

August 2015

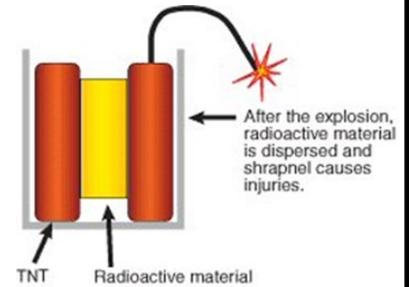
Emergency Preparedness Pointers



What is a Dirty Bomb?



Dirty bombs are often confused with atomic bombs. Dirty bombs cannot create an atomic blast as atomic bombs do. Explosive materials, such as dynamite, are used in dirty bombs to scatter radioactive materials throughout the air to contaminate populated areas. The spread of radioactive materials creates a major health concern depending on the amount of radiation that is absorbed by the body. Dirty bombs can also contaminate the land, making it unusable for a long period of time. Here are a few effective tips to minimize and prevent exposure to radiological material during a dirty bomb event.



Steps to Protect Yourself



There are several important actions you should take to protect your health during a dirty bomb or radiological event. When located **outside** and in close range to the incident:

- ✓ Cover nose and mouth with a clean cloth to prevent inhalation of air born material.
- ✓ Do not touch objects moved by the explosion.
- ✓ Move into a building that does not have broken windows or walls.
- ✓ Once indoors, take off outer layer of clothing and seal in plastic bag including the cloth used to cover your mouth.
- ✓ Place plastic bag where others will not touch it.
- ✓ Shower with soap and water and remember to wash hair.

When located **inside** and in close range to the incident:

- ✓ If walls and windows are not broken or damaged, stay indoors.
- ✓ Keep all windows, doors, and ventilation openings closed.
- ✓ Relocate to an interior room if exterior windows and walls are significantly damaged.
- ✓ Listen to radio or television broadcasts for further instructions.

For more information, visit http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/prep_radiological_fact_sheet.pdf

Don't Let Supplies Get "Dirty"



Packaged and canned food are safe from contamination during a dirty bomb or radiological incident. Any food that is not in a sealed package is not safe to consume. Any containers that are sealed or canned should be washed before opening. Practice safe storage by placing food supplies and first aid kits indoors and away from windows.

Be Better Prepared By Knowing Your Neighbors

August is the month for National Night Out (NNO), an annual event that will take place on August 4, 2015. This event brings law enforcement and neighborhoods together to build strong community relationships. Contact your designated neighborhood watch coordinator for more information about NNO in your area. Where you aware that nearly half of individuals affected by a disaster rely on assistance from neighbors during the first 72 hours following a disaster. Neighbors helping neighbors can help meet the needs of everyone after a disaster. For additional neighborhood preparedness information, visit <http://www.ready.gov/neighbors-helping-neighbors-through-preparedness>



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