

Hamilton County Sheriff's Office

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AWARENESS

RECOGNIZE - Always assess your surroundings

AVOID - Avoid direct contact with any victims. Some biological agents are contagious and chemical agents can cause death by skin contact.

EVACUATE/SHELTER IN PLACE - If in your home, remain inside. Don't go onto the street where you suspect any incidents have taken place. Close all your windows and doors and turn on your TV or radio. If you are outside immediately leave the area and move upwind.

NOTIFY - Notify the proper authorities, describing the scene, the number of casualties, and symptoms.

The most rapid acting chemical agents are nerve agents. The term "SLUDGE" is a good way to remember nerve agent symptoms:

S-Salivation
L-Lacrimation (tearing)
U-Urination
D-Defecation
G-Gastrointestinal
E-Emesis (vomiting)

- If more than one victim/animal/bird is exhibiting signs, avoid the area.
- If you expected crowds at a shopping area but none are present, you should be suspicious.
- If you are detecting strange smells or see unexplained liquids, these may be signs of a potential Nuclear, Biological, Chemical (NBC) incident
- If you witness something that is not an explosion and more than one person begins to collapse and exhibit twitching, runny nose, difficulty breathing, etc: DO NOT GO OVER TO ASSIST. Leave the immediate area and call emergency personnel. It could be a terrorist chemical attack.
- If an incident such as an explosion occurs leave the area immediately. It is common for terrorist groups to plant secondary devices, such as a secondary bomb. Their intent is to

take out emergency personnel, or additional innocent victims who stayed to assist the injured.

When faced with a WMD incident remember to remain in your home unless told to evacuate by emergency personnel. If outside or inside a building (not your home), exit the area or building and move upwind. The wind should be hitting you in the face. Move away a safe distance and wait for instruction from emergency personnel.

- Keep emergency phone numbers in your wallet. Be sure of your surroundings. Know where the local police station/fire department is located.
- Keep calm and report where the incident took place. Be able to explain what you saw: victims were gasping for breath, vomiting, convulsing, or any type of symptoms you observed.
- Ask the authorities if they need you to stay on the phone for further information, or if they need your identification for possible assistance in the investigation of the incident at a later date.

