# UNIT 8: TERRORISM AND CERT

In this unit you will learn about:

- **What Terrorism Is:** The definition of terrorism and terrorist goals.
- **Terrorist Targets:** How terrorists choose their targets.
- **Terrorist Weapons:** The weapons that terrorists are known or are suspected to have and the risk posed by various terrorist weapons.
- **CBRNE Indicators:** Cues that help to identify a when a terrorist attack may have occurred or may be imminent.
- **Preparing at Home, Work, and in Your Neighborhood:** Ways to prepare for a terrorist incident.
- **CERTs and Terrorist Incidents:** CERT protocols for terrorist incidents and protective action following an event.

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# INTRODUCTION AND UNIT OVERVIEW

## UNIT OBJECTIVES

At the end of this unit, you should be able to:

- Define terrorism.
- Identify potential targets in the community.
- Identify the eight signs of terrorism.
- Identify CERT operating procedures for a terrorist incident.
- Describe the actions to take following a suspected terrorist incident.

## UNIT TOPICS

This unit will cover the following topics:

- What Is Terrorism?
- Terrorist Targets
- Terrorist Weapons
- CBRNE Indicators
- Preparing at Home, Work, and in Your Neighborhood
- CERTs and Terrorist Incidents

## WHAT IS TERRORISM?

The U.S. Department of Justice's definition of terrorism:

- 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

Terrorism may be perpetrated by foreign or domestic individuals or groups.

While the United States has not had as many terrorist incidents as some other countries, we have had several serious attacks, including:

- The bombing of the World Trade Center (1993)
- The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City (1995)
- The bombing at the Atlanta Olympic Games (1996)
- Bombings at family planning clinics and gay bars in the Atlanta area (1996 and 1997)
- The destruction of the World Trade Center and a portion of the Pentagon (2001)
- The sending of anthrax through the U.S. mail (2001)

Each of these incidents demonstrates that we live with the possibility of additional terrorist attacks on our own soil.

### TERRORIST GOALS

Terrorist attacks can occur with or without warning. Because of the nature of terrorist attacks, they can, and are often intended to, result in:

- Mass casualties
- Loss of critical resources
- Disruption of vital services
- Disruption of the economy
- Heightened fear

## TERRORIST TARGETS

Terrorists choose their targets to meet specific goals. For example, the Oklahoma City bombing was a strike against the Federal Government. The September 11, 2001, attacks targeted both our economic center and our military establishment while raising casualty levels to new heights and changing the way Americans think about their safety.

Terrorists may select "soft" or lightly protected targets over "hard" or very secure targets.

Potential terrorist targets might include:

- Seats of government
- Key industries
- Bridges, subways, tunnels, and other key transportation facilities
- Water supplies and utilities
- Places of historical significance

Terrorists may also be drawn to major events such as parades or athletic and entertainment events. Because of this, you may see increased security measures to help deter and prevent terrorism.

## TERRORIST WEAPONS

Experts generally agree that there are five categories of possible terrorist weapons. The acronym CBRNE will help you remember the five categories.

1. **C**hemical
2. **B**iological
3. **R**adiological
4. **N**uclear
5. High-yield **E**xplosives

While this unit focuses on terrorism, it is important to remember that CBRNE incidents may occur accidentally (such as a chlorine tanker truck accident) or naturally (such as pandemic influenza).

Another type of terrorist weapon is deliberate, large-scale disruption of computer networks. This is known as cyberterrorism. To help guard against cyberterrorism, it is important that computer users implement appropriate security measures.

### CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Unlike biological agents or nuclear materials, which are difficult to produce or purchase, the ingredients used to produce chemical weapons are found in common products and petrochemicals. Terrorists can turn these common products into lethal weapons.

There are five categories of chemical weapons.

- Blister agents cause blisters, burns, and other tissue damage. Exposure may be made through liquid or vapor contact with any exposed skin, inhalation, or ingestion. Blister agents include several families of chemicals, including mustard and lewisite. The effects of blister agents may be similar to those experienced with riot-control agents like "tear" gas but do not clear upon movement into fresh air. In fact, the effects of most blister agents increase with time and may not reach their full impact for 12 to 18 hours.
- Blood agents are absorbed into the bloodstream and deprive blood cells of oxygen. Exposure may be made through liquid or vapor contact with any exposed skin, inhalation, or ingestion. Blood agents include two main families of chemicals, including hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride. Those who are affected by blood agents may appear "bluish" across the nose and cheeks and around the mouth. As the symptoms of blood agents progress, the victim will convulse and lose consciousness.

