

Introduction to Emergency Response to Terrorism

IERT

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FEMA



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

UNITED STATES FIRE ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL FIRE ACADEMY

FOREWORD

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was established in 1979. FEMA's mission is to focus Federal effort on preparedness for, mitigation of, response to, and recovery from emergencies encompassing the full range of natural and manmade disasters.

FEMA's National Emergency Training Center (NETC) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, includes the United States Fire Administration (USFA), its National Fire Academy (NFA), and the Emergency Management Institute (EMI).

To achieve the USFA's legislated mandate (under Public Law 93-498, October 29, 1974), "to advance the professional development of fire service personnel and of other persons engaged in fire prevention and control activities," the U.S. Fire Administration has developed an effective program linkage with established fire training systems which exist at the State and local levels. The field courses of the USFA's NFA have been sponsored by the respective State fire training systems in every State.

The USFA is proud to join with State and local fire agencies in providing educational opportunities to the members of the nation's fire services.

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THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TRAINING

You are one of the first to arrive on the scene of a suspected terrorist incident. As a first responder trained at the awareness level, you are among the first to witness or discover an incident involving criminal activity or terrorism and to initiate an emergency response sequence by notifying the proper authorities. In this role you need the following competencies which you can acquire through training and professional experience:

- an understanding of what terrorism is and the risks associated with such an incident;
- an understanding of the potential outcomes associated with a terrorist incident;
- the ability to recognize the presence of, and identify, criminal activity or terrorism in an emergency;
- an understanding of the role of the first responder as it relates to components of an emergency response plan, including site security and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) *North American Emergency Response Guidebook* (NAERG);
- the ability to realize the need for additional resources, and to make appropriate notifications to an emergency communication center; and
- the ability to self-protect, keeping responder safety--your safety--as a priority.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

In October 1996, at the USFA, a number of prominent subject matter experts

performed a needs assessment and formulated a curriculum direction for the USFA, including the NFA, in the area of emergency response to terrorism. As a result, the NFA will offer new courses as part of its existing Hazardous Materials Curriculum.

The USFA's NFA will use the five-level hazardous materials training model in designing these Emergency Response to Terrorism training courses. OSHA CFR 1910.120 is the basis for this five-level model. These levels are awareness, operations, technician, specialist, and incident command. Occasionally, the material touches on operational and managerial issues. However, the intent is to introduce first responders to the consequences of emergency response to terrorism. The response to terrorism track will include, in addition to this course, basic concepts for first responders (complementing and enhancing this self-study module for individuals trained to the operations level), tactical considerations (for individuals trained to the technician or specialist levels), and incident management (for incident command personnel). The USFA's response to terrorism training, like its hazardous materials training, is consistent with the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA's) Professional Qualifications 472 and 473. The NFA plans to release all these courses during 1997 and 1998.

COURSE OVERVIEW

This self-study course is designed to provide you with a general introduction to the basic concepts for first-responder awareness at the scene of a potential terrorist incident. To master the basics more thoroughly, it is recommended that

you complete this course as well as the NFA's corresponding 16-hour course, *Emergency Response To Terrorism: Basic Concepts* (ERT:BC), August 1997.

This course includes five modules and a Glossary.

Module 1: Terrorism in Perspective defines terrorism, presents a historical perspective, and provides an overview of potential threats (biological, nuclear, incendiary, chemical, and explosive).

Module 2: Incidents and Indicators identifies criteria for recognizing suspicious incidents; presents onscene key indicators, including those for locating terrorist incidents; and lists outward warning signs and detection clues.

Module 3: Self-Protection includes the types of potential harm encountered at the scene of an incident, and means of protection.

Module 4: Scene Control describes initial response and arrival considerations and the appropriate course of action for scene isolation and evacuation.

Module 5: Notification and Coordination provides procedures for activating response resources.

The **Glossary**, located at the end of the final module, contains definitions of terms related to first-responder awareness responsibilities and operations.

A **Bibliography** is included to help you continue learning after you have completed the course. It consists of references that may be helpful in

learning about emergency response to terrorism.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The primary target audience for this course includes three groups of people, ideally trained to the awareness level in hazardous materials response:

- fire personnel;
- emergency medical service responders; and
- hazardous materials responders.

In addition, this course also is designed to benefit

- law-enforcement personnel;
- emergency communications personnel;
- jurisdictional emergency coordinators;
- emergency management personnel;
- public works management;
- public health workers;
- Armed Forces (Active, Reserve, and National Guard); and
- other disaster response agencies.

HOW TO COMPLETE THIS COURSE



Here are a few suggestions to help you gain more from your self-study learning experience.

You will benefit most if you do not rush through this course. Do not try to read it cover-to-cover in one sitting. Throughout the text the authors have inserted questions that encourage you to stop reading, reflect a bit on what you have read, and apply it to your local situation. These questions are called,

"*Thinking About My Situation...*" You may not be able to answer all of the questions completely, but the more you reflect on them and try to find answers, the more valuable the learning experience will be. It would also be helpful to discuss these questions with others in your organization to broaden your understanding of the material. Some of the questions encourage you to go beyond the text and find information in other sources. The questions are designed to apply the module objectives to your local situation.

At the end of each module is a final learning activity: "*What I Will Do As Followup To This Module...*" asking you to apply what you have just learned to your local situation. If used correctly, these final questions could be the springboard to some very worthwhile postcourse action steps for you and your department.

After you finish reading the module and answer as many of the reflection questions as possible, you can complete the corresponding learning checks, and review the answers provided to assure that you have mastered the content.

The learning checks will help you evaluate your mastery of the material. If you are unable to answer all of the questions correctly, you may want to read the corresponding materials again.

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF THE COURSE

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Introduction to Emergency Response to Terrorism

Introduction

SAFETY, THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE

As a first responder, safety is your most important concern. You must protect yourself so that you can protect your fellow responders and the public. If you do not arrive safely at the incident scene, or if you become injured or incapacitated in any way, you will not be able to provide the services required by the initial call for help. We need to examine some of the pertinent issues of scene control, keeping **your** safety and survival in mind. The use of personal protective equipment (PPE) coupled with positive pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) will greatly increase your safety. In addition, bear in mind that **situational awareness** can give you the needed "lead time" to more fully prepare yourself.

All emergency operations must be organized to be successful. Remember that the initial actions taken by the first responders will affect the final outcome of the incident. This is especially important given that your response to a terrorism incident may begin with incomplete data. Besides, an organized and well-managed incident creates a safer environment for all involved. One of the best ways to understand the nature of organization is to view it from a systems approach.

A system is a unit of interrelated, dependent parts or functions designed to achieve a common goal.

A good example is the human body. The body's systems--sensory, nervous, muscular, circulatory, reproductive, and skeletal--all play a role in sustaining life.



If the systems are not properly interrelated and fail to function as one organism, life is threatened. Similarly, if the emergency scene is not properly managed, the potential for loss of scene control exists.

Not only is scene control lost, there could be other consequences resulting in greater loss of life or injury. Therefore, the use of an integrated systems approach, such as incident command, is critical to the outcome of the incident.

If you suspect a chemical, biological, or nuclear incident, this text does not provide you with the necessary training to *completely* protect yourself. Your principal responsibility in this instance is to call those responders who have the appropriate training and equipment. In addition, you should seek to increase your knowledge level by completing additional training, continuing to assess your community, working cooperatively with partner agencies, etc.

