



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Response to Weapons of Mass
Destruction Incidents (WMD)*

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Rescinds: *230 – First Responder to WMD Incidents*

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. D. Rich", is written over a horizontal line.

Approved By:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the basic framework for Officers of the Myrtle Beach Police Department, as first responders, with awareness so they may respond safely and effectively to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incidents. These incidents involve chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons (CBRN).

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Myrtle Beach Police Department to follow the procedures of this directive in order to better educate the employees of the agency in the event the City becomes the subject of a CBRN attack.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. The Department of Homeland Security defines a Weapon of Mass Destruction as a nuclear, radiological, chemical, biological, or other device that is intended to harm a large number of people.

IV. PROCEDURE

There are three phases normally associated with law enforcement's initial response to WMD incidents: Prevention/Deterrence, Notification and Response.

A. PREVENTION/DETERRENCE

1. Officers should continually look for indicators or signs of activity that could suggest a planned WMD attack. Some general indicators could include but are not limited to:
 - i. Out of place explosive material;
 - ii. Chemicals used to fabricate explosives;
 - iii. Chemicals used to fabricate chemical agents;
 - iv. Possible Dispersal Devices;
 - v. Potential Target Photos, Maps, Sketches Etc;
 - vi. Suspicious Neighborhood Activity; and
 - vii. Police Intelligence (Federal, State, Local)

B. NOTIFICATION

1. Notification begins when a threat is received or an incident actually occurs and ends with the arrival of the first patrol vehicle at the scene. Upon notification of a WMD incident Dispatch will attempt to obtain the following essential information:
 - i. Date and Time of Notification;
 - ii. Who received Notification;
 - iii. Who provided Notification;
 - iv. Detailed Location Information;
 - v. Type of Incident (explosion, incendiary, suspected chemical or biological incident);
 - vi. Weather Information (wind speed, direction, temp and humidity);
 - vii. Victim Information (Number of Victims, Number of Potential Victims, and Nature of Injuries);
 - viii. Evacuation Status; and
 - ix. Vulnerable Locations in Vicinity.

2. Dispatchers will then relay the information to First Responders, Supervisor and Watch Commander.
3. The first responding Patrol officer will:
 - i. Plan an appropriate route of approach
 - ii. Plan initial actions after arriving
 - iii. Mentally Prepare to Survive the Incident.

C. PATROL ACTIONS DURING THE RESPONSE PHASE

1. ISOLATE: Isolation involves conducting initial evacuations, establishing an initial perimeter for the crime scene, controlling crowds and identifying subjects, victims and witnesses.
NOTE: It is critically important that first responders perform their tasks in a manner that minimizes personal risk. During this phase, officers should continually look for potential secondary devices. Likely locations for such devices should be searched as soon as possible after the WMD event. All areas selected for use by emergency responders, command posts, collection of victims or similar use should be thoroughly searched before being occupied.
2. IDENTIFY: The responding officers will collect the following information from witness descriptions or personal observation: (Remember, if victim is contaminated, take proper precautions)
 - i. Sequence of Events;
 - ii. Smoke or Vapor (include color);
 - iii. Tastes or Odors;
 - iv. Containers, Spray Devices, Laboratory Equipment;
 - v. Description of Fires (colors of fires or smoke); and
 - vi. Out-of-Place Person(s) or Thing(s).
It is imperative that this information flows up channel rapidly to insure timely identification of the incident.
3. NOTIFICATION: During the initial response, officers must provide a steady stream of information to supervisors and dispatchers who in turn must provide the information to representatives from other responding agencies. Officers must continually update this

information throughout the situation. These reports are to include the following information as applicable:

- i. Nature of Incident;
- ii. Wind Direction and Speed;
- iii. Best approaches to Scene;
- iv. Description of Crime Scene Perimeter;
- v. Estimated number and location of Victims;
- vi. Description of Suspects;
- vii. On Scene Responders;
- viii. Crowd Control; and
- ix. Secondary Devices (Presence or potential).

