ESP

BULLETIN

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TERRORISM

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines terrorism as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives."

Images of the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon in Virginia, the plane crash in Pennsylvania, the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City and the Olympic Centennial Park in Atlanta are hard to forget.

These terrorist incidents caused thousands of deaths and injuries and billions of dollars in property losses. They also inflicted a huge emotional toll within the impacted communities and throughout the world.

According to the FBI, sporting events, political conventions and other special occasions are attractive opportunities for domestic and foreign terrorists.

Although bombing has been the most popular method used in recent terrorist incidents in the United States, terrorism can occur in several forms. In recent years, terrorists have used arson, hijackings and shootings to attain their political and social goals.

Terrorists can also use chemical or biological agents. Because people may not become ill immediately after being exposed to a biological agent, it may take some time for government officials to determine that such an attack has occurred.

In the event of an attack, government officials will instruct the public on what actions they should take. It's important that you remain calm and cooperate fully with local officials. Failure to follow instructions from local officials could cost you and others their lives.

In the event of a chemical or biological attack, instructions will be provided by local public health and safety officials on personal protection, decontamination and health warnings. Information will be provided via radio, television and the print media.



Preparing For All Hazards!

Monthly Preparedness Items and Actions

> January Floods

February Landslides

March Tsunamis

April Earthquakes

May Africanized Honey Bees

June Hazardous Materials

> **July** Bomb Threats

August Heat Wave

September Volcanoes

October Wildfires

November Windstorms & Tornadoes

DecemberCarbon Monoxide & Radon

COMBATING TERRORISM

As we've seen in the last several years, domestic and international terrorists can strike at any time.

To combat the threat of terrorism, emergency services officials representing all levels of government continue to work together to develop and implement effective strategies for preventing and responding to incidents.

The public also has a role in reducing the impact of terrorism on their lives. Suggestions on how to be better prepared at home and work follow:

BEFORE AN ATTACK

Prepare for the possibility of a terrorist attack which may affect you.

- Learn about the nature of terrorism.
 - ☐ Terrorists look for highly visible targets such as international airports, large cities, major international events, resorts and high-profile landmarks.
 - ☐ Prior to an attack, terrorists try to blend into the local community. Report any suspicious activities to your local authorities.
- Preparing for terrorist attacks is the same as preparing for earthquakes, fires and other emergencies.
 - Observe the environment. Terrorists most often strike with little or no warning.
 - Use caution when you travel. Observe and report unusual or suspicious activity to the proper authorities. Keep your packages with you at all times. Do not accept packages from strangers.
 - Locate stairways and emergency exits and develop plans for evacuating buildings, subways and crowded public areas.
 - ☐ Create an emergency communications plan. Choose an out-of-town contact that your family or household can call to check on each other.

BEFORE AN ATTACK (CON'T)	DURING AN ATTACK	PROTECTIVE ACTIONS
\square Conduct periodic evacuation drills.	If there's an explosion:	Protective actions are actions we take to
☐ Establish a meeting place away from your home in case your home is affected by the disaster or is in the area evacuated.	□ Remain calm. Take cover under a desk or sturdy table if ceiling tiles, bookshelves, their contents, etc., begin to fall.	safeguard our family members and our- selves from harm. The most common emergency protective actions are evacuation and shelter-in-place.
☐ Check on the school emergency plan for your children. Make sure the school has your updated emergency contact information.	Exit the building as quickly as possible.	 Evacuation means to leave the area of actual or potential hazard.
	If there's a fire:Crawl low in smoke and exit the	Shelter-in-place means to stay indoors. This includes additional precautions such as turning off air-conditioning, ventilation systems and closing all windows and doors.
If you live or work in a multi-level building:☐ Identify the location of fire exits and	building as quickly as possible. ☐ Use a wet cloth to cover your	
review emergency evacuation procedures.	nose and mouth. Use the back of your hand to feel the	WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?
☐ Locate and maintain fire extinguishers in working order. Train responsible personnel on how to use them.	lower, middle and upper parts of closed doors. If the door is not hot, brace yourself against the door and open it slowly. Do not open the door if it is hot. Seek another escape route.	\square Remain calm. Think before you act.
		\square Be aware of your surroundings.
		☐ Have a Family Preparedness Plan.
☐ Obtain training in first aid and CPR.	☐ Use appropriate fire exits, not elevators.	☐ Stay informed.
Assemble and maintain an	 If there's a biological or chemical attack: Remain calm. Follow the advice of local emegency officials. Listen to the news media for instructions. AFTER AN ATTACK If you are trapped in debris: 	If an evacuation is ordered, follow the instructions of local officials regarding evacuation routes and the location of shelters.
emergency supply kit at home, at work and in your car.		
☐ Battery-powered radio, flashlights, batteries —		If shelter-in-place is recommended, local officials will provide instruc- tions on necessary actions.
☐ Whistle		
☐ First aid kit and manual☐ Hard hats, dust masks and eye		☐ Do not leave your sheltered location
goggles		or return to the evacuated area until it is deemed safe to do so by local officials.
☐ Duct tape		
☐ Fluorescent tape to rope off dangerous areas	☐ Think before you act.	WEBSITES
☐ Water	 If possible, use a flashlight to signal rescuers regarding your location. 	
☐ Food (canned, no-cook, packaged snacks)	Avoid unnecessary movement so that you don't kick up dust. Cover your mouth with a handkerchief or clothing.	Listed below are a few websites that provide emergency preparedness information.
☐ Manual can opener		www.fema.gov
☐ Cash and credit cards		(Federal Emergency Management
☐ Change of clothing, rain gear, and sturdy shoes	☐ Tap on a pipe or wall so that rescuers can hear where you are.	Agency) www.oes.ca.gov (California Office of Emergency
☐ Blankets or sleeping bags		
\square Fire extinguisher (A-B-C) type	 ☐ Use a whistle if one is available. Shout only as a last resort— shouting can cause a person to inhale dangerous amounts of dust. ☐ Trained rescue personnel will respond. Their first priority is rescue. 	Services) www.redcross.org
☐ Infant and feminine hygiene supplies		(American Red Cross)
☐ Essential medicines and eyeglasses☐ Names, addresses, and telephone		www.bt.cdc.gov (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
numbers of doctors and pharmacist		www.labt.org
☐ Food and water for pets☐ Large plastic bags for trash, waste,		(County Public Health)
water protection		<u>www.co.la.ca.us</u> (County of Los Angeles)
☐ Toilet paper and paper towels		http://dmh.co.la.ca.us
 Charcoal grill or camp stove for out- door cooking 		(County Department of Mental Health)

This Bulletin is produced as part of the Emergency Survival Program (ESP). ESP is an awareness campaign designed to increase individual and home emergency preparedness. ESP was developed by the County of Los Angeles. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), Southern California Edison, and representatives from Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura and Yuma counties assist in the development of campaign materials and in coordination of the campaign.