove the protective layer of skin and spread agent.

7. Go to professional responders when they arrive for further decontamination.

In summary, the primary goal of decontamination is to remove contaminants as quickly as possible. The most effective methods to do this are: 1) remove clothing and 2) use large quantities of water.

Basic Decontamination Procedures for Biological Agents

The incubation period for biological agents makes it unlikely that victims of a biological weapons attack will present for medical care until days after an attack. At this point, the need for decontamination is minimal or non-existent.

However, if you believe that you have been exposed to a biological agent like anthrax at an incident, you should follow the decontamination procedure for chemical agents. However, speed is not as critical and you can find a place where you have privacy to disrobe and shower. Place your clothing and personal items in a plastic bag. Take a long soap-and-water shower.

Visual 8.34

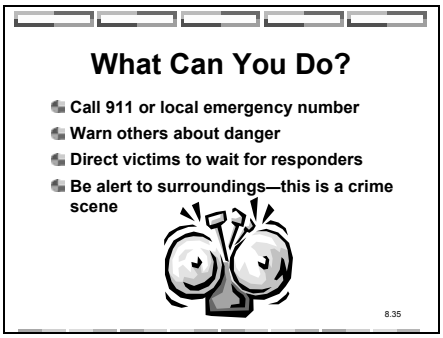
For a suspected terrorist incident, the CERT member, for his or her own safety, is asked to take protective actions and not treat the victim. If chemical, biological, or radioactive materials are present, you will be contaminated with the substance. Address the psychological effects of applying time, distance, and shielding and not helping victims. Rule #1 is your safety.

?

What are the emotional implications of not helping victims?

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Visual 8.35



Immediately take steps to protect yourself and others.

When you are a safe distance, you can call 911 and report what is happening.

You can try to let unsuspecting people know that something is not right and that they should wait for specially trained and equipped first responders to evaluate the scene.

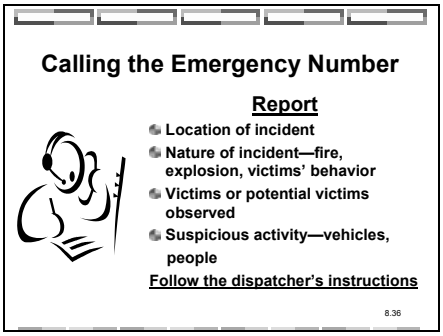
You can direct people leaving the incident to gather at one place to be evaluated by responders. However, you should not directly touch or treat these people because of possible contamination.

The situation is a crime scene; you should observe and remember information that may be useful to those investigating the incident.

INCIDENT AS A CRIME SCENE

As you have seen after the Oklahoma City bombing and the attacks on the World Trade Center, local, State, and Federal responders take great care in the handling of materials. The only exception is when they are trying to save lives. Information and material may help with the response and investigation.

Visual 8.36



If you are near an incident, you can help responders and police by observing conditions around you and noting them so that you can report them to authorities. After you are safely out of harm's way through shielding or distance, call and report:

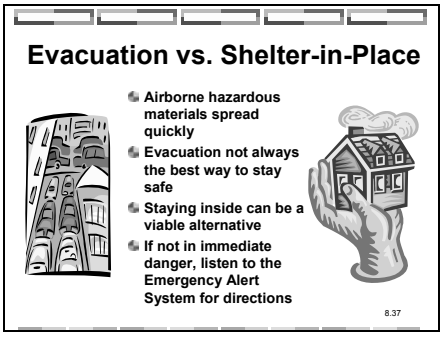
- Location of incident.
- Nature of event—fire, explosion, victims' behavior.
- Number of victims or potential victims observed.
- Where you will meet responders.
- People and vehicles leaving the area. Jot down license plate numbers and descriptions of the people.

EVACUATION OR SHELTER-IN-PLACE

This is not an easy question to answer. If you are near the incident, you must size-up the situation and determine your course of action. If time and location allows, you should listen to the EAS for recommendations from emergency management professionals who are evaluating the incident.