4. PROTECT: Patrol officers must utilize procedures that insure their personal protection, to include time, distance and shielding. Officers should use the following tactics:

- i. Always park vehicles facing away from ground zero at the incident; consider parking a good distance from the event.
- ii. Tie short strands of tape onto the crime scene tape. Strands can be used to identify wind direction and estimate speed.
- iii. Avoid any movement on foot or in vehicle through contaminated areas. When operating in the vicinity of contaminated areas, don't step in puddles or on surfaces that appear to be coated with foreign material.
- iv. Keep clothing and material that could afford some limited emergency protection in a convenient location (i.e.; Gloves, rain coat, rain pants hats etc)
- v. Avoid direct contact with individuals or objects that may have been contaminated.

D. DOCUMENTATION

1. Preserving Evidence - Emergency responders should avoid touching, handling or displacing anything that could have value in

the criminal investigation. If you locate an item that may have value as evidence, record it in your notebook. If applicable, draw a sketch identifying the location of the object to a known object.

2. Preparing Reports - All officers will maintain notes describing significant events, paying particular attention to the essential information discussed earlier.
3. Completing Follow-Up Action - Officers are responsible to insure that notes, sketches, etc., developed during the response operations be provided to the appropriate investigative agency.

E. GENERAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

1. Approach Cautiously From Upwind: Resist the urge to rush in; others cannot be helped until the situation is fully assessed.
2. Secure The Scene: Without entering the immediate hazard area, isolate the area and assure the safety of people and the environment; keep people away from the scene and outside the safety perimeter.
3. Identify The Hazards: Report all available information to dispatch.
4. Assess the Situation.
5. Obtain Help: Advise Dispatch to notify responsible agencies and call for assistance from qualified personnel.
6. Decide On Site Entry: Any efforts made to rescue persons, must be weighed against the possibility that you could become part of the problem.
7. Respond: Alert fellow officers to the scene's safest entry route. Respond in an appropriate manner. Establish a command post and lines of communication. If the area is safe to enter, rescue casualties where possible and evacuate if necessary. Maintain control of the site.
8. Above All: Do not walk into or touch foreign material. Avoid inhalation of fumes, smoke and vapors, even if no WMD is/are known to be involved. Do not assume that gases or vapors are harmless because of lack of smell-odorless gases or vapors may be harmful.

V. SPECIFIC CBRN ATTACKS

A. Chemical Attacks

1. Chemical agents are poisonous vapors, aerosols, liquids, and solids that have toxic effects on people, animals, or plants. They can be released by bombs or sprayed from aircraft, boats, and vehicles. They can be used as a liquid to create a hazard to people and the environment. Some chemical agents may be odorless and tasteless. They can have an immediate effect (a few seconds to a few minutes) or a delayed effect (2 to 48 hours). While potentially lethal, chemical agents are difficult to deliver in lethal concentrations. Outdoors, the agents often dissipate rapidly. Chemical agents also are difficult to produce.
2. A chemical attack could come without warning. Signs of a chemical release include people having difficulty breathing; experiencing eye irritation; losing coordination; becoming nauseated; or having a burning sensation in the nose, throat, and lungs. Also, the presence of many dead insects or birds may indicate a chemical agent release.
3. Decontamination guidelines:
 - i. Decontamination is needed within minutes of exposure to minimize health consequences. A person affected by a chemical agent requires immediate medical attention from a professional. If medical help is not immediately available, decontaminate yourself and assist in decontaminating others.
 - ii. Use extreme caution when helping others who have been exposed to any chemical agent.
 - iii. Remove all clothing and other items in contact with the body. Contaminated clothing normally removed over the head should be cut off to avoid contact with the eyes, nose, and mouth. Put contaminated clothing and items into a plastic bag and seal it. Decontaminate hands using soap and water. Remove eyeglasses or contact lenses. Put glasses in a pan of household bleach to decontaminate them and then rinse and dry.
 - iv. Flush eyes with water.
 - v. Gently wash face and hair with soap and water before thoroughly rinsing with water.

- vi. Decontaminate other body areas likely to have been contaminated. Blot (do not swab or scrape) with a cloth soaked in soapy water and rinse with clear water.
- vii. Change into uncontaminated clothes. Clothing stored in drawers or closets is likely to be uncontaminated.
- viii. Proceed to a medical facility for screening and professional treatment.