## TERRORIST WEAPONS (CONTINUED)

- Choking agents attack the lungs. Following exposure through inhalation, the lungs fill with fluid, which prevents oxygen from being absorbed by, and carbon dioxide from being removed from, the blood. Death results from lack of oxygen and is similar to drowning. Two common examples of choking agents are phosgene and chlorine.
- Nerve agents affect the central nervous system. These agents act most quickly and are the most lethal of all chemical agents, acting within seconds of exposure. Victims of nerve agents experience constricted pupils, runny nose, shortness of breath, convulsions, and cessation of breathing. Sarin is an example of a nerve agent.
- Riot-control agents cause respiratory distress and tearing and are designed to incapacitate rather than kill. Riot-control agents cause intense pain, especially when in contact with mucus membrane in areas such as the eyes, nose, and mouth. Common riot-control agents include "tear" gas and capsicum (also called pepper spray).

The onset of symptoms that result from chemical weapons can range from immediate to 18 hours following exposure. Chemical weapons are considered a moderate risk.

### BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Biological agents are found in nature and can also be manufactured. It is possible to weaponize biological agents so that they can be disseminated to affect broad segments of the population, animal populations, or crops.

Some biological agents are contagious, but many are not. Routes of exposure for biological weapons are:

- Inhalation
- Ingestion
- Absorption

Many, but not all, biological agents take days or even weeks for their symptoms to appear. It is possible for a biological attack to occur and remain unnoticed for some time. Consequently, more people may be affected before it is clear that an attack has occurred.

## TERRORIST WEAPONS (CONTINUED)

It is also possible for contagious biological agents to spread far beyond their initial point of contamination as the daily routines of affected individuals broaden the reach of the agent far beyond the initial contamination area. Therefore, biological weapons are considered a high risk.

### RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

Radiation is energy in the form of waves or particles given off during radioactive decay or as a consequence of certain physical processes that we can control. Examples of these are x-ray machines and particle accelerators. Radiation cannot be seen, smelled, or otherwise detected by normal senses. High doses or prolonged exposure to radiation can cause radiation sickness and possibly death.

Radiation dispersal devices (RDDs) may be improvised explosive devices, also called "dirty bombs," but can include non-explosive devices that could be used to spread radioactive material as well. It is not necessary to use a bomb to disperse radioactive materials; these materials come in solids, liquids, and powdered forms, which can be spread covertly. The major impact of a dirty bomb is produced by the blast. RDDs are considered to be a much higher threat because radiological materials are much easier to obtain than enriched nuclear materials, and the technology required to detonate an RDD is similar to that involved in detonating conventional explosives.

Radiological materials are readily available in hospitals and other medical facilities, in university science laboratories, and in many products with commercial uses. Terrorists who would attack using an RDD would need relatively small amounts of radioactive material to make an effective device. As such, radiological weapons are considered a moderate to high risk.

# TERRORIST WEAPONS (CONTINUED)

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS

A nuclear weapon is an explosive device that derives its destructive force from nuclear reaction. All nuclear devices cause deadly effects when exploded, including blinding light, intense heat, initial nuclear radiation, blast, fires started by the heat pulse, secondary fires caused by the destruction, and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water, and ground surfaces for miles around.

A nuclear device can range from a weapon carried by an intercontinental missile launched by a hostile nation or terrorist organization, to a small portable nuclear device transported by an individual. Terrorists seeking to use nuclear weapons may try to obtain a nuclear warhead from within a country known to possess nuclear weapons or they may acquire fissile material in order to make a much smaller nuclear bomb, known as an improvised nuclear device.

A terrorist attack with a nuclear weapon would be much different from an attack with a conventional explosive device.

- The affected area would be much larger than in a conventional explosion, and debris and other usually harmless items would be contaminated.
- Due to radioactive contamination, there would be potential for physical injury and death to persons who were not injured in the initial attack. People may also become injured in the resulting damaged environment.
- The long-term health effects would be more difficult to ascertain and manage.
- Experts believe that the complexities of a terrorist group's obtaining a nuclear weapon and maintaining the tolerances that are required for the weapon to function make the use of nuclear weapons by terrorist groups a low risk.

