

# ***Section 12: Terrorism & WMD Incidents***

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## **Terrorism/WMD Preparedness and Response**

Anti-terrorism preparedness and response are primarily state and federal functions. However, the city also has a role in terrorism and WMD incidents. Section 3 contains response action checklists for the city to follow in the event of a terrorist attack.

While a significant attack is considered unlikely in Seward, the consequences of a major incident could be catastrophic and would require a coordinated multi-jurisdictional law enforcement and emergency management response. An act of terrorism may include:

- kidnapping;
- hijacking;
- attack involving chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear or explosive weapons (CBRNE);
- cyber attack;
- assassination;
- extortion;
- intentional contamination of food sources, water, or air; and/or
- threats to commit such acts.

### ***Mitigation***

The city can mitigate the potential occurrence or impacts of a terrorist incident as follows:

- Coordinate with borough, state and federal partners to identify potential targets and determine their vulnerability and impact if attacked.
- Provide representation to the Joint Terrorism Task Force to monitor intelligence regarding potential terrorist groups and maintain profile information on groups suspected active in the local area.
- Establish appropriate security programs for public facilities that are potential targets and recommend such programs to private property owners.

Under most threat conditions, private business is responsible for protecting itself from terrorist attacks. Individual citizens and families can help prevent terrorist attacks by being observant in their communities, reporting suspicious activity, and being aware of federal threat levels.

### ***Preparedness***

The US Department of Homeland Security has developed a color-coded threat level system as a guideline to establish the existing local terrorism threat level. The borough mayor may choose whether to adopt the recommended threat level based on a credible local threat. As threat levels rise, the borough will establish appropriate increased readiness actions.

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The city can prepare for a terrorism or WMD incident as follows:

- Arrange regular terrorism awareness training for law enforcement, fire service, public health workers, emergency responders, and emergency management staff.
- Establish mutual aid agreements to enhance response capabilities.
- **Conduct** drills and exercises to test plans, procedures, and training and encourage public and private partners to participate.

### ***Response***

A terrorism response may be triggered if any of the following events occur:

- Credible threat or incident involving CBRNE agents
- Incident of unknown origin that creates mass casualties within in a short period
- Incident where victims display signs or symptoms of a CBRNE event with an unknown or suspicious origin
- Sudden or repeated occurrences of any illness or disease not typically seen in a geographical area
- Incident or series of incidents that indicate cyber intrusions or cyber attacks

The city will immediately notify the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management upon identification of a specific threat or terrorist event.

The city will manage local response to a terrorism or WMD incident as follows:

- When a credible threat exists, the city will activate its EOC to facilitate response and will invite the FBI and the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to provide liaison personnel.
- The city will assist in the establishment of a joint field office to provide a central location for coordination of federal, state, and local agencies.
- Any chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive event should be treated as a crime scene until authorities determine it is not a terrorist attack.
- If there is a local incident site, an incident command post will be established by first responders. Incident command will transition into a unified command as state and federal responders arrive to augment local response.
- If there is no local incident site, such as during incidents involving biological agents or cyber attacks, response activities will be directed and controlled from the EOC.
- A terrorist incident may be simultaneously a crime scene and a hazardous materials (Hazmat) site and may cross jurisdictional boundaries. The IMT will establish operating areas and formulate a plan of action that considers the needs of all jurisdictions and agencies.
- A crime scene area may be established to protect evidence. Access may be restricted by state, federal, or local law enforcement personnel.

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- A Hazmat area may include a portion of or the entire crime scene. Access may be restricted to response personnel equipped with personal protective equipment and using decontamination procedures.
- The incident area includes the crime scene, the Hazmat area, and areas used for incident support operation. Access may be controlled and egress restricted if quarantine is implemented.
- City personnel may be called upon by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to assist with isolation and quarantine and/or dispensation of mass prophylaxis or Strategic National Stockpile assets. All requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act will apply and compensation will be in accordance with existing rules and bargaining agreements.
- Evacuation of an area or facility may be ordered because of a credible threat.
- Evacuation may be required from inside the perimeter of the scene to guard against further casualties from initial agent release, additional agents, or secondary devices.
- Long-term relocation may be ordered if an area is contaminated by a CBRNE agent.