B. Biological Attacks

1. Biological agents are organisms or toxins that can kill or incapacitate people, livestock, and crops. The three basic groups of biological agents that would likely be used as weapons are bacteria, viruses, and toxins. Most biological agents are difficult to grow and maintain. Many break down quickly when exposed to sunlight and other environmental factors, while others, such as anthrax spores, are very long-lived. Biological agents can be dispersed by spraying them into the air, by infecting animals that carry the disease to humans and by contaminating food and water. Delivery methods include:
 - i. Aerosols - biological agents are dispersed into the air, forming a fine mist that may drift for miles. Inhaling the agent may cause disease in people or animals.
 - ii. Animals - some diseases are spread by insects and animals, such as fleas, mice, flies, mosquitoes, and livestock.
 - iii. Food and water contamination - some pathogenic organisms and toxins may persist in food and water supplies. Most microbes can be killed, and toxins deactivated, by cooking food and boiling water. Most microbes are killed by boiling water for one minute, but some require longer. Follow official instructions.
 - iv. Person-to-person - spread of a few infectious agents is also possible. Humans have been the source of infection for smallpox, plague, and the Lassa viruses.
2. If you become aware of an unusual and suspicious substance nearby:
 - i. Move away quickly.

- ii. Wash with soap and water.
 - iii. Contact Orange Central for Haz-Mat Team response.
 - iv. Seek medical attention if you become sick.
3. If you are exposed to a biological agent:
- i. Remove and bag your clothes and personal items. Follow official instructions for disposal of contaminated items.
 - ii. Wash yourself with soap and water and put on clean clothes.
 - iii. Seek medical assistance. You may be advised to stay away from others or even quarantined.

C. Radiological Attacks

1. Terrorist use of a Radiological Dispersion Device (RDD) -- often called "dirty nuke" or "dirty bomb" -- is considered far more likely than use of a nuclear explosive device. An RDD combines a conventional explosive device -- such as a bomb -- with radioactive material. It is designed to scatter dangerous and sub-lethal amounts of radioactive material over a general area. Such RDDs appeal to terrorists because they require limited technical knowledge to build and deploy compared to a nuclear device. Also, the radioactive materials in RDDs are widely used in medicine, agriculture, industry, and research, and are easier to obtain than weapons grade uranium or plutonium.
2. The primary purpose of terrorist use of an RDD is to cause psychological fear and economic disruption. Some devices could cause fatalities from exposure to radioactive materials. Depending on the speed at which the area of the RDD detonation was evacuated or how successful people were at sheltering-in-place, the number of deaths and injuries from an RDD might not be substantially greater than from a conventional bomb explosion.
3. The size of the affected area and the level of destruction caused by an RDD would depend on the sophistication and size of the conventional bomb, the type of radioactive material used, the quality and quantity of the radioactive material, and the local meteorological conditions -- primarily wind and precipitation. The area affected could be placed off-limits to the public for several months during cleanup efforts.

4. While the explosive blast will be immediately obvious, the presence of radiation will not be known until trained personnel with specialized equipment are on the scene. It would be safer to assume radiological contamination has occurred -- particularly in an urban setting or near other likely terrorist targets -- and take the proper precautions. As with any radiation, avoid or limit exposure. This is particularly true of inhaling radioactive dust that results from the explosion. As you seek shelter from any location (indoors or outdoors) and there is visual dust or other contaminants in the air, breathe through the cloth of your shirt or coat to limit your exposure. If you manage to avoid breathing radioactive dust, your proximity to the radioactive particles may still result in some radiation exposure. If the explosion or radiological release occurs inside, get out immediately and seek safe shelter.
5. Contamination from an RDD event could affect a wide area, depending on the amount of conventional explosives used, the quantity and type of radioactive material released, and meteorological conditions. Thus, radiation dissipation rates vary, but radiation from an RDD will likely take longer to dissipate due to a potentially larger localized concentration of radioactive material.

