

# Crime Prevention and Community Preparedness

National Crime Prevention Council 2006



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# Objectives

- The crime prevention framework
- Planning for community preparedness
- Overview of homeland security
- What individuals can do
- Citizen Corps programs and resources
- Neighborhood Watch



# Crime Prevention

A pattern of attitudes and behaviors directed both at reducing the threat of crime and enhancing the sense of security, to positively influence the quality of life in our society, and to develop environments where crime cannot flourish.

*Crime Prevention Coalition of America*



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# The Ten Action Principles of Crime Prevention

Crime prevention is . . .

1. Everyone's business
2. More than security
3. A responsibility at all levels of government
4. Linked with solving social problems
5. Cost-effective



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# The Ten Principles of Crime Prevention

Crime prevention requires. . .

6. A central position in law enforcement
7. Cooperation among all elements of the community
8. Education
9. Tailoring to local needs and conditions
10. Continual testing and improvement



# In Essence...

Crime prevention improves the  
quality of life for  
every community



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# The Crime Prevention Framework

- Crime prevention has a strategic role to play in community preparedness.
- Practitioners can help communities apply crime prevention skills to the work of community preparedness.
- A safe nation begins with safe, engaged communities.



# Community Preparedness

Much like crime prevention, everyone can have a role in preparing for the unexpected emergency.

Individuals or families can prepare by...

- Identifying meeting locations in case of an emergency
- Developing a family emergency contact list
- Assembling a disaster supplies kit
- Taking a first aid or CPR course



# Community Preparedness (cont.)

## Selecting a Meeting Location

- Most families are not together 24 hours a day; thus, planning ahead is important.
- Location points should be commonly frequented or accessible locations.
- Schools, public spaces, or neighbors' homes may be ideal locations to meet.



# Community Preparedness (cont.)

An emergency contact list should include

- Out-of-town family contact
- Work phone numbers
- Neighbors' phone numbers
- School phone numbers
- County/city emergency management phone numbers



# Community Preparedness (cont.)

A family disaster plan should include

- Two or more ways to stay in contact (e.g. email, phone, etc.)
- Escape routes from work or home and selected meeting location
- Name and number of an out-of-state friend as a family contact



# Community Preparedness (cont.)

- A description of medical or health needs that will need attention (e.g., diabetes, asthma, etc.)
- A stock of nonperishable emergency supplies and a first aid kit
- A plan for what to do with pets
- Training in first aid, CPR, and disaster preparedness



# Community Preparedness (cont.)

## Disaster Supply Kit

- Water (1 gallon per day per person for 3 to 7 days)
- Food (for 3 to 7 days)
- Blankets/pillows
- Clothing
- First aid kit/medicine
- Toiletries
- Tools, fuel, duct tape, etc.
- Flashlight/batteries
- Battery operated radio
- Cash and identification



# Pandemics

## What is a Pandemic?

A **Pandemic** is an epidemic (an outbreak of an infectious disease) that spreads worldwide, or at least across a large region.



# According to the World Health Organization

A pandemic can start when three conditions have been met:

- the emergence of a disease new to the population
- the agent infects humans, causing serious illness
- the agent spreads easily and sustainably among humans

A disease or condition is not a pandemic merely because it is widespread or kills a large number of people; it must also be infectious.



# Pandemic Preparedness

The best ways to protect yourself and others is to stay informed and plan ahead. Here are a few items to consider:

## **Staying informed is the best preparation**

- Identify sources you can rely on for accurate information
- Look for information on your local and state websites
- Talk to your local healthcare providers and public health officials



# Pandemic Preparedness (cont.)

## Services on all levels may be disrupted

- Consider that hospitals, banks, government offices, etc. may not be available
- Plan for possible public transportation cancellations and/or fuel shortages
- Consider how to care for those with special needs if services are unavailable



# Pandemic Preparedness (cont.)

## **Employment/Income - Being able to work may be difficult or impossible**

- Ask your employer about plans to operate in the event of a pandemic
- Plan for income loss if you are unable to work or your company closes
- Check with your employer or union about leave policies for yourself and family



# Pandemic Preparedness (cont.)

**Schools and/or child care may be closed for an extended period**

- Talk with teachers/administrators about their plans to operate during a pandemic-consider child care arrangements
- Plan home learning and exercise activities for children who may stay home



# Pandemic Preparedness (cont.)

## Staying Healthy- Medical facilities may be overwhelmed during a pandemic

- Take steps to limit the spread of germs: wash your hands, cover your mouth, etc.
- Stay at home if you are sick and avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Don't forget healthy habits: eat well, exercise regularly, and get plenty of rest
- If you are on medications or are receiving ongoing treatment, talk with your healthcare provider about access to medications and care during a pandemic



# Resources

- Federal Emergency Management Agency  
[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)
- Environmental Protection Agency  
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
- National Crime Prevention Council  
[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)



# Resources (cont.)

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
[www.dhs.gov/dhspublic](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic)
- Neighborhood Watch  
[www.usaonwatch.org](http://www.usaonwatch.org)
- American Red Cross  
[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



# Resources (cont.)

- Business Health Services

[www.bhsonline.com](http://www.bhsonline.com)

- World Health Organization

[www.who.int/en/](http://www.who.int/en/)



# Overview of Homeland Security



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**More than half of  
American adults (55 percent)  
are worried about another major  
terrorist attack on the  
United States in the coming year.**

February 2004 Wirthlin Worldwide Report



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**Only one in seven American adults (16 percent) believes that his or her community is extremely prepared or very prepared to respond to a terrorist attack.**



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# Overview of Homeland Security



- Prevent terrorist attacks within the United States
- Reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism
- Minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur



# Definitions of Terrorism

- Department of State: “Premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.”
- Department of Defense: “The calculated use of violence or threat of violence in order to inculcate fear, intended to coerce or intimidate governments or societies in the pursuit of goals that are generally political, religious, or ideological.”



# Key Elements of Terrorism

- Premeditated—planned in advance, rather than an impulsive act of rage
- Use of extreme force and violence
- Coercion of a government or population
- Furtherance of a political or social objective
- Carried out by subnational groups, not by the army of a country



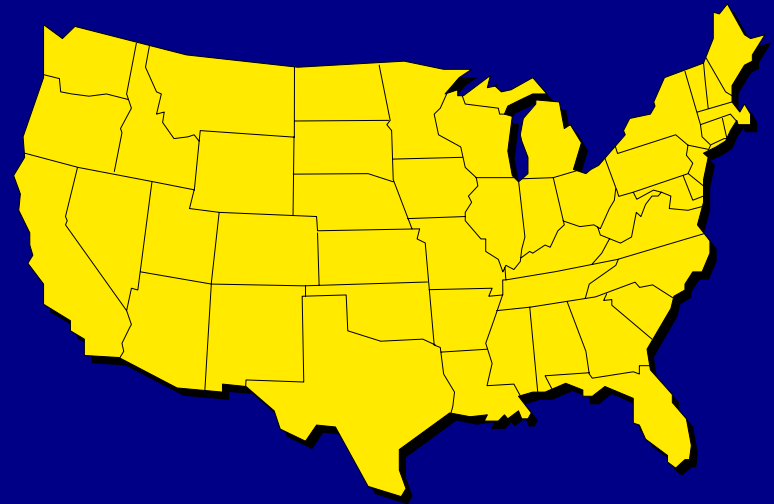
# International Terrorism

**Includes terrorist activity committed by groups or individuals that cross national boundaries. These boundaries can be both physical as well as cultural.**



# Domestic Terrorism

**Includes terrorist acts by groups or individuals who are U.S. citizens based entirely within the United States without foreign direction and whose terrorist acts are directed at elements of the U.S. government or society.**



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# Potential Targets

- Symbolic buildings and largely populated areas or events
- Examples include hospitals, airports, water supplies, government buildings, civic monuments, dams, rail lines.



# Potential Terrorist Threats

- **Biological:** The deliberate release of germs or other substances that may be inhaled, enter through a cut in the skin, or be digested to make one sick.
- **Chemical:** The deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid designed to poison people and the environment.



# Potential Terrorist Threats (cont.)

- **Nuclear:** An explosion with intense light and heat, damaging pressure wave, and widespread radioactive materials that can contaminate air, water, and ground surfaces for miles around.
- **Radiation:** Sometimes known as a “dirty bomb,” this weapon uses common explosives to spread radioactive materials over a targeted area.





# Homeland Security Advisory System

- This system was designed to provide comprehensive information on the risk of terrorist acts to federal, state, and local authorities.
- The system warns of increased threat conditions that increase as the risk of threat increases.



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# Homeland Security Advisory System

- Federal departments and agencies would implement a corresponding set of protective measures to reduce vulnerability or increase response capability during a heightened alert.





## HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM



# LOCAL RESPONSE

As alert status **INCREASES** there is a greater need for specific public education about threats and safety measures.

As alert status **DECREASES**, there is a greater need for public dialogue, coalition development, community scanning, and dialogue.



# HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM



What do the colors mean to you?

# Threat Conditions and Protective Measures

## Low Condition (Green)

### Department and Agencies

- Refine and exercise prearranged protective measures.
- Ensure personnel receive proper training on the HSAS and prearranged department/agency protective measures.
- Create a process to assess all facilities and regulated sectors for vulnerability to attack and institute measures to reduce vulnerability.

### Community Members

- Develop a household disaster plan.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.

# Threat Conditions and Protective Measures

## Guarded Condition (Blue )

### Department and Agencies

- Check communications with designated emergency response or command locations.
- Review and update emergency response procedures.
- Provide public with appropriate information to strengthen protective measures.

### Community Members

- Hold household meeting to review disaster plan.
- Update disaster supply kit.
- Develop a communications plan.
- Apartment residents should discuss emergency steps with building managers.
- People with special needs should discuss plans with friends and family.

# Threat Conditions and Protective Measures

## Elevated Condition (Yellow)

### Department and Agencies

- Increase surveillance of strategic/critical locations.
- Coordinate emergency plans with appropriate jurisdictions.
- Assess whether threat requires refinement of prearranged protective measures.
- Implement appropriate contingency plans.

### Community Members

- Be observant; report any suspicious activity to authorities.
- Contact neighbors to discuss their plans or needs.
- Check with school officials to assess their emergency planning and procedures to reunite children with parents/caregivers.
- Update household communication plan.

# Threat Conditions and Protective Measures

## High Condition (Orange)

### Department and Agencies

- Coordinate security efforts with federal, state, and local law enforcement, National Guard, or other security and armed forces.
- Take additional precautions at public events, from moving to an alternative site to cancellation.
- Prepare to implement contingency procedures including moving to an alternative site and dispersing workforce.
- Restrict access to threatened facility to essential personnel.

### Community Members

- Review preparedness measures for response to terrorist actions including chemical, biological, and radiological attacks.
- Avoid potential high-risk areas.
- Exercise caution when traveling.

# Threat Conditions and Protective Measures

## Severe Condition (Red)

### Department and Agencies

- Direct personnel to address critical emergency needs.
- Assign emergency response personnel; mobilize specially trained teams and resources.
- Monitor, redirect, or close transportation systems.
- Close nonessential public and government facilities.

### Community Members

- Avoid public gathering places, public gatherings, and other high-risk locations.
- Listen for and follow radio and TV advisories restricting activities.
- Contact employer regarding status of work.
- Prepare to take protective actions such as sheltering-in-place or evacuation.

# Desired Outcomes of Terrorist Activity

- Cause an overreaction by the government
- Recognition/publicity for the group
- Harass or embarrass the government
- Steal money or equipment
- Destroy facilities or equipment
- Free prisoners



# Pre-incident Indicators and Warning Signs

- History has shown that terrorist attacks do not occur in a vacuum.
- Attacks are organized and planned weeks, months, and sometimes years in advance.
- The planning stage is law enforcement's best opportunity to prevent attacks.



# Other Pre-incident Indicators

- Persons observed near identified potential targets carrying video cameras or observation equipment with high-magnification lenses.
- Individuals observed parking, standing, or loitering in the same area for multiple days.
- Persons observed with maps, photos, diagrams, or sketches of facilities.



# Other Pre-Incident Indicators (cont.)

- A pattern or a series of false alarms requiring law enforcement and/or emergency response
- Reported thefts of military, law enforcement, or fire ID cards, license plates, uniforms, etc.
- Nonmilitary persons stopped with military-style weapons, clothing, and equipment



# Crime Prevention and Community Preparedness Programs Work !



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# What Community Residents Can Do

- Join or organize a local Block Watch or Neighborhood Watch with local authorities.
- Obtain information from [www.usaonwatch.com](http://www.usaonwatch.com).
- Get friends, family, and neighbors involved.



# What Community Residents Can Do (cont.)

- Stay informed and updated on the news.
- Stay alert; be aware of your surroundings.
- Practice observation techniques.



# Programs and Resources

## Citizen Corps Councils

Provide a mechanism for local citizen participation by coordinating Citizen Corps programs, developing community action plans, assessing possible threats, and identifying local resources.

Website

[www.citizencorps.gov/programs/](http://www.citizencorps.gov/programs/)



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# Programs and Resources (cont.)

## Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

Website

[www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org)

Provides support for resource-constrained police departments by incorporating civilian volunteers so that law enforcement

professionals have more time for frontline duty.



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# Programs and Resources (cont.)

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Trains people in neighborhoods, the workplace, and schools in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression, urban search and rescue, and medical operations, and helps them take a more active role in emergency preparedness.

Website

<http://training.fema.gov>



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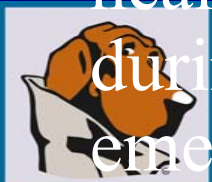
# Programs and Resources (cont.)

## Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Coordinates volunteer health professionals, as well as other citizens with an interest in health issues, to provide ongoing support for community public health needs and resources during large-scale emergencies.

## Website

[www.medicalreserve  
corps.gov](http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov)



# Neighborhood Watch

- Crime prevention group organized around a block, defined neighborhood, business district
- Serves as eyes and ears of law enforcement
- Helps establish/reclaim informal control of an area by observation, visibility, increased social interaction



# Neighborhood Watch (cont.)

- Time and resources donated
- Usually no formal budget or funding source
- Success results in reduction in crime, improved quality of life



# The Benefits of Neighborhood Watch

Studies show it is effective because

- It brings neighbors together around a common cause – safety and security.
- It provides basic skills to all members on preventing crime and reporting suspicious behavior or actual crimes.
- It builds a base for correcting neighborhood problems.
- It works well with other civic associations.

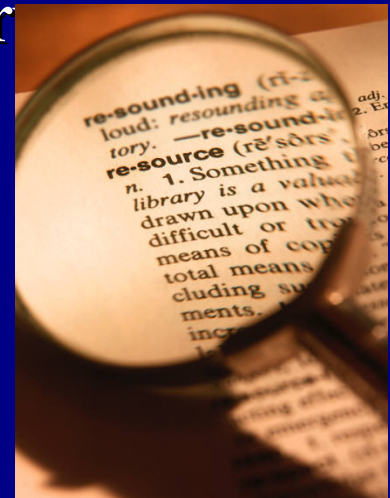


# Resources

- *Citizens' Preparedness Guide*, National Crime Prevention Council, 2002
- *Crime Prevention Can Spur and Support Homeland Security in Neighborhoods and Communities*, National Crime Prevention Council, 2003
- [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service  
[www.ncjrs.gov](http://www.ncjrs.gov)



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# Presenter Contact Information



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