

Cedarville University

Terrorism Response Plan

The University community is encouraged to learn more about preparing for specific emergencies by visiting: <http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>

Response Plan for Terrorism Attack

Recognizing the potential consequences of an unspecified terrorist attack either upon the university or within the Miami Valley region of southwest Ohio, we have prepared the following action guidelines for those who comprise the campus community.

The variations of possible attack are many but the most likely are categorized as follows:

Biological or Chemical

The introduction of a gas/chemical agent into the atmosphere.

Radiological

A Dirty Bomb that has a relatively small but powerful radius of blast effectiveness, but is laden with radioactive material.

Nuclear

A nuclear blast is an explosion with intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water and ground surfaces for miles around.

In the event that one of these methods is used to attack our Nation or even a location within our State, some general assumptions should be made by everyone.

The probability that phone lines will be unusable should be recognized.

Cellular telephones may become difficult to use due to significant overloads.

Confusion and rumors will be prevalent.

Seeking and receiving medical help may become extremely difficult.

Streets and roads may be clogged with motorists seeking to escape the area.

A nuclear detonation at a site near Wright Patterson Air force base or elsewhere in the Dayton, Columbus or Cincinnati region may result in extreme loss of life and property damage, with devastating effects on our entire geographic area!

COMMUNICATIONS AND DISASTER RESPONSE

Depending upon conditions that cannot be fully anticipated in conjunction with any of the three listed attack methods, Cedarville University will attempt to provide information to all members of the campus through all available avenues of campus communications, including e-mail.

The Cedarville University Physical Plant Department will be designated as the Crisis Command Post.

Cedarville Police and Fire Departments are linked together with the Greene County Emergency Management System. Contact with these agencies will be imperative. The Campus Safety Department has radio and cell phone capabilities to speak directly to emergency personnel.

CHEMICAL OR BIOLOGICAL

Should a chemical/or biological agent be introduced into the atmosphere, members of the campus community are advised to remain in whatever building they happen to be in or to seek shelter immediately in a nearby building. Ideally, an interior portion of the building with no windows is preferable. Heating and ventilation systems should be turned off in your area. Physical plant personnel will assist with this task as time allows and it is safe to do so.

Cedarville University Campus Safety, if conditions allow, will drive throughout the campus making announcements on the public address systems with regards to the situation and advising people to stay sheltered. Dependent upon prevailing winds, the cloud or agent may be diminished by the wind.

Should a gas or cloud be released some distance from the campus, Cedarville University Campus Safety will also drive throughout the campus making announcements on the public address system to advise people of the situation.

Realistically, it is not always feasible or possible to provide protection from this type of attack. Individuals are encouraged to evaluate their own situation and take steps to maximize their own chances of survival.

RADIOLOGICAL

A radiological device, commonly known as a **dirty bomb** is a device that generally has a relatively small blast impact area. It may be something as small and simple as a stick or two of dynamite to create the blast. Upon detonation, the radiological materials are dispersed into the air and are moved by the wind. The greatest value of the device to the terrorist is the panic it will create. The actual blast area will not be very large but the distribution of radioactive material will be the greatest concern.

Should a blast occur in the Cedarville vicinity, faculty, staff and students will be encouraged to depart the area and go in the direction **OPPOSITE** the prevailing wind. If sufficient time does not permit for evacuation, and then you should go into the nearest campus building, close windows and doors; turn off the heat and ventilation systems in your area. Physical Plant personnel will assist with this task if time allows and it is safe to do so.

The key is to limit the amount of radiation you are exposed to - this is accomplished by **shielding** (put as many barriers between you and the radiation material), **distance** (the farther you are away from the blast and fallout, lowers your exposure) and **time** (minimizing time spent exposed reduces your risk)!

NUCLEAR

In the event of a nuclear explosion, it is expected that the most likely location would be the Wright Patterson Air Force base. Should that be the case, the campus community would have a very short window of opportunity to depart the area in an effort to escape the effect of the radiation.

If there is advanced warning of an attack, all persons should take immediate cover. Ideally, this would be as far below ground level as possible, though any shield or shelter will help

protect from the immediate effects of the blast and the pressure wave.

Once inside stay away from areas with windows, turn off the heat and ventilation systems. As stated under the radiological section above, shielding, distance and time are imperative.

WHAT TO DO and DEVELOPING A PLAN

First and foremost, we encourage all members of the University community to make it a point to stay informed of current world events. It is your responsibility to understand the gravity of events being played out around the globe and to understand the potential impact upon not only the Cedarville area, but you personally. Ensure you have access to a portable radio and relatively fresh batteries.

In the event of a chemical/biological or dirty bomb attack that has been determined to be a sufficient distance from our geographic vicinity, the DMC Chapel will be designated as a gathering point for members of the Cedarville University Community. The purpose will be solely for Cedarville personnel to gather information and to seek comfort and advice with regards to decisions that each individual will have to make. The DMC Chapel will be not be considered a safety zone. It is strictly a place to gather information and to be with others who seek support. Students, faculty and staff who have no way to leave the area should make their way to the DMC Chapel for further information and assistance.

Members of the Cedarville University community are encouraged to develop a plan with their families as to how and where they will meet should an incident occur. We recommend that a pre-determined site away from a major city be established as a meeting place for families to gather should all communications be disrupted. By setting a time to meet within 24 hours of an event family members would know that loved ones will be congregating within a predetermined time and location.

Providing information about all disaster scenarios is impossible given the variety of potential threats that might occur. We recommend reading the government website previously stated for more detailed information.

References:

This response plan was adapted from the Baylor University, Department of Campus Safety website by permission.