# TERRORIST WEAPONS (CONTINUED)

## HIGH-YIELD EXPLOSIVES

High-yield explosives are the most commonly used terrorist weapons because they are easy to get, easy to hide and activate, and they can cause extensive damage. While terrorists have used military munitions such as grenades, mortars, and shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles, experts rate high-yield explosives in the form of improvised explosive devices as a greater threat.

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) include any device that is created in an improvised manner, incorporating explosives or other materials designed to destroy, disfigure, distract, or harass. Most bombs used by terrorists are improvised. The raw materials required for many explosives can be purchased commercially (e.g., ammonium nitrate, which is also used as fertilizer), purchased from commercial blasting supply companies, or developed using readily available household ingredients. An IED may also contain chemicals as a means of increasing their damage potential.

High-yield explosives are considered the highest risk when dealing with a potential terrorist attack.

## ASSESSING THE RISK

- Although nuclear weapons present the highest impact, they are considered the lowest risk because of the difficulty in obtaining enough weapons-grade material and the technical complexity of developing and maintaining the tolerances required for a nuclear device to detonate.
- Chemical and high-yield explosive devices are considered higher risk but lower impact weapons.
- Biological weapons are considered both high-risk and high-impact weapons — but only for diseases that are highly contagious. Other types of biological weapons (i.e., those requiring dispersal devices) are considered a lower risk because of the sensitivity of the biological agents to heat, light, and shock.

# TERRORIST WEAPONS (CONTINUED)

## EIGHT SIGNS OF TERRORISM

We all have a responsibility to play an active role in keeping the country safe. Everyone should report to authorities anything they see that seems suspicious or out of place. The phrase "If you see something, say something" took on additional power after the foiled Times Square bomb plot in New York City. On May 1, 2010, street vendors in Times Square noticed a smoking SUV with its blinkers on, engine running, and no one inside. They decided to say something to a police officer. Thousands of people were cleared from the area while the bomb was dismantled.

Through funding from DHS, the Center for Empowered Learning and Living (the CELL) produced a video outlining the eight warning signs that terrorist activity may be forthcoming (www.thecell.org). These signs are exhibited by potential terrorists (often in this order) and include:

1. Surveillance: The targeted area is watched and studied carefully. This may include recording or monitoring activities.
2. Elicitation: Information is gathered that is specific to the intended target. This may be by mail, phone, or in person.
3. Tests of security: Local security measures are tested and analyzed, including measuring reaction times to security breaches or attempts to penetrate security.
4. Funding: Raising, transferring, spending money, which may include selling drugs or stolen merchandise, funneling money through businesses or charities
5. Acquiring supplies: Necessary supplies are gathered to prepare the attack, including weapons/weapon components, transportation, and communications. Supplies may be purchased with cash only.
6. Impersonation or suspicious people who don't belong: People impersonating roles to gain access or information and people who don't fit in or don't seem to belong in the location
7. Rehearsal and dry runs: Groups or individuals will often operate test runs before the actual attack.
8. Deployment: The final and most urgent phase when terrorists are deploying assets and getting into position. Attack is imminent.

The presence of even a few of these signs may indicate the possibility of a terrorist attack.

Although it is not the mission of CERT members to keep constant watch for these eight signs, everyone should be alert to changes in their environment as a clue to a possible terrorist attack and report suspicious activities to appropriate authorities.

# CBRNE INDICATORS

## INDICATORS AN ATTACK HAS OCCURRED OR IS UNDERWAY

While bombs and explosions have obvious immediate effects, **biological or chemical attacks may not be as immediately noticeable**. Indicators that a biological or chemical attack has occurred or is underway could include:

- Vapor clouds or mists that are unusual for the area or for the time of day. Although many biological and chemical agents cannot be seen with the naked eye, the substances in which they are suspended when dispersed may be visible for a period of time after an attack.
- Unscheduled spraying or abandoned spray devices. Several September 11, 2001, terrorists are known to have made inquiries into purchasing and learning to fly crop duster airplanes. Many other types of agricultural sprayers can be used to disperse biological and (more likely) chemical agents.
- Materials or equipment that are unusual for the area. Dispersal devices, lab equipment, or quantities of hazardous materials that are not typically located in the area may indicate that a terrorist attack is occurring or is about to occur.
- Unusual odors or tastes
- Out of place and unattended packages, boxes, or vehicles. Items that are out of place and unattended could signal a possible terrorist attack. This could include chemical or biological agents as well as explosives.
- Packages that are leaking may be harmless, but they may also signal a terrorist incident. The terrorists who released sarin in the Tokyo subway system (Aum Shinrikyo) merely poked holes in bags containing sarin, then left the area as the poison leaked out.

If you observe any of these indicators of a terrorist incident, you should:

- Not touch it!
- Move away from the object or area
- Report it to authorities immediately

Remember: Cellular phones and two-way radios create static electricity and may detonate explosive devices. CERT members should always report suspected explosive devices via landline.

## CBRNE INDICATORS (CONTINUED)

Physical effects on people and animals may also indicate that a chemical or biological attack has occurred. These may include:

- Numerous sick or dead animals, fish, or birds. Wildlife is often more sensitive to chemical or biological agents than humans. The absence of wildlife or insects that are common for the area or animals, fish, or birds that are obviously sick, dying, or dead may indicate the presence of a biological or chemical attack.
- Large numbers of persons seeking medical attention with similar symptoms that are not characteristic of the season. The symptoms of many biological agents mimic the flu or other common illnesses. An unusually large number of persons seeking medical attention for the flu in July could indicate that a biological attack has taken place.
- Multiple victims who are exhibiting similar symptoms. Symptoms may range from difficulty breathing to skin necrosis to uncontrolled salivating, uncontrolled muscle twitching, convulsions, or seizure activity. All of these symptoms indicate that a chemical attack may have taken place.
- Multiple casualties without obvious signs of trauma may indicate a biological or chemical attack.

## PREPARING AT HOME, WORK, AND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Because personal safety is the first priority, as with hazardous materials, CERT members should treat possible terrorist incidents as a stop sign. **CERTs are not equipped or trained to respond to terrorist incidents.** Professional responders will need specialized equipment and personnel to respond to a terrorist incident.

In addition, it is important to remember that terrorism incident scenes are also crime scenes. CERT members should avoid taking any action that may disturb potential evidence.

### PREPARE FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY

There are ways to prepare for a terrorist incident. The CBRNE events covered in this unit are survivable and what you learn and do now may impact the quality of your survival. Many of the steps for preparing for a terrorist incident are the same as for natural hazards. Please review Unit 1: Disaster Preparedness on the importance of learning about community alerts and warnings, having household plans, and assembling supplies in multiple locations. This unit will focus on some of the preparedness actions and protective measures that are particularly relevant for CBRNE events. These include: sheltering-in-place; understanding the concepts of time, distance, and shielding; and decontamination.

### SHELTER-IN-PLACE PROCEDURES

Procedures for sheltering-in-place during a chemical or biological attack include:

- Shut off the ventilation system and latch all doors and windows to reduce airflow from the outside.
- Go to your shelter-in-place room (where your precut plastic, duct tape, radio, and other supplies should be stored).
- Use precut plastic sheeting to cover openings where air can enter the room, including doors, windows, vents, electrical outlets, and telephone outlets. When cut, the sheeting should extend several inches beyond the dimensions of the door or window to allow room to duct tape the sheeting to the walls and floor.
- Tape the plastic sheeting around all doors and windows using duct tape to ensure a good seal.
- Seal with duct tape other areas where air can come in, such as under doors and areas where pipes enter the home. Air can be blocked by placing towels or other soft objects in areas where air could enter, then securing them with duct tape.

## PREPARING AT HOME, WORK, AND IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD (CONTINUED)

- Listen to a battery-powered radio for the all clear. Chemicals used in an attack will be carried on the wind and will dissipate over time. **You will generally not need to stay in a sealed room for more than a few hours.** Listen to Emergency Alert System broadcasts to know when it is safe to leave the safe room.
- After contaminants have cleared, open windows and vents and turn on fans to provide ventilation.

To be able to execute these procedures during an actual event requires that you:

- Store precut plastic sheeting in your identified shelter-in-place room
- Assemble and store food, water, and a battery-operated radio in the shelter-in-place room
- Practice sealing the room
- Establish shelter-in-place procedures wherever you spend significant amounts of time at home, at work, at school

As a rule of thumb, 10 square feet of floor space per person will provide sufficient air to prevent carbon dioxide buildup for up to 5 hours, assuming a normal breathing rate while resting.