### ***Recovery***

The city will manage local recovery from a terrorism or WMD incident as follows:

- Assist borough, state and federal agencies with decontamination of local affected sites (see guidance later in this section).
- Identify and restrict access to all structurally unsafe buildings.
- Attempt to remediate and clean up any hazardous materials affecting local water, sewer, or drainage systems.
- Provide traffic control for the return of evacuees.
- Assist the Red Cross in arranging temporary housing for evacuees who cannot return to their homes.
- For areas that cannot be decontaminated and returned to normal use in the near term, the Borough will develop and implement appropriate access controls.
- Cooperate with state and federal agencies to investigate the cause of a terrorism incident.
- Conduct critical incident stress management for emergency responders.
- Debrief response personnel, prepare an incident report, and update plans and procedures based on lessons learned.
- Restore normal services as soon as practicable after a terrorism incident.

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## **Terrorism/WMD Response Procedures**

Responses to and recovery from incidents that involve terrorist use of WMD will most likely involve a Unified Command structure, as described in this section.

### **Crisis Management**

During the crisis management phase, the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (ADHS&EM) will activate the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) as necessary to support local response and support activities. In order to support federal crisis management operations, ADHS&EM will dispatch personnel to the Joint Operations Center (JOC) as requested.

During crisis management, the FBI field office responsible for the incident area will establish and operate a JOC. The JOC is generally composed of a Command Group, Operations Group, Support Group, and Consequence Management Group. Local and state agencies will be requested to provide support and liaison.

### **Consequence Management**

When consequence management operations are implemented, ADHS&EM will activate or continue 24-hour SECC operations and prepare to coordinate assistance as needed. ADHS&EM will use the structures outlined in the state emergency management plans to coordinate support for local response through recovery operations.

As the terrorist incident progresses, FEMA will consult with the Governor's office and the White House. When directed, FEMA may use the authority of the Stafford Act to preposition federal consequence management assets or implement a federal consequence management response.

When consequence management operations begin, FEMA will begin to disengage from the JOC and form Joint Information Centers (JIC) in the field and Washington, DC. The JIC will be the media centers for the release of all information to the press. FEMA will use FRP structures such as regional operations centers, disaster field offices, federal coordinating offices, and so forth to coordinate federal support for state and local recovery operations.

**For general Terrorism/WMD Response Procedures within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, please see the KPB Emergency Operations Plan**

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## **Lead Agencies**

ADHS&EM and the Alaska State Troopers (AST) are the lead state agencies for terrorism/WMD response. FEMA and the FBI are the lead federal agencies. FEMA is the lead federal agency responsible for consequence management response to a terrorist incident involving the employment of WMD. The FBI is the lead federal agency responsible for crisis management response to a terrorist incident involving the employment of WMD.

### ***Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)***

ADHS&EM is the lead Alaska agency responsible for consequence management response to a terrorist incident involving the employment of WMD. In general, ADHS&EM's key functions include:

- Acting as the primary state agency for information and planning. This includes activating the SECC, implementing the NIIMS ICS system for acquiring resources, maintaining a statewide emergency public information process, and implementing procedures for responding to media and official requests for information and access to the incident site or operations area.
- Coordinating emergency activities in the Governor's absence and other state-level activities such as damage assessment and reporting, donations management operations, and recovery assistance programs
- Maintaining communication, warning, and notification capabilities to provide various jurisdictions and agencies with relevant information concerning terrorist events or imminent threats and disseminating warnings or emergency information to the public
- Assessing the need for additional resources from outside the state and preparing proclamations, executive orders, and requests for emergency or major disaster declarations as necessary to make those resources available
- Advising the Governor concerning activation of the Alaska National Guard (including the Civil Support Team) for emergency service
- Coordinating with DEC in providing HAZMAT support from the Statewide Hazmat Response Team to contain, confine, and control releases of hazardous material. HAZMAT will also:
  - Perform initial estimates of the downwind hazard (DWH).
  - Perform surveys and obtain samples to determine the nature and identity of the hazard.
  - Advise the IC on appropriate protective actions and equipment.
  - Monitor the incident area, the boundaries between zones, the downwind hazard (DWH) area, and the ICP for hazardous material.
- Requesting the US Coast Guard assistance for emergency service within their capabilities

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## ***Alaska State Troopers (AST)***

AST is the lead Alaska agency responsible for crisis management response to a terrorist incident involving the employment of WMD. In general, AST's key functions include:

- Serving as the primary state agency for law enforcement and criminal investigations This includes acting as the state's liaison to the FBI, cooperating with local law enforcement agencies to restrict and control incident site access, and implementing methods to maintain records of persons unaccounted for and presumed involved in the incident.
- Establishing liaison with local and state agencies to assist in traffic control, evacuation of threatened areas, providing security or escorts, and establishing and administering checkpoints to regulate transportation of donated goods
- Operating the primary state warning point of the National Warning System and, in cooperation with ADHS&EM when necessary, disseminating primary warning to local jurisdictions.

