



Soft Target Awareness At Colorado State University

WHAT IF someone put a combination of simple cleaning supplies in the ventilation ducts of your facility? Do you know what damages or injuries could be caused? Do you have an evacuation and response plan? How long would it be before your operation was 'back to normal' and how would your staff get there?

United States law defines terrorism. "The term 'terrorism' means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience."

Key Factors in Terrorism include: Fear, Coercion, Intimidation, Influence of political behavior, and being observed/known by/to the public. Basically, it is an act of 'bullying'. Women and children are being used more and more often to perpetrate terrorist acts! The best manner of deterrence and prevention is good planning and good surveillance.

The Importance of Surveillance:

Culture – are we aware of who is watching our buildings and activities? Terrorists will go to other, less prepared, facilities. Are we lax in such observations? Terrorists seek targets such as these!

Assets – the very programs/concepts/operations that make our facilities useful for teaching, research, and service are the things that make them attractive targets. What ARE the assets of your building or facility?

Vulnerabilities – do we have areas that are accessible to the public and DO WE notice: prolonged behaviors, patterns of behavior, and locations of behavior that police should be made aware of?! (e.g. Is a transient sleeping or observing your operations and security? Could someone throw something in a dumpster or near your building that could harm your operations? Would your staff challenge the person or call police???)



Escape – other than suicidal actors, all terrorists (e.g. Terry McVey) want to get away safely and unnoticed if possible! **BEAR IN MIND THAT DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS – THE SUSPECTS HAVE HAD NO DESIRE TO ESCAPE OR SURVIVE THEIR INCIDENTS!** Pre-plan YOUR course of escape or location of safety during a violent event!!

Awareness Training

- Make sure your staff recognizes behaviors under Vulnerabilities above!
- Have a plan and practice it to make sure authorities and your staff get notified on a timely basis
- Know WHO TO CALL (list numbers), WHAT TO REPORT, and WHAT YOUR STAFF SHOULD NOT DO (for example – NEVER touch a suspicious/unattended package/object/suitcase/etc.!)
- Have you reviewed all emergency management plans and updated them?

Sometimes simply knowing that their actions have been observed by attentive personnel/staff will move an attacker to a different location – NOT YOURS!

Though NO threats against the Ft. Collins community or CSU are considered authentic at this point, current information indicates that the most likely form of any attack would be an improvised explosive device. The best deterrent is to observe any person investigating your facility for how, what, when, and where to place a device for the most devastating impact!

This training doesn't replace the need for your staff to have CPR/AED, evacuation procedure, workplace violence recognition training, but supplements it with knowledge of what to do IF an activist/extremist/terrorist should show up at your door.

Remember – Deter, Detect, Defend! These actions in planning, prevention, and response will 'devalue' your facility as a suspect's potential target! We need to think that 'IT CAN/MAY HAPPEN HERE'.

