Terrorist Incident

There is usually little or no warning of a terrorist incident. With UTEP’s proximity to the border and other major transportation routes, awareness is important.

NOTE: Individuals should use their own discretion during a terrorist incident as to how to respond. However, best practices for a terrorist incident are listed below:

AT ALL TIMES:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Note suspicious items, packages, or vehicles that seem out of place and report them to the appropriate authorities.
- Note suspicious activities or behaviors and report them to the appropriate authorities.

POTENTIAL TARGETS RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT:

- Airports, seaports, and harbors
- Major cities or landmarks
- Large crowds
- Infrastructure such as power plants, transportation centers or communication centers
- Business and industrial centers such as Wall Street or a World Trade Center
- Soft targets such as universities and colleges

TYPES OF TERRORIST ATTACKS:

- **Chemical agents** are toxic to people, plants, or animals, and are found in the form of solids, liquids, vapors or aerosols.
- **Biological agents** such as bacteria, viruses, and toxins typically make people sick
- **Radioactive** attacks include nuclear explosions and “dirty bombs.” A “dirty bomb” is designed to spread radioactive material over a region.
- **Explosive devices** cause detonations which throw debris into the air and start fires. Explosive devices can be left in place and detonated remotely or carried by a vehicle or even an individual. Explosive devices are used in most terrorist attacks.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT FOLLOWING A TERRORIST ATTACK:

- Distance yourself from the location of the incident and seek shelter as soon as possible.
- Follow instructions from the Police Department, Environmental Health and Safety staff or other public agency personnel.
- If exposed to a chemical agent or if you have trouble breathing, use your clothing as a simple filter by covering your face and breathing through your clothing.
- If exposed to a chemical, biological, or radioactive agent, change out of any contaminated clothing, shower, put on clean clothing, and seek medical attention as soon as possible.
- Seek medical attention as soon as possible for any injuries, if you have trouble breathing or believe you were exposed to a contaminating agent.
- If you believe you have been exposed, advise the telecommunications operator or call taker that you may been contaminated. The responding agency will be able to tailor their response to this exposure. Again, do as the responding public agency personnel tell you do. That agency may have don personnel protective equipment which will take a while before they are able to treat or exam you.

For more information visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) terrorism website at http://www.fema.gov/hazard/terrorism.