

## **Threat Assessment 10 Terrorism**

### **General Situation**

Los Angeles County has a diverse population of approximately ten million persons. The County and its cities are home to many business and government agencies, transportation infrastructure and cultural facilities which are vulnerable to terrorist attack. Terrorism is a continuing threat throughout the world and within the United States. A variety of political, social, religious, cultural and economic factors underlie terrorist activities. Terrorists typically target civilians to advance their agenda. The media interest generated by terrorist attacks makes this a high visibility threat.

### **Specific Situation**

Incidents generating significant mass casualties make preparedness and the mechanisms for effective response essential. In addition to large-scale attacks, a full range of assault styles must be considered, including simple letter bombings, assassinations with small arms, major car bombings, etc.

Use of explosive devices remains the weapon of choice for terrorist activity. Related activities include bomb threats which disrupt the normal operations of transit systems, government or corporate facilities. Locations likely to be targets include airports, mass transit targets and government facilities. Entertainment and cultural facilities may also be targeted.

The potential for nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) terrorism is also a concern. NBC emergencies would necessitate detailed contingency planning and preparation of emergency responders to protect their communities.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the lead federal agency for all terrorist activities within the United States. The FBI coordinates this activity with local law enforcement through the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC).

Los Angeles County also participates in the JRIC, which assesses potential threats to determine if they are credible. The JRIC is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional group that works with key federal and state agencies and other counties.

A broad threat assessment of potential terrorist targets, threat elements and local response capabilities has been developed. This assessment is contained in restricted use-planning documents. The information contained in this document will be used as necessary during a threat situation or actual event. Following is a general overview of potential terrorist targets in Los Angeles County:

Facilities that store, manufacture or transport hazardous materials.

- US and State Highways.
- Telecommunications facilities.
- Federal, state, county and city offices.

- Shopping malls.
- Medical centers.
- Schools, churches and religious centers.
- Research facilities.
- Electrical facilities and power plants.
- Water and wastewater facilities, dams.
- Bridges and overpasses.

**Emergency Response Actions**

Emergency response actions applicable to all hazards are included in **Part Two Annexes, Checklist Actions for each Section.**

Attachment 1 – List of potential targets is in Appendix A of this plan (Restricted Use).