



IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Volume 9 Program 9

FACING DISASTER PART II (Terror/Catastrophic Emergency) Backup: Spotting Potential Terrorists

DUTY SHEET AND LESSON PLAN

Total Program Length 44:00

IN THE LINE OF DUTY is produced exclusively as an interactive sharing resource for the law enforcement community. No commercial use or access to the public at large is permitted without the authorization of L.O.D., Inc. This program contains actual video of real police incidents with no reenactments or simulations. The program is protected by copyright. Reproduction in any form is strictly prohibited without authorization from L.O.D., Inc.

This program is designed for informational purposes only. IN THE LINE OF DUTY makes no representation regarding the effectiveness or appropriateness of any action or technique depicted herein. It is not intended to replace or supersede existing training policies or guidelines of individual law enforcement agencies.

In the Line of Duty Training videos have received POST approval for continuing education credit for training in the following states:

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Overview:

OVERVIEW:

In the last edition of In the Line of Duty (Volume 9 Program 8: Facing Disaster I /Hurricane Charley) our focus was on dealing with a disaster that could be anticipated. Everyone knew Hurricane Charley was coming but it was only at the last minute that it was clear where the storm would hit. As it happens, Charlotte County, Florida was the bull's eye. Damage was enormous. Charley WAS a weapon of mass destruction. Dealing with the storm and aftermath was not unlike dealing with 9/11. In fact, many of the lessons learned in Florida could be applied to a terrorist attack, any other natural disaster or a catastrophic accident. In this program, we will draw upon those lessons learned, as well those that emerged from the blackout in the northeastern United States that paralyzed several states and affected millions. In fact, the NYPD utilized lessons learned on 9/11 in dealing with the blackout.

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE: (9:36)

All experts agree that it would be a huge mistake to believe that a terrorist attack could not happen here; especially where you and I are. It has already happened once and, as we have seen, law enforcement was first into the breach. There is very little anyone can do to stop an attack by someone who is willing to die in the process. Security is paramount for local law enforcement and the way to begin bolstering security is to identify potential targets in your jurisdiction and harden those targets by increasing security and, when applicable, establishing vehicular barriers, surveillance devices, etc. Officers should be alert and vigilant regarding any resources that might be attractive to terrorists. Equipment for dealing with disaster should be up to date and maintained. Officers are encouraged to be alert to suspicious behavior (see below) and to fall back on basics, such as field interview techniques, and to go with the gut. When something "feels" wrong, it may very well be. Officers should take advantage of the eyes and ears of the public and should not be intimidated. Suspects may well try to deflect inquiry by threatening lawsuits or other intimidating action in an attempt to dissuade pursuing an issue.

PREPLAN: 8:04

Planning ahead is critical and should include a wide variety of preparation. Keep in mind that even with the very best preplan, a disastrous event will be fluid and require alterations to, or deviation from the preplan. Consider the following:

Preplan

- Think what you may need to respond to
- Determine the role of mutual aid responders
- Clearly define your agency's role
- Bring everyone together beforehand
- Consider communications carefully
- Have a plan in place to contact officers' families so all can be reassured
- Preplan emergency schedules

Preplan Should Include:

- Alternative means of communicating

Provisions for food and water for officers
Access to fuel and automotive needs
A Pre-set emergency schedule
Rest facilities for officers
Limit movement of citizens
Include curfew as part of preplan
Establish strategy for dealing with looters

NY BLACKOUT (2:20)

The 2003 blackout affected millions of Americans and Canadians. Major cities such as New York City, Cleveland, Detroit and Toronto were without power for several hours. Everything that requires electricity was affected. The lights went out, the subways stopped and air conditioners ground to halt. It All affected areas were plunged into a night of total darkness. Our focus is on New York City and how the NYPD responded.

NY Blackout Lessons Learned:

Autonomy given to each patrol district---9/11 taught the NYPD to take this action in case headquarters was incapacitated and/or communications disrupted.

All off-duty officers called in and shifts were extended---In any broad scale emergency it was essential that all personnel be available.

Officers deployed in force to areas having a “criminally disposed population”---

Looting is an inevitable byproduct of disaster. This tactic allowed...

Rapid arrests of “early-bird” looters to discourage copy-cats

Show public that police respond quickly and capably to emergencies---This provided the public with important reassurance

Reassure public when catastrophe is not terror-related---Most Americans are sensitive and jumpy over the prospects of a terror attack. Reassurance is important.

Remind public to use 911 only in absolute emergencies

The public should be responsible for looking after the young and the old

Officers should be properly equipped for emergencies---Gas masks, haz-mat gear and fire protection gear are important.

Cell phones and land lines may prove useless. Now is the time to address alternative means of communicating in a crisis.

Have mental health workers available---Critical incident stress and post traumatic stress are common among emergency personnel after a major disaster.

