ESP BULLETIN
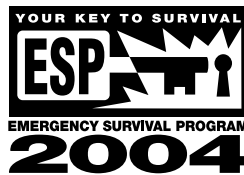
Terms You Should Know

After September 11, 2001, America recognized and prepared to deal with the ongoing threat of international terrorism. In order to enhance your understanding, we have prepared this bulletin, "Terms You Should Know". We have defined words that relate to the subject of terrorism, words that have crept into our everyday conversations. An understanding of these words gives us a base to work on to help keep our families and ourselves safer and better prepared for emergencies.

☐ **Aerosols:** Fine particles of liquid or solid material that are so small that they can be shot into the air as a mist, usually from a pressurized metal can or hose.

☐ **Bacteria:** Small, free-living organisms that reproduce by simple division and are easy to grow. They do not depend on the body they infect. The diseases they produce often respond to treatment with antibiotics.

☐ **Biological agents:** Germs or toxins that can produce illness or death in people, animals, or plants.

☐ **Carry-on baggage:** Luggage or other personal items that a passenger intends to carry aboard an airliner, train, bus or subway, as opposed to checking the item in the cargo area where it can't be reached during the trip.

☐ **Chemical agents:** Poisonous vapors, aerosols, liquids or solids that have toxic effects on people, animals or plants.

☐ **Consequence Management:** Addresses the consequences of terrorism, the effects upon people, their property and their communities. It includes measures to protect public health and safety, restore essential government services, and provide emergency relief to government, businesses, and individuals affected.

☐ **Contaminant:** A substance that has the potential to contaminate or pollute the environment around it.

☐ **Contamination:** The process of making soils, water or air toxic or otherwise dangerous for living things as a result of pollution, radiological releases, or other causes.

☐ **Crisis Management:** Law enforcement's response to the causes of terrorist incidents, terrorists, and their weapons. It includes measures to identify, acquire, and plan the use of resources needed to anticipate, isolate, prevent, and/or resolve a threat or act of terrorism.

☐ **Cyber attack:** An act of terrorism which particularly targets computers, communications networks, or other information technologies.

☐ **Debris:** A general term for broken, flying, or fallen material—such as parts of buildings, cars, or bridges, for instance—resulting from a bomb blast.

☐ **Decontaminate:** The process of removing dangerous materials from a person, a location, or objects that have come into contact with a chemical or biological agent.

☐ **Detonate:** To set off an explosive device such as a conventional bomb or a nuclear weapon.

☐ **Emergency Alert System:** A program developed by government officials, in partnership with television and radio broadcast stations, to tell the public when an emergency exists and what people should do to remain safe.

☐ **Evacuation routes:** Streets and highways that law enforcement and emergency management officials select for use by people who need to leave an area quickly and safely in an emergency.

☐ **Expiration date:** A date printed on various products, such as packaged foods, dairy products, beverages, batteries, medications and baby formula, after which they are less safe or less effective.

☐ **Explosives:** Devices that burst violently when ignited or set off, creating noise, flashing light, heat and flying debris as a result of expanding gases.

☐ **Extinguisher:** A metal cylinder filled with a fire retardant substance and fitted with a spray nozzle, used to put out small fires.

☐ **Extremists:** A term applied to organizations or individuals who express strong political or religious views with violence, disobedience, or other extreme actions.

☐ *Generator:* A portable device powered by gasoline or diesel fuel that produces electricity for emergency use to run lights, tools or appliances.

☐ *"Hard" targets:* Locations such as airports, government buildings, etc., where security measures have been taken to prevent attacks.

☐ *Hazardous materials:* A broad category of materials that are harmful because they burn, corrode, explode, or poison. Such materials require special handling, storage, transportation and disposal.

☐ *Infrastructure:* The basic installations and facilities on which the continuance and growth of a community, state, etc., depends, such as roads, schools, power plants, transportation and communications systems, etc.

☐ *Non-perishable:* Describes food and beverages that are processed and packaged so that they are safe to eat for a long time. These are products you should keep handy for emergencies.

☐ *Organism:* A tiny living structure.

☐ *Passenger checkpoint:* One of the places in an airport or other transportation hub where ticketed passengers must stop to show their identification, belongings and travel documents to security officials.

☐ *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder:* A condition characterized by recurring and often disabling symptoms of anxiety, depression, etc., that later affects some persons who have experienced a traumatic event or situation.

☐ *Postal Inspectors:* Employees of the US Postal Service who look for illegal or dangerous items such as explosives in the mail and help prosecute those responsible for sending them.

☐ *Prohibited items:* Dangerous items—such as weapons, explosives, things that ignite, hazardous materials or disabling chemicals—which cannot be taken aboard an airliner, even in checked baggage.

☐ *Radiological Agents:* Radioactive materials are composed of atoms that are unstable. An unstable atom gives off its excess energy until it becomes stable. The energy emitted is radiation. Certain types of radiation can have harmful effects on the cells of the body.

☐ *"Soft" targets:* Locations that haven't been or can't be fully protected, such as canals, stadiums, shopping centers, etc.

☐ *Suspicious:* People, items, incidents or activities that are unusual and that suggest the possibility of terrorist or criminal activity.

☐ *Symptoms:* Signs of illness that can be felt, seen or measured, such as fever, nausea, or changes in one's blood or skin.

☐ *Targets:* Places, organizations, companies or people who might be singled out by terrorists for harm, in order to increase the impact of their message.

☐ *Terrorism:* The unlawful use of force or violence against people or property to intimidate or coerce a government or civilians to advance political or social objectives.

☐ *Threat Conditions:* A color-coded system designed to advise Americans of the risk of terrorist attack and the protective measures recommended at each level.

☐ *Transportation Security Administration:* One of the new agencies within the United States Department of Homeland Security.

☐ *United States Department of Homeland Security:* A new Cabinet-level federal agency combining 22 agencies with various roles in protecting the nation against terrorism.

☐ *Vapors:* Substances suspended in air as a gas, as opposed to being liquids or solids.

☐ *Viruses:* Organisms that infect and reproduce within the living cells of a body. They depend for life upon the body they infect. The diseases they cause do not respond to antibiotics.

☐ *Weapons of Mass Destruction:* Weapons such as toxic chemicals or biological agents which have the capability of harming large numbers of people at the same time.