

A Moment of Self-Reliant Wisdom

Topic: **Terrorism**

Learning objective: Family will understand what is needed and how to prepare and respond to a terrorist event should one occur near you.

The likelihood of you and your family being at or near a terrorist event is rare. However, simple preparation, putting tools and plans in place, is somewhat like having a working smoke detector. When you need it, it is there for you. The family preparing for the unexpected makes sense.

“Terrorism forces us to make a choice. We can be afraid. Or we can be ready.” Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge



Preparing for Terrorism

- ❖ Wherever you are, be aware of your surroundings. The very nature of terrorism suggests there may be little or no warning.
- ❖ Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Do not accept packages from strangers. Do not leave luggage unattended. Unusual behavior, suspicious packages and strange devices should be promptly reported to the police or security personnel.
- ❖ Do not be afraid to move or leave if you feel uncomfortable or if something does not seem right.
- ❖ Learn where emergency exits are located in buildings you frequent. Take notice where exits and staircases are located when you enter unfamiliar buildings. Assemble a disaster supply kit at home and learn first aid.

There are significant differences among potential terrorist threats that will influence the decisions you make and the actions you take. By beginning a process of learning about these specific threats, you are preparing yourself and your family members to react in a safe and positive way.

Chemical Attack ... Signs of a chemical attack would include many people suffering from watery eyes, choking and having trouble breathing and many sick or dead birds, fish or small animals. If you suspect a chemical attack has occurred:

- ❖ Avoid the contaminated area. Either get away from the area or shelter in place, using the option that minimizes your exposure to the chemical.
- ❖ Wash with soap and water immediately if you were exposed to a chemical.
- ❖ Seek medical attention.
- ❖ Notify local law enforcement or health authorities.

Biological Attack ... A biological attack may not be immediately obvious. Patterns of unusual illnesses or a surge of sick people seeking medical treatment may be the first sign of an attack. If you believe there has been a suspicious release of biological substances:

- ❖ Quickly get away from the area.

- ❖ Cover your mouth and nose with layers of fabric, such as a t-shirt or towel.
- ❖ Wash with soap and water.
- ❖ Contact local law enforcement or health authorities

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING ...SAY SOMETHING!