



FireWatch

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Intelligence Briefing

Monday, December 1, 2008



Terror Attacks - Mumbai, India

Excellent summaries of the Mumbai, India terror attacks November 25 – 28, 2008 have been compiled by NYPD Shield (<http://secure.NYPDSHIELD.org>) and TRIPWire (www.TRIPwire-dhs.net) .

These attacks have a set of tactics that directly affect Fire and EMS based First Responders:

1. Attack of Hospitals – it is possible the timing was designed to hit the hospitals at the same time the 1st wave of casualties was arriving from the scene.
2. Response Vehicles Stolen - Terrorists stole emergency response vehicles at the scene; possibly to facilitate escape and / or to continue the attack at another location.
3. Warning – early reporting says that at least some of the locations had warning of the attack and had taken protective measures.
4. Terror Group - Leading suspect in attack, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba(LeT), has been tied to various cases in the US, UK, Australia and other Western countries.

In general these attacks show a high level of understanding by the terrorists, they seem to understand that confusion creates terror and they understood how 1st Responders Operate. Some of the accomplishments of the terrorists that are similar to the 9/11 attacks:

1. They were able to use a small number of attackers to achieve a spectacular event.
2. They used a new delivery method (arrive by hijacked boat, then press an attack until death).
3. Use of guns and ammo as primary weapons, explosive use was secondary. (this is similar to school shooting scenarios in the U.S.).
4. The terrorists were able to kill the head of the Counter Terrorist Police Force.

It would be unrealistic to expect the next terror attack here will be any less complex than this one and the lesson to learn is that our operations are understood and vulnerable.

Simple steps all 1st Responders can take to prepare and prevent:

1. Secure our vehicles at all times – they should not be left alone unlocked.
2. Train, Practice and Exercise
3. Report suspicious activity to the Special Operations Battalion Chief – trust your experience, if it doesn't seem right – it probably isn't.
4. Expect to be challenged to prove you are who you say you are – always carry Fire Department ID and Radios.

NOTE: The Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center (WRTAC) approved redistribution of this document to all levels of the Emergency Services Sector. The Emergency Management and Response—Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EMR-ISAC) confirmed this action with the WRTAC POC for this document: Chief John Donnelly (john.donnelly@dc.gov) on 1 December 2008.