

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Training - AWR 160



A Center for Domestic Preparedness Course
Part of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Department of Homeland Security

Why is Weapons of Mass Destruction & Terrorism Awareness Training Necessary?

In the aftermath of recent tragedies, two important questions have emerged. These will be directed toward the management and/or board of directors of any organization in the event of a tragic incident. Employees, the media and the public will inevitably get around to asking:

1. "Did you take reasonable precautions to prevent a critical incident such as this from occurring, which could take a terrible toll on your work force or customers?"
2. "Were you prepared to respond with proper protective and palliative actions for your people following a critical incident like this?"

The answers you are able to give could have enormous consequences for your company, its bottom line, and its future, because of an emerging concept of liability known as **Negligent Failure to Plan**.

In many states there are not specific laws on the subject, however most states do have general negligence statutes covering businesses failure to act to hazardous situations that are known or should have reasonably been known. In addition, legislation is pending in some states that require companies to plan for **any** emergency. **Negligent failure to plan** will be tested on a much larger scale in the future as additional tragedies unfold. Think of it as the common law of simple negligence applied under a newly critical lens. The essence of a negligence claim is relatively simple, and has generally not been legislated except from behind the judge's bench and within the jury box. Its basics are a duty under the law; a breach of that duty, by the failure to exercise the standard of care of a reasonably prudent person in similar circumstances; and damages that are proximately caused by such breach.

What are your responsibilities?

As an employer, you can be considered negligent if reasonable steps are not taken that eliminate or diminish foreseeable risks that can cause harm. We know that there are known hazards that have greatly expanded or broadened vulnerabilities to the marketplace environment. Continuing acts of terrorism on our soil are certain to occur in the future; this is no longer unthinkable. Corporations should be prepared and are expected to recognize these foreseeable risks.

Whether it comes following an incident of terrorism or from some other kind of tragedy that befalls an organization, most executives would be wise to anticipate heightened scrutiny of their preparedness and response planning – as well as increