

## **MALEVOLENT EVENTS AND DENIAL PROTECTION STRATEGY**

**QUESTION:** On October 3, 2001, the Secretary of Energy issued a directive ordering all sites to develop and implement plans to move to a denial protection strategy. "Denial" is typically understood to mean that terrorists would never gain access to cause the release of hazardous materials. If existing security measures are intended to effectively preclude a particular threat from gaining access to or dispersing a particular target, can that threat-target combination be eliminated from consideration as a basis for an EPHA release scenario? In other words, for facilities that have established a "denial" protection strategy, is it appropriate to consider releases caused by malevolent acts at all?

**ANSWER:** Emergency planning analysts should consider any facility with significant quantities of hazardous materials as a potential target of malevolent action. The only constraint on the postulated events for emergency management purposes is that the postulated threats and capabilities be within the current Departmental DBT policy as it is interpreted and applied to the subject facility.