# CERTS AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS

## PROTECTION FROM RADIOACTIVE FALLOUT

There are three factors that significantly affect safety after an incident that involves radiation, such as a dirty bomb or a nuclear device. They are distance, shielding, and time. A critical protective action in a radiological or nuclear event is to get inside as quickly as possible, stay inside, and stay tuned to local radio or television stations for further guidance.

- Go Deep Inside (distance/shielding): It is important to find adequate shelter quickly to avoid radioactive fallout resulting from the explosion. Get inside as soon as possible and go to the farthest interior room or to a basement. Flat roofs collect fallout particles so the top floor is not a good choice, nor is a floor adjacent to a neighboring flat roof. The more distance between you and the fallout particles, the better.

  If you are outside when the event occurs, do not look at the flash or fire ball. It can blind you. Take cover behind anything that will offer protection, lie flat, and cover your head. If the explosion is some distance away, it could take 30 seconds or more for the blast wave to hit. Get inside as soon as you can. If you are not able to get inside, maintain as great a distance as possible from the incident and shield yourself with any available resources: earth, concrete, bricks, books.

- Stay Inside (time): Limiting the amount of time in the area of an incident is important to limit exposure to avoid radioactive fallout resulting from the explosion.

  Stay inside unless threatened by fire, building collapse, medical necessity, or other immediate threats. Remain inside until you receive notification from authorities that it is safe to leave the building. Be prepared to shelter inside for up to 2 to 3 days.

- Stay Tuned: Radiation levels outside will gradually drop and authorities will tell you when it is safe to go outside, bearing in mind that the explosion will have caused significant damage to buildings and infrastructure.

# CERTS AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

## BASIC DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES

The objective of decontamination is to remove harmful chemicals or particles of radioactive dirt or dust that have come in contact with the skin or clothes.

- Leave the contaminated area immediately. Depending on the circumstances, go inside, go outside, or go upwind, uphill, or upstream from the contaminant. (Seek a distance of at least 1,000 to 1,500 feet.)
- Take decontamination action. Seconds count! The goal is to limit the time that the agent is in contact with the skin.
  - Remove everything from the body, including jewelry. Cut off clothing that would normally be removed over the head to reduce the probability of inhaling or ingesting the agent. Seal your clothes in a plastic bag.
  - Wash hands before using them to shower. If no shower is available, improvise with water from faucets or bottled water.
  - Flush the entire body, including the eyes, underarms, and groin area, with copious amounts of cool water. Hot water opens the pores of the skin and can promote absorption of the contaminant. Using copious amounts of water is important because some chemicals react to small amounts of water.

    If soap is immediately available, mix the soap with water for decontamination. Avoid scrubbing with soap because scrubbing can rub the chemical into the skin rather than remove it.

    Wash hair with soap or shampoo or rinse with water if soap is not available. Do not use conditioner as that can bind radioactive materials to your hair and make it difficult to remove.

    If hosing someone else off or pouring water from a container, avoid both physical contact with the person and with the runoff.

    The water used for decontamination must be contained and covered or drained outside of the shelter area to avoid shelter contamination.
  - Blot dry using an absorbent cloth. Do not rub the skin! Put on clean clothes.
- As soon as possible, emergency responders will set up mass decontamination capabilities. For radiological events, stations for radiation monitoring and blood tests will also be set up to determine levels of exposure and what next steps to take to protect health.

## CERTS AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

- Food Safety. Radioactive particles in food or water may be harmful if consumed. Food in tightly covered containers (cans, bottles, plastic, and boxes) will be safe to eat or drink if you dust or wipe off the containers. Be sure to wash fruit and vegetables and peel them carefully. Water will be safe if it is in covered containers or if it has come from covered wells or from undamaged and uncontaminated water systems.

### TREATING OTHERS

Remember that the first priority for CERTs is personal safety.

- CERT members should take self-protective measures only.
- They should not attempt to treat the injuries of victims in the contaminated area.

As with professional responders, CERT members may have difficulty dealing with the idea that they should not try to help others, even partners, who are injured but may have been contaminated. Remember that:

1. You have a responsibility to yourself, to other CERT members, and to your families to operate safely.
2. You are neither trained nor equipped to deal with contaminated victims.
3. You cannot help anyone if you become a victim. In fact, you may make matters considerably worse if you spread the contamination.

You must make the best decisions possible with the information that you have at hand. Even if an incident turns out not to be terrorist related, you have made the right decision if you have done the most good for the greatest number and have not become a victim yourself.

# CERTS AND TERRORIST INCIDENTS (CONTINUED)

## WHAT PROFESSIONAL RESPONDERS WILL DO

There are several measures that you can expect professional responders to take when they arrive at the scene of a terrorist incident.

The first step that professional responders will take when they arrive at the scene is to conduct a thorough sizeup. They will follow steps that are very similar to those that CERTs take to determine:

- What is going on
- How bad the situation is and how much worse it could get
- What measures can be taken to control the incident safely
- What resources will be needed

CERTs can expect professional responders to treat terrorist incidents much the same as hazardous materials incidents. As such, the next step that they will take is to establish three incident zones to minimize the risk of spreading contamination from the incident site.

- The Hot Zone includes the incident scene and the contaminated area around the scene. If the incident is outdoors, the Hot Zone will spread downwind, taking wind speed into consideration.
- The Warm Zone is upwind (and upstream if the contaminant is waterborne) from the Hot Zone and is used to isolate victims during decontamination. It is called the Warm Zone because the evacuees can carry or spread a contaminant into this area. Professional responders will hold those who require decontamination in the Warm Zone until decontamination is complete so that contaminants do not spread.
- The Cold Zone is located upwind and beyond the Warm Zone. Those who are not contaminated or who have been decontaminated will be evacuated to the Cold Zone and kept there until professional responders authorize them to leave.

# ACTIVITY: APPLYING CERT PRINCIPLES TO A SUSPECTED TERRORIST INCIDENT

**Activity: Applying CERT Principles to a Suspected Terrorist Incident**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is to enable you to apply CERT protocols to a suspected terrorist incident.

**Instructions:** Follow the steps below to complete this activity:

1. Assume that you are a CERT graduate and have been assigned to a team.
2. Working in your table group, read the scenario assigned to your group and determine as a team what actions to take.
3. You will have 10 minutes to read and discuss your scenarios.
4. Select a spokesperson to present the team's response to the class.

**Scenario 1:**

It is a bright, sunny spring day. You are stopping at the Post Office on your way home from work. As you enter the parking lot, you are shaken by an explosion and see glass from the Post Office windows fly through the air across the parking lot. Although it takes you a few seconds, you realize that there has been an explosion inside the Post Office.

**Scenario 2:**

It is a bright, sunny day with light wind. You are stopping at the Post Office on your way home from work. As you enter the parking lot, you see several people exiting the building. All seem to be disoriented. Some are clutching their chests and rubbing their eyes. One has fallen to the ground and seems to be having some sort of convulsion.

## UNIT SUMMARY

Terrorism may be perpetrated by foreign or domestic individuals or groups. Terrorists attack to:

- Intimidate the government or the civilian population
- Further their objectives

When terrorists attack, their goals are to:

- Create mass casualties
- Disrupt critical resources, vital services, and the economy
- Cause fear

The acronym CBRNE helps to remember the types of weapons that terrorists might be expected to use: chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, high-yield explosives.

There are a range of environmental and physical indicators for terrorist attacks. Paying attention to what is not present in the environment that should be is as important as what is present that should not be.

CERT members should treat possible terrorist incidents the same as they would HazMat incidents — as a stop sign. If they observe indicators of a possible terrorist incident, they should:

- Not touch it!
- Move away from the object or area
- Report it to authorities immediately

CERTs can help limit their exposure to the harmful effects of terrorist weapons by:

- Moving quickly to limit their exposure time
- Evacuating the area as quickly as possible, being sure to move perpendicular to or upwind of an airborne plume, and upstream if contaminants are waterborne
- Using the protection of a sturdy building as shielding, going inside if contaminant is outside and going outside if contaminant is inside. If the event includes radioactive fallout, it is important to go quickly deep inside a building for protection.
- Safely decontaminating themselves when necessary

CERT members should take immediate action to protect themselves and, if exposed, follow basic decontamination procedures immediately. Because the safety of CERT members is the number one priority, CERT members should not attempt to treat anyone who has been contaminated or perform decontamination procedures for them.

## UNIT SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Terrorist incident scenes are also crime scenes. CERT members should avoid taking any action that may disturb potential evidence.

## HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

Review the materials from the previous units to prepare for the final session.