Sheltering-in-place

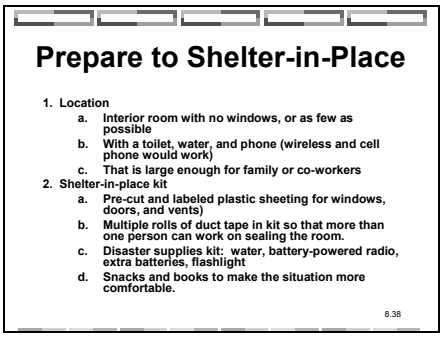
Visual 8.37



- Airborne hazardous material may be in the area when you go outside.
- Evacuation is not always the best way to stay safe. Potential exposure to hazardous material may be higher when on foot or in a car than when sheltered in a room.
- Staying inside your home, workplace, or other building can be a viable option.
- If not in immediate danger, listen to the Emergency Alert System for directions.

Planning and preparing to shelter-in-place

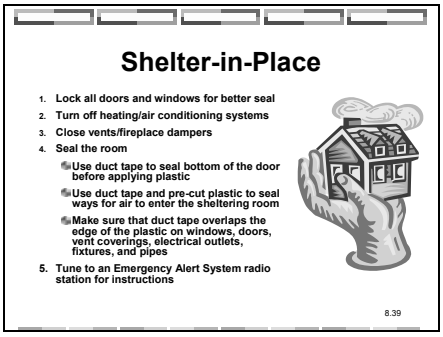
Visual 8.38



- Pick an interior room with no windows or as few as possible.
- If feasible, pick a room with a toilet, water, and phone (wireless and cell phone would work).
- Large enough for family or co-workers.
- Have a shelter-in-place kit that has pre-cut and labeled plastic sheeting for windows, doors, and vents. Cut plastic for each item to be sealed. Be sure to cut plastic large enough to completely cover the area with some excess for duct-taping the plastic to the wall or frame.
- Have multiple rolls of duct tape in kit so that more than one person can work on sealing the room.
- Have disaster supplies kit ready—especially water, battery-powered radio, extra batteries, flashlight.
- Have snacks and books to make the situation more comfortable.

For sheltering-in-place

Visual 8.39

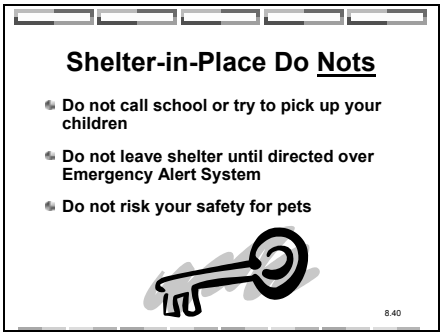


- Lock all doors and windows, for better seal
- Turn off heating/air conditioning systems.
- Close all vents and fireplace dampers.
- Seal your shelter-in-place room.
- Use duct tape to seal bottom of the door before applying plastic.
- Use duct tape and pre-cut plastic to seal ways for air to enter the sheltering room. Make sure that your duct tape overlaps the edge of the plastic that covers windows, doors, vent coverings, electrical outlets, fixtures, and pipes where air can enter the room.
- Tune in to the EAS station for further instructions.

Stay in your shelter-in-place room until you receive direction from local officials over EAS. If you are told to ventilate your house, open all doors and windows and turn on all ventilation systems and fans to circulate air.

Sheltering-in-Place DO NOTs

Visual 8.40

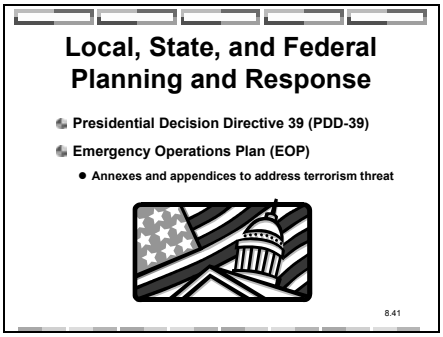


- Do not call the school or try to pick up your children. Your school should have emergency procedures in place.
- Do not leave your shelter until directed by the EAS.
- Do not risk your safety to save pets.

Local, State, and Federal Planning and Response for Terrorism

Because of the unknowns of a terrorist incident and because it is a crime scene, response requires specialized equipment and training.

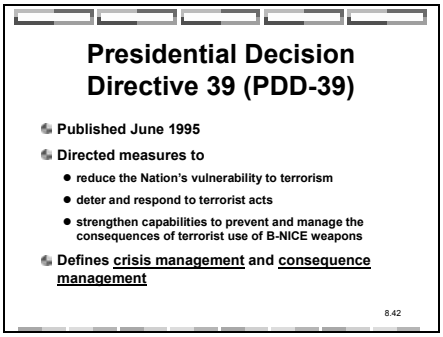
Visual 8.41



Local, State, and Federal agencies develop Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) to address the response to emergencies. Starting with Decision Directive 39, *U.S. Policy on Counterterrorism*, agencies have developed plans and conducted training and exercises for terrorist attacks.