Maintain authorized manpower levels---This will keep manpower levels at their maximum for emergencies.

INCIDENT COMMAND: (2:00)

Incident command was developed in the 1970's to deal with California wildfires and resulting multi-jurisdictional emergencies. It is an efficient means of dealing with crisis and in many cases, it is required by federal mandate. The responsibilities of the Incident Commander are widespread as is the IC mission.

Incident Commander

Assess Priorities
Control personnel and equipment
Protecting life and property
Ensuring responder safety
Liaison with outside agencies
Overall incident management

The Incident Command Structure follows:

Consolidated action plan
Unified command structure
Integrated communications--common frequencies or radio patch capability are of major importance.
Common terminology and clear text are vital to I.C.S. structure

FIRST IN TEAMS: (1:00)

One of the most important commodities in a crisis is accurate information with regard to damage, resources and casualties.

First In Teams

Comprised of public works, utility company, environmental health, police and other relevant personnel, they make vital and critical initial assessment of damage especially to infrastructure without wasting resources or duplicating effort. Assess severity of damage, where it is as well as what specific resources are needed and in what priority.

LESSONS LEARNED (5:13)

Train First-In Teams---Have them ready and trained before the crisis.

Train As If It Could Happen Here---It is a big mistake to discount the possibility that it could happen where you are.

Prepare Mentally---Practice scenarios, even for what may seem improbable situations.

Everyone Must Be Informed---The means of avoiding rumor

Communicate from top down---The communications must work from the top down and from the bottom up.

Communicate with the Public---Citizens must be informed of major issues affecting them such as evacuation routes, curfews, food stations, etc.

Have Maps Available---Critical for out of town mutual-aid officers.

Learn From The Experience of Others---Be aware of how other jurisdictions have handled emergencies and learn from it.

Plan For Backup Facilities---Basic shelter and medical facilities may be destroyed in catastrophe. Plan for a fall back position in case it should happen.

Adapt-Improvise-Overcome: Tension is always high in a crisis. Work at maintaining professionalism and your "cool."

Train, Train, Train---There can never be enough training

BACKUP: (7:45)

It was an alert Oklahoma officer that stopped Tim McVeigh within hours of the Oklahoma City bombing. Probably, it will be an alert officer who has the first contact with the next terrorist attempting to strike in the U.S. The Department of Homeland Security has put out information on common characteristics of potential suicide bombers that may be useful for officers. More detailed information is available at the end of this Duty Sheet. Below follows some characteristics that might help determine “reasonable suspicion.”

Suicide Bombers

- Bulky or inappropriate attire
- Overuse of cologne/perfume
- Heavy luggage/backpacks
- Repeatedly pats upper body or adjusts clothing excessively
- Unresponsive to commands
- Extremely focused/trancelike
- May sweat excessively, mumble or appear overly calm/detached
- May use disguise of police officer, firefighter, military person, pregnant women

Officers are admonished to always be alert and curious.

There are also some characteristics of cars used by car bombers that may be useful.

Car Bomb Recognition

Modified to carry heavy load
Heavily tinted or covered windows
May show signs of having been stolen
Temporary signage may include misspellings
Vehicle appears out of place for environment
Evidence of batteries, wiring
Contains unmarked packages, PVC pipe, cylindrical devices

Review

- Don't forget the basics, stop and approach
- Be aware of your surroundings. Do the persons fit the environment?
- Use good field interview techniques. Be direct and simple
- Use follow up questions such as where, when and why
- Maintain your reactionary distance
- Do the person(s) match the story and does the surrounding environment match the story?
- Do not rely on ethnicity. Current terrorist groups come in a wide variety
- Do not allow them to flank you. Separate on your terms
- Beware of the one that stays back, silent and watching you intently

- Call for back up, call for back up, call for back up
- Be alert

QUESTIONS: (1:52)

1. What alternatives have you considered in case your cell phone or radio go down in a crisis?
2. Are you mentally and emotionally prepared to deal with mass casualties?
3. Discuss the Incident Command System and your role in it.
4. How familiar are you with your agency's disaster preplan?
5. Have you given any thought to where accidental disasters would be most serious in your jurisdiction or to areas most likely to be targeted by terrorists?
6. Have you, or do you mentally prepare for catastrophic events in those areas.
7. How seriously do you take the field interview?
8. Do you feel you are sufficiently alert to suspicious activity?
9. As a patrol officer do you carry emergency supplies such as food rations, water, extra batteries, tire patches and so on in your vehicle?
10. How familiar are you with your jurisdiction? If street signs and major landmarks were damaged or destroyed, could you find your way around without a map?
11. What do you feel is the most important quality or qualities an officer must have to cope with catastrophe?
12. Are you guilty of believing that a catastrophe of major proportions if not likely where you are?
13. How much training have you had in explosives recognition?
14. How much training have you had in recognizing potential terrorists?

**WE HAVE INCLUDED WITH THIS DUTY SHEET
TERRORISM QUICK REFERENCE INFORMATION PUT
OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.
LINE OF DUTY RECOMMENDS THAT COPIES OF THIS
REFERENCE MATERIAL BE COPIED AND DISTRIBUTED
TO ALL PATROL OFFICERS.**

LESSON PLAN

SYNOPSIS:	This course focuses on the concept that a terrorist attack could happen in this country and that dealing with it would be similar to dealing with a natural calamity or catastrophic accident. Additionally, officers will have a better understanding of what might constitute “reasonable suspicion” in spotting or confronting a suicide bomber.
Time:	1 Hour
Objectives:	Upon completion of this course, officers should have a better understanding the means of dealing with catastrophe, whether the result of terrorism, natural or accidental disaster.
Obj. A.	Understanding the potential for terrorism or calamity.
Obj. B	Understanding the components of Preplan. Incident Command and the First-In concept
Obj. C	Understanding lessons learned in recent emergency situations dealt with by police.
Obj. D	Recognizing characteristics of suicide bombers that may help officers develop a “reasonable suspicion.”

INSTRUCTOR'S NOTES

LESSON PLAN GUIDE

Obj. A. 1. Understanding the potential for terrorism or calamity. .

- a) Law enforcement must be trained to act quickly in face of chaos.
- b) Security is a key issue.
- c) Potential targets should be hardened
- d) Fall back on basics
- e) Go with your gut
- f) Use the public's eyes and ears
- g) Don't be intimidated
- h) Keep equipment up to date.

Obj. B. 2. Understanding the components of Preplan. Incident Command and the First-In concept

- a. Give thought to what you may have to respond to.
- b. What are potential targets or sites where accidental disasters are possible such as propane farms, refineries, etc.
- c. Determine the role of mutual aid responders
- d. Clearly define your agency's role
- e. Bring everyone together beforehand
- f. Have a plan in place to contact families so officers can be reassured
- g. Preplan emergency schedules
- h. Alternative means of communicating
- i. Provisions for food and water for officers
- j. Access to fuel and automotive needs
- k. A Pre-set emergency schedule
- l. Rest facilities for officers
- m. Limit movement of citizens
- n. Include curfew as part of preplan
- o. Establish strategy for dealing with looters

- a. Incident Command and role of Incident Commander.
- b. Assess Priorities
- c. Control personnel and equipment
- d. Protecting life and property
- e. Ensuring responder safety
- f. Liaison with outside agencies
- g. Overall incident management
- h. Consolidated action plan
- i. Unified command structure
- j. Integrated communications--common frequencies or radio patch capability are of major importance
- k. Common terminology and clear text are vital to I.C.S. structure

- a. First-In Teams make vital and critical initial assessment of damage especially to infrastructure without wasting resources or duplicating effort.
- b. Assess severity of damage, where it is as well as what specific resources are needed and in what priority.

- Obj. C. 3. Understanding lessons learned in recent emergency situations dealt with by police.
- a. NY Blackout---Autonomy given to each patrol district
 - b. All off-duty officers called in and shifts were extended
 - c. Officers deployed in force to areas having a “criminally disposed population”
 - d. Rapid arrests of “early-bird” looters to discourage copy-cats
 - e. Show public that police respond quickly and capably to emergencies
 - f. Reassure public when catastrophe is not terror-related
 - g. Remind public to use 911 only in absolute emergencies and that the public should be responsible for looking after the young and the old

- h. Officers should be properly equipped for emergencies
- i. Cell phones and land lines may prove useless.
- j. Now is the time to address alternative means of communicating in a crisis
- k. Have mental health workers available
- l. Maintain authorized manpower levels
- m. Train First-In Teams
- n. Train As If It Could Happen Here
- o. Prepare Mentally
- p. Everyone Must Be Informed
- q. Communicate from top down
- r. Communicate with the Public
- s. Have Maps Available
- t. Learn From The Experience of Others
- u. Plan For Backup Facilities
- v. Keep Your Cool
- w. Train, Train, Train

Obj. D

- 4. Recognizing characteristics of suicide bombers that may help officers develop a "reasonable suspicion."
 - a. Bulky or inappropriate attire
 - b. Overuse of cologne/perfume
 - c. Heavy luggage/backpacks
 - d. Repeatedly pats upper body or adjusts clothing excessively
 - e. Unresponsive to commands
 - f. Extremely focused/trancelike
 - g. May sweat excessively, mumble or appear overly calm/detached
 - h. May use disguise of police officer, firefighter, military person, pregnant women
 - i. Remain alert and curious

Car Bomb Recognition

- a. Modified to carry heavy load
- b. Heavily tinted or covered windows
- c. Vehicle may show signs of having