## **Roles and Responsibilities of Local Agencies**

### ***Fire Department***

- Acts as the lead agency and establishes an incident command post if first on scene.
- Conducts all fire suppression and rescue operations.
- Coordinates search and rescue operations as needed
- Deploys EMS teams and implements mass casualty protocols as required.
- Deploys hazardous materials response teams and decontamination units as needed.
- Integrates all supporting EMS agencies into on scene medical operations.
- Identifies and restricts access to unsafe structures as able.
- Identifies requirements for debris clearance to expedite fire and rescue operations.
- Provides evacuation support as able.
- Provides regular training for hazardous materials mitigation and emergency response.
- Tracks local inventories of hazardous materials and develops awareness programs for businesses that handle inventories of potential weapon-making materials.
- Coordinates with Health and Human Services to establish appropriate actions to protect the public when a CBRNE event has occurred.
- Provides information to the public under the Community Right-to-Know Act.

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- Coordinates necessary actions to decontaminate hazardous material sites and remains on site until immediate health and safety risks have been resolved.
- Develops and implements appropriate access controls for areas unable to be decontaminated in the near term.
- Provides personnel support as able to assist Health and Human Services with dispensation of Strategic National Stockpile supplies.

### ***Police Department***

- Acts as the lead agency and establishes an incident command post if first on scene.
- Acts as the lead local agency in anti-terrorist operations.
- Participates in statewide Joint Terrorism Task Force activities.
- Coordinates with privately owned high-risk and critical facilities to recommend appropriate security programs.
- Conducts terrorism response training for law enforcement personnel.
- Supports public education and awareness activities.
- Coordinates the deployment and operation of counter-terrorist response elements.
- Establishes control zones and orders evacuation from the hot and warm zones.
- Secures scene, reroutes traffic, and implements crowd control measures as needed.
- Provides security at incident site, operational areas, and critical facilities including Strategic National Stockpile dispensing sites.
- Provides requested support for evacuation operations.
- Conducts reconnaissance in vicinity of the incident site to identify threats from delayed action and secondary weapons.
- Cooperates with state and federal agencies to investigate the incident and to identify and apprehend suspects.
- Coordinates with the EOC Mental Health Unit to provide chaplains to deliver comfort and solace for emergency workers and disaster victims as able.

### ***Hospital***

- Maintain medical surveillance for CBRNE signs and symptoms.
- Provide emergency and routine medical care.
- Provide updates to the EOC regarding hospital capabilities and capacity.
- Supply a medical liaison to the EOC.
- Establish onsite decontamination capabilities whenever decontamination is necessary.

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## **Roles and Responsibilities of Other State and Federal Agencies**

### ***Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (Division of Public Health)***

- Assumes the lead role for protecting public health during a bioterrorism incident.
- Enforces borough and local codes concerning environmental, public health, or safety issues.
- Advises the incident commander of decontamination protocols, symptoms, and recommended medical treatments related to CBRNE.
- Dispatches a medical officer to the site as necessary.
- Maintains medical surveillance for CBRNE signs and symptoms.
- Coordinates with the State of Alaska to activate the Strategic National Stockpile.
- Acts as the lead agency for the dispensation of mass prophylaxis or inoculations, including Strategic National Stockpile assets when activated.
- Coordinates isolation and quarantine measures with appropriate state and local agencies.
- Coordinates dissemination of critical public health information.

### ***KPB School District***

- Provides for the safety of students and notifies the EOC of any student relocation.
- Augments congregate care operations by making facilities and resources available when school is not in session or when the needs of students have been met.
- Assists the EOC with transportation services after ensuring the transportation needs of students have been met.
- Augments nursing services as directed by the EOC and as appropriate based on the availability of nurses after student needs have been met.

**For WMD Decontamination Guidelines, see the KPB Emergency Operations Plan**