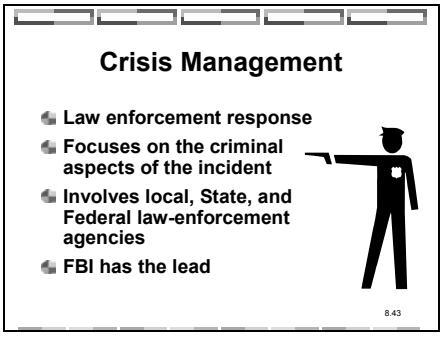
PRESIDENTIAL DECISION DIRECTIVE 39 (PDD-39)

Visual 8.42



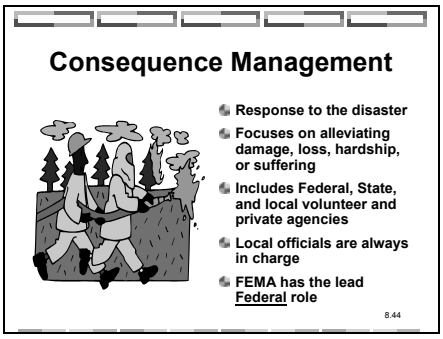
In June 1995, the White House issued Presidential Decision Directive 39 (PDD-39), *United States Policy on Counterterrorism.* PDD-39 directed a number of measures to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to terrorism, to deter and respond to terrorist acts, and to strengthen capabilities to prevent and manage the consequences of terrorist use of B-NICE weapons. PDD-39 discusses crisis management and consequence management.

Visual 8.43



- Crisis management is the law-enforcement response, and it focuses on the criminal aspects of the incident. Specific components of crisis management include activities to anticipate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or incident; identify, locate, and apprehend the perpetrators; and investigate and gather evidence to support prosecution. Crisis management involves local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies, with the FBI having the lead role.

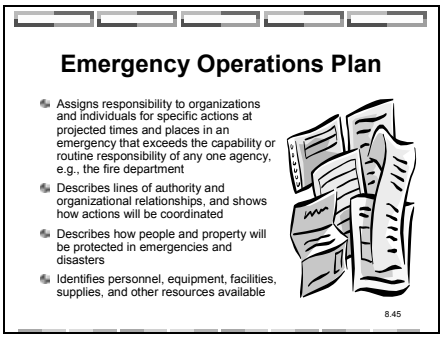
Visual 8.44



- Consequence management is the response to the disaster, and it focuses on alleviating damage, loss, hardship, or suffering. Specific components of consequence management include activities to protect public health and safety; restore essential government services; and provide emergency assistance to affected governments, businesses, and individuals. Consequence management includes Federal, State, and local volunteer and private agencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has the lead role in consequence management. The laws of the United States assign primary authority to the States to respond to the consequences of terrorism; the Federal government provides assistance as required.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN (EOP)

Visual 8.45

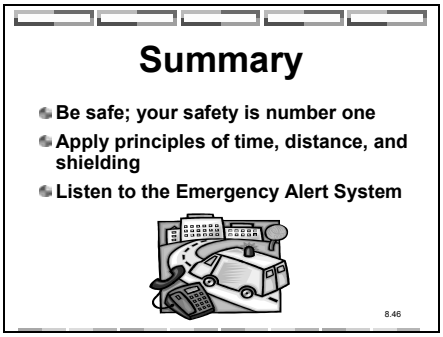


An EOP is a document that:

- assigns responsibility to organizations and individuals for carrying out specific actions at projected times and places in an emergency that exceeds the capability or routine responsibility of any one agency, e.g., the fire department.
- sets forth lines of authority and organizational relationships, and shows how all actions will be coordinated.
- describes how people and property will be protected in emergencies and disasters.
- identifies personnel, equipment, facilities, supplies, and other resources available—within the jurisdiction or by agreement with other jurisdictions—for use during response and recovery operations.

SUMMARY

Visual 8.46



In the unlikely event that you are at an incident of unknown origin that may involve agents from the B-NICE categories, your safety is number one. You should use the principles of time, distance, and shielding to limit your exposure to further danger. If you think that you have been contaminated by the incident, you should act immediately to decontaminate yourself. If you are not in immediate danger, evacuation may not be necessary or advisable. Listen to the EAS for the action that you should take.