D. Nuclear Attacks

1. 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. A nuclear device can range from a weapon carried by an intercontinental missile launched by a hostile nation or terrorist organization, to a small portable nuclear device transported by an individual. All nuclear devices cause deadly effects when exploded, including blinding light, intense heat (thermal radiation), initial nuclear radiation, blast, fires started by the heat pulse, and secondary fires caused by the destruction.
2. Hazards of Nuclear Devices - The extent, nature, and arrival time of these hazards are difficult to predict. The geographical dispersion of hazard effects will be defined by the following:
 - i. Size of the device. A more powerful bomb will produce more distant effects.
 - ii. Height above the ground the device was detonated. This will determine the extent of blast effects.

- iii. Nature of the surface beneath the explosion. Some materials are more likely to become radioactive and airborne than others. Flat areas are more susceptible to blast effects.
 - iv. Existing meteorological conditions. Wind speed and direction will affect arrival time of fallout; precipitation may wash fallout from the atmosphere.
3. Radioactive Fallout - Even if individuals are not close enough to the nuclear blast to be affected by the direct impacts, they may be affected by radioactive fallout. Any nuclear blast results in some fallout. Blasts that occur near the earth's surface create much greater amounts of fallout than blasts that occur at higher altitudes. This is because the tremendous heat produced from a nuclear blast causes an up-draft of air that forms the familiar mushroom cloud. When a blast occurs near the earth's surface, millions of vaporized dirt particles also are drawn into the cloud. As the heat diminishes, radioactive materials that have vaporized condense on the particles and fall back to Earth. The phenomenon is called radioactive fallout. This fallout material decays over a long period of time and is the main source of residual nuclear radiation. Fallout from a nuclear explosion may be carried by wind currents for hundreds of miles if the right conditions exist. Effects from even a small portable device exploded at ground level can be potentially deadly.
4. Nuclear radiation cannot be seen, smelled, or otherwise detected by normal senses. Radiation can only be detected by radiation monitoring devices. This makes radiological emergencies different from other types of emergencies, such as floods or hurricanes. Monitoring can project the fallout arrival times, which will be announced through official warning channels. However, any increase in surface build-up of gritty dust and dirt should be a warning for taking protective measures.
5. In addition to other effects, a nuclear weapon detonated in or above the earth's atmosphere can create an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), a high-density electrical field. An EMP acts like a stroke of lightning but is stronger, faster, and shorter. An EMP can seriously damage electronic devices connected to power sources or antennas. This includes communication systems, computers, electrical appliances, and automobile or aircraft ignition systems. The damage could range from a minor interruption to actual burnout of components. Most electronic equipment within 1,000 miles of a high-altitude nuclear detonation could be affected. Battery-powered radios with short antennas generally would not be affected. Although an EMP

is unlikely to harm most people, it could harm those with pacemakers or other implanted electronic devices.

6. The following are guidelines for what to do in the event of a nuclear explosion.
 - i. Take cover as quickly as you can, below ground if possible, and stay there until instructed to do otherwise.
 - ii. Listen for official information and follow instructions.
 - iii. Do not look at the flash or fireball -- it can blind you.
 - iv. Take cover behind anything that might offer protection.
 - v. Lie flat on the ground and cover your head. If the explosion is some distance away, it could take 30 seconds or more for the blast wave to hit.
 - vi. Take shelter as soon as you can, even if you are many miles from ground zero where the attack occurred -- radioactive fallout can be carried by the winds for hundreds of miles. Remember the three protective factors: Distance, shielding, and time.
 - vii. Decay rates of the radioactive fallout are the same for any size nuclear device. However, the amount of fallout will vary based on the size of the device and its proximity to the ground. Therefore, it might be necessary for those in the areas with highest radiation levels to shelter for up to a month. The heaviest fallout would be limited to the area at or downwind from the explosion, and 80 percent of the fallout would occur during the first 24 hours. People in most of the areas that would be affected could be allowed to come out of shelter within a few days and, if necessary, evacuate to unaffected areas.
 - viii. The danger of a massive strategic nuclear attack on the United States is predicted by experts to be less likely today. However, terrorism, by nature, is unpredictable. If there were threat of an attack, people living near potential targets could be advised to evacuate or they could decide on their own to evacuate to an area not considered a likely target. Protection from radioactive fallout would require taking shelter in an underground area or in the middle of a large building.