EPA’s Roles and Capabilities for Terrorism Events

- Overview: EPA’s Counter-Terrorism (CT) Roles and Responsibilities

- EPA’s Programs and Resources
  - Hazardous Materials (Includes Biological Agents)
  - Radiological
  - Enforcement

- EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event
EPA’s CT Roles and Responsibilities: Overview
EPA’s CT Roles and Responsibilities: Overview

- EPA has specific responsibilities and authorities
  - Protection of human health and the environment
  - “Pollutant or contaminant”
  - Regardless of cause

- EPA and U.S. Government-wide plans and directives clarify EPA’s specific roles and responsibilities
EPA’s CT Roles and Responsibilities: Overview

- EPA participates in U.S. Government CT activities using the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP)
- When the President activates the Federal Response Plan (FRP), EPA has the lead function for the FRP’s Emergency Support Function #10 (Hazardous Materials)
- Presidential Decision Directives #39 & #62 establish relationship of EPA to lead agencies during CT response:
  - FBI for crisis management
  - FEMA for consequence management
EPA’s CT Roles and Responsibilities: Overview

- **Response scenarios**
  - Incident not yet determined to be terrorism-related: EPA lead under NCP
  - Crisis Management/FBI lead: EPA prepares to lead ESF #10 activities while providing technical support to FBI
  - Consequence Management/FEMA lead: EPA leads ESF #10 activities incorporating the NCP
EPA Programs and Resources
EPA Programs and Resources

- EPA’s CT activities are based on existing programs that address:
  - Hazardous material emergencies
  - Radiation emergencies
  - Enforcement of environmental regulations
EPA Programs and Resources: Hazardous Materials

Overview

- The National Response System (the system established under the NCP) has been the U.S. Government’s mechanism to prepare for and respond to HAZMAT releases for almost 30 years.

- Primary objective: Protect public health and the environment by supporting state and local response efforts.
EPA Programs and Resources: Hazardous Materials

The National Response System (under the NCP) is a multi-agency, multi-level response network.
EPA Programs and Resources: Hazardous Materials

- **Federal On-Scene Coordinators**
  - Coordinate all federal containment, removal, and disposal efforts and resources during an incident under the NCP or the FRP;
  - One point of contact for coordination of U.S. Government efforts with the local HAZMAT response community;
  - 230 EPA OSCs at 17 locations nation-wide;
  - 46 USCG Marine Safety Offices, spread among 9 USCG Districts, each headed by a Captain of the Port, who acts as the OSC
EPA Programs and Resources: Hazardous Materials (cont.)

National Response Systems Special Resources

- Special Forces
  - EPA’s Environmental Response Team (ERT)
  - USCG National Strike Force (NSF)
  - Other Special Forces

- Laboratories
  - Research Laboratories
  - Contract Laboratories
  - Radiological Laboratories

- National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC)
EPA Programs and Resources: Hazardous Materials (cont.)

- Access the National Response System through the National Response Center at (1-800-424-8802)
EPA Programs and Resources: Radiological Response

Overview

- The NCP applies to most radiological incidents
- EPA role outlined in the FRERP
  - Monitor and assess potential public health and environmental impacts.
  - Develop/provide protective action guidance.
  - Serve as Lead Federal Agency (LFA) if certain criteria, defined in FRERP, are met.
  - Assist LFA in coordinating recovery, clean-up, and mitigation activities.
EPA Programs and Resources: Radiological Response

Resources

- Radiological Emergency Response Team (RERT)
- Radiation Environmental Laboratories
- Environmental Radiation Ambient Monitoring System
- Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center
EPA Programs and Resources: Enforcement

- EPA’s program for enforcing compliance with environmental laws provides capabilities for investigating and prosecuting terrorist acts.

- EPA's National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC) is the technical support center for EPA enforcement and compliance assurance programs.

- Provides a full spectrum of investigative and forensic support for environmental civil and criminal cases.
EPA Programs and Resources:
Map of EPA Assets

- EPA Headquarters, Washington, DC
- National Enforcement Investigations Center, Denver, CO
- USCG National Strike Force Coordination Center, Elizabeth, NC
- Radiation Labs
  1. Las Vegas, NV
  2. Montgomery, AL
- Environmental Response Teams
  1. Edison, NJ
  2. Cincinnati, OH

% EPA Programs and Resources:
Map of EPA Assets

- Regional Offices and Field Offices
  1. Boston, MA
  2. New York, NY
  2*. Puerto Rico
  3. Philadelphia, PA
  3*. Wheeling, WV
  4. Atlanta, GA
  5. Chicago, IL
  5*. Cincinnati, OH
  5*. Cleveland, OH
  5*. Grosse Ile, MI
  6. Dallas, TX
  7. Kansas City, MO
  7*. St. Louis, MO
  8. Denver, CO
  9. San Francisco, CA
  10. Seattle, WA
  10*. Boise, ID

* denotes field office
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event

OSC
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event: Crisis Management

- Coordinate through FBI with others
- Participate in FBI-led Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST)
- Incident-specific technical support
  - Chemical hazards evaluation
  - Modeling
  - Coordination/notification
- Evidence collection support
- Resources available to support FBI-led response teams
  - OSCs, Special Forces deployment (ERT, USCG, NEIC)
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event: Crisis Management

Indicates potential EPA role

The President

NSC Groups

Attorney General
FBI Director

FBI HQ
Strategic Information Operations Center

Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST)

FBI Field Office Joint Operations Center
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event: Crisis Management

Indicates potential EPA role

Current Concept
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event:
Consequence Management

Indicates EPA lead

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**BASIC PLAN/FRP**

- **ESF #1** Transportation
- **ESF #2** Communications
- **ESF #3** Public Works & Engineering
- **ESF #4** Firefighting
- **ESF #5** Information & Planning
- **ESF #6** Mass Care
- **ESF #7** Resource Support
- **ESF #8** Health & Medical Services
- **ESF #9** Urban Search & Rescue
- **ESF #10** Hazardous Materials
- **ESF #11** Food
- **ESF #12** Energy

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**Support Annexes**
- Terrorism Incident Annex
- Congressional Relations
- Public Information
- Financial Management

**Appendices**
- Authorities/Directive
- Terms/Definitions
EPA’s Role in a Terrorism Event: Consequence Management

- Conduct response action through ESF #10:
  - Threat assessment, site evaluation and removal actions, agent identification, hazard detection and reduction, environmental monitoring, decontamination, and long-term site restoration
  - Integration with and assistance to Incident Command System/Unified Command

- Coordinate with local, state, and key U.S. government partners such as FEMA, FBI, DOD, PHS, CDC, DOE, USCG, and others
Summary

- EPA’s mission is to protect human health and the environment.
- NBC incidents are also hazmat incidents and require very similar hazmat response.
- EPA brings the existing system for hazmat response of the U.S. Government response to a terrorism event, in coordination with the Federal Response Plan and additional systems created specifically to deal with potential terrorist incidents.