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Key over-riding points

All hazards approach most appropriate!

Compare news of this possible threat to impending hurricane season!

Disasters can be natural or man made

Both represent possible disasters – where needs exceed demands – best to take a “all hazards approach”

Preparation

Majority of the pre-event anti-terrorism activities fall within the realm of military and law enforcement units

What can I do? Be alert to unusual or suspicious activity and prepare myself and my family

Post 9/11, a color code alert system has been established –still yellow

In the event of a known or suspected attack – the first 24-48 hours will be crucial –this the amount of time that it may take to completely mobilize state and national resources to respond to an event – so during this 24-48 hour period, confusion can be minimized and the chances of survival greatly increased by doing the following:

Three main types of WMD threats:

Chemical

Biological

Radiological

What should you do at home?

Create a contact list for all family members and loved ones

Identify 2 meeting places – one near home, one in another location

Choose a contact person who lives out of state – get those phone numbers, write them down for each family member to have

Also get contact numbers for schools, understanding of their plans

Also, assemble disaster kits for both home (and if possible car too). Elements should include:

Battery powered radio, extra batteries

3 days worth of water – gal per day per person

Canned and other non-perishable food
Hand operated can opener

Necessary medicines

Flashlights

Diapers, baby food

Tools to turn off utilities if necessary

Copies of important papers – insurance policies, deeds, account numbers, immunization records, etc – place in plastic bag

Duct tape, plastic sheeting, scissors for sealing windows and doors while sheltered in place (clarify intent, length of stay)

Also, make accommodations for pets (food water)

What to do in case of an attack (with may involve chemical, biological or radiological agents)

Pay strict attention to emergency announcements –

A key decision that emergency officials will be announcing:

Evacuation vs. shelter in place

(this is where work and home issues must be considered)

If the decision is to shelter indoors, and you are identified located in the path of release (e.g. downwind)

Turn off ventilation system (heater or air conditioner)

Use plastic sheeting, tape, to seal off doors, windows

Tune into radio for instructions, information

Achieve comfort level now knowing all family members know what to do, regardless of their location.

The big question everyone wants to know –is something going to happen here?

Based on FBI threat analysis, Houston possesses most, if not all, of the characteristics inherent to a likely terrorists target –

The best answer that can be given is that – if something happens anywhere in the US, there will surely be an impact in Houston – we need look no further back than 9/11

The actual attacks took place in NY, DC and PA, yet given the uncertainty of what else might be happening, there were reactions in Houston:

Decisions to evacuate buildings

Closures of airports, bridges, tunnels

So prudent to be prepared

Reassuring thought

Best to think of this situation like our fellow Americans who live in earthquake prone areas like California. We cannot predict earthquakes, yet people carry out their daily lives there. They take steps to prepare themselves for such events, and go on.

Ideal quote for this environment

“Chance favors the prepared mind”

For further information

Useful web link; www.fema.gov/areyouready