

Mass Casualty/ Bombing

Allen County Public Health Preparations

Because of ongoing concerns about potential terrorist attacks, the U.S. government is working to improve overall preparation against terrorism. One aspect of this preparation is to learn more about protecting ourselves in the event of a bombing. According to the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, bombings accounted for nearly 70 percent of all terrorist attacks in the U.S. and its territories between 1980 and 2001. This document focuses on common sense principles that will be useful in a bombing event.

If a public health emergency happens in our community, Allen County Public Health will be the local agency responsible for preparing and guiding medical response and public information efforts. During such an emergency, a critical role of the Public Health Department will be to work with other local first responders, such as fire and police. The Public Health Department will also coordinate response activities with state and federal agencies.

Allen County Public Health is providing this information to help you understand what response you may be asked to take in the event of a bombing.

How can I prepare for a bombing?



Know your work, school and community disaster plans. If you are not familiar with the plans, contact your supervisor, school administrators, or your local fire department for information.

Identify an alternative hospital. Hospitals closest to the event are always the busiest.

Visit [American Red Cross](#). The site provides guidance on creating a disaster plan and steps you can take now to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Visit [www.ready.gov](#) for additional guidance for creating a disaster plan.

What should I do if I think someone is going to set off a bomb?

At Home	At Work	At School	In Public
Leave the area immediately.	Follow existing evacuation guidelines.	Follow existing evacuation guidelines.	Leave the area immediately.
Call 9-1-1. Tell the operator what you saw or know (suspicious persons, packages, or vehicles).			Call 9-1-1. Tell the operator what you saw or know (suspicious persons, packages, or vehicles).
Follow directions from people in authority (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from neighborhood leaders).	Follow directions from people in authority (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from workplace supervisors).	Follow directions from people in authority (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from school administrators).	Follow directions from people in authority (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from community leaders).

What should I do during a bombing?

- **Leave the area immediately.**
- **Avoid crowds.** Crowds of people may be targeted for a second attack.
- **Avoid unattended cars and trucks.** Unattended cars and trucks may contain explosives.

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- **Stay away from damaged buildings** to avoid falling glass and bricks. Move at least 10 blocks or 200 yards away from damaged buildings.
- **Follow directions from people in authority** (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from school or workplace supervisors).
- **Call 9-1-1 once you are in a safe area**, but only if police, fire, or EMS has not arrived.
- **Help others who are hurt or need assistance to leave the area** if you are able. If you see someone who is seriously injured, seek help. Do not try to manage the situation alone.

What should I do after a bombing?

- **Follow your family, job, or school emergency disaster plan for leaving and staying away from the scene of the event.** Remember, returning to the scene will increase the risk of danger for rescue workers and you.
- **Avoid crowds.** Crowds of people may be targeted for a second attack.
- **Avoid unattended cars and trucks.** Unattended cars and trucks may contain explosives.
- **Stay away from damaged buildings** to avoid falling glass and bricks. Move at least 10 blocks or 200 yards away from damaged buildings.
- **Follow directions from people in authority** (police, fire, EMS, or military personnel, or from school or workplace supervisors).
- **Call 9-1-1 once you are in a safe area**, but only if police, fire, or EMS has not arrived to help injured people.
- **Help others who are hurt or need assistance to leave the area if you are able.** If you see someone who is seriously injured, seek help. Do not try to manage the situation alone.

- **Listen** to your radio or television for news and instructions.

What should I do if rescue workers cannot transport me?

9-1-1 services (police, fire, EMS and ambulance) might be delayed indefinitely following a terrorist event, therefore:

- **Always have a back-up plan** for transportation.
- **Follow advice from your local public safety offices** (local health department, local emergency management offices, fire and police departments and reliable news sources).

Does my injury require immediate assistance?

Seek medical attention if you have any of the following problems:

- Excessive bleeding
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent cough
- Trouble walking or using an arm or leg
- Stomach, back or chest pains
- Headache
- Blurred vision or burning eyes
- Dry mouth
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash or burning skin
- Hearing problems
- Injuries that increase in pain, redness or swelling
- Injuries that do not improve after 24 to 48 hours

Help others who are hurt or need assistance to leave the area, if you are able. If you see someone who is seriously injured, seek help. Do not try to manage the situation alone.

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Where do I go to cut down my wait time for medical attention?

Go to a hospital or clinic away from the event if you can. Most victims will go to the nearest hospital. Hospitals away from the event will be less busy.

What can I expect at the hospital?

- **Long waits.** To avoid long waits, choose a hospital farther away from the event. While this might increase your travel time, you might receive care sooner.
- **Triage.** Following a terrorist attack or other disasters, injuries are generally treated on a “worst first” basis, called “triage.” Triage is not “first come, first served”. If your injuries are not immediately life threatening, others might be treated before you. The goal of triage is to save as many lives as possible.
- **Limited information.** In a large-scale emergency such as a terrorist attack, police, fire, EMS, and even hospitals and clinics cannot track every individual by name. Keep in mind that it may be difficult for hospitals to provide information about loved ones following a terrorist attack. Be patient as you seek information.

If you have any questions bombing incidents please contact Allen County Public Health at 419-228-4457. Health Department staff members are available to answer your questions Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also visit www.allencountypublichealth.org. For information about putting together an Emergency Preparation Plan, visit the FEMA site at www.ready.gov. Also, see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Web site at www.emergency.cdc.gov for additional information.