Terrorism (Domestic / International)

Terrorism is the threat or intentional release of a weapon of mass destruction (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive) to intimidate or scare a government or the general population, in pursuit of political, religious, or ideological goals. A terrorist, then, is the perpetrator of terrorism.

Agents for Terrorism

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) classifies weapons of mass destruction likely to be used by terrorists into four categories: biological, chemical, nuclear/radiological and conventional.

Biological: Bioterrorism is the intentional use of biological agents or germs to cause illness. Biological agents are viruses, bacteria, fungi and toxin from living organisms that have illness-producing effects on people plants or livestock. The effects of a biological agent disseminated in a public place may not be known immediately because of the delay between exposure and onset of illness. Those most likely to identify the symptoms of such attacks, therefore, are the primary care physicians. The Nursing Department or staff may be the first to detect an illness from a biological attack in students. Among the biological agents of greatest concern are: anthrax, smallpox, plague and botulism. A biological agent may be introduced to the system through the skin, or by ingestion or inhalation.

Chemical: Chemical terrorism involves the dissemination of chemical agents to deliberately harm or incapacitate people. Terrorists typically reserve use of chemical agents for use on civilian populations. Chemical agents are poisonous gases, liquids or solids that have a toxic effect on people, animals or plants. They are introduced through inhalation or absorption through the skin or mucous membranes from food, water or the air. An acute chemical event develops rapidly in a defined geographic area. The effects will be immediate and obvious. Types of chemical agents used by terrorists may include nerve, blood, blister, pulmonary and incapacitating agents; heavy metals; volatile toxins; pesticides; explosive nitro compounds; flammable or poisonous industrial gases, solids or liquids; or corrosive industrial acids and bases.

Nuclear/Radiological: Nuclear or radiological terrorism is the intentional or threatened use of radioactive materials typically found in nuclear weapons, nuclear plants or other settings such as medical facilities. A dirty bomb is an explosive used to spread radiological materials obtained from a power plant or medical facility. Like chemical attacks, nuclear attacks are acute events that develop rapidly in a fairly well-defined geographic area. Danger from the detonation of such bombs is radiation sickness caused by exposure to and absorption of radiation particles generated by the bomb. This sickness is marked by fatigue, nausea, vomiting, loss of hair and teeth, and, in most extreme cases damage to blood-forming tissue with a decrease of red and white blood cells and even death. Impact varies depending upon the amount of radiation introduced.
**Explosive:** Conventional terrorism most often takes the form of bombs and other explosive devices in order to inflict death and traumatic injury. The danger to people comes from the effects of the blast. To date, this has been the most common type of terrorist attack.

**Updated**
August 8, 2011

**Source**
Michigan Intelligence Operations Center for Homeland Security
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**More Information**
http://www.michigan.gov/mioc/
http://www.fbi.gov/
http://www.dhs.gov/index.shtm
**Prevention / Mitigation / Preparedness - Terrorism**

The Seven Signs of Terrorism:

1. **Surveillance** - Someone recording or monitoring activities. This may include the use of cameras (either still or video), note taking, drawing diagrams, annotating on maps, or using binoculars or other vision enhancing devices.
2. **Elicitation** - People or organizations attempting to gain information about military operations, capabilities, or people. Elicitation attempts may be made by mail, fax, and telephone or in person.
3. **Tests of Security** - Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures in order to assess strengths and weaknesses.
4. **Acquiring Supplies** - Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, etc. Also includes acquiring military uniforms, decals, flight manual, maps or badges (or the equipment to manufacture such items) or other controlled items.
5. **Suspicious Persons Out of Place** - People who don’t seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment, campus or anywhere else. This includes suspicious border crossings and stowaways aboard ship or people jumping ship in port.
6. **Dry Run/Trial Run** - Putting people into position and moving them around according to their plan without actually committing the terrorist act. This is especially true when planning a kidnapping, but it can also pertain to bombings. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flow.
7. **Deploying Assets** - People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is a person’s last chance to alert authorities before the terrorist act occurs. 

SOURCE: Michigan State Police – Homeland Security

Communicate with Office of Emergency Preparedness and DPS to identify local hazards.

Secure Facilities, Buildings, and Plants.

Install fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in appropriate places.

Locate and make available building and site maps with critical utility and emergency routes clearly marked. Plan to provide a copy to fire fighters and other first responders in the event of a disaster. Keep copies of these restrictive documents with your emergency plan and other important documents in your Emergency Supply Kit.

Consider the facilities benefitting from security alarm systems, closed circuit TV, access control, security guards and other security systems.

Secure ingress and egress. Consider all the ways in which people, products, supplies and other things get into and leave your building or facility.
Teach employees to be able to quickly identify suspect packages and letters. If you receive or discover a Bomb Threat, immediately Dial 911 and report it to DPSS.
Response - Terrorism

Determine if a TERRORISM threat or incident exists.

- Identify the type of terrorism involved: biological, chemical, nuclear/radiological or conventional.
- The initial assessment of an incident is absolutely critical to determine:
  - Type of attack (e.g., chemical, biological, explosive, radiological/nuclear or incendiary)
  - Area of release (inside or outside and proximity to building)
  - Containment or spread of the hazard
  - Casualties

An explosion could result in release of chemical, biological or radiological hazards (a “dirty weapon”).

Review the signs of different types of attacks to determine as much as possible the nature of the attack.

Mass casualties: Unusual numbers of sick or dying people with symptoms such as nausea, disorientation, difficulty breathing, convulsions, localized sweating, red eyes, red or blistered skin

Pattern of casualties: Casualties distributed downwind (if outdoors); casualties grouped within a confined area indoors

Unexplained odors: Unusual smells (e.g., fruity, flowery, sharp/pungent, garlic/horseradish-like, bitter almonds/peach kernels, new-mown hay), out of character with the surroundings

Unusual fogs, clouds, mists, liquids inside or outside; low-lying cloud/fog-like condition that is not consistent with its surroundings or compatible with the weather

Abandoned spraying devices, such as chemical sprayers

Unusual metal debris; unexplained bomb/munitions-like material

An explosion that disperses or dispenses liquids, mists, vapors or gas; explosions that destroy only a package or bomb device

 Unscheduled spraying or unusual application of spray

Notify DPS who may, as needed:

Activate the incident management system

- Determine whether an evacuation, lockdown or shelter-in-place needs to be implemented
- Maintain communication among all relevant staff at officially designated locations
- Establish what information needs to be communicated to students, faculty and staff
- Monitor how emergency first aid is being administered to the injured
- Determine if more personnel, equipment and/or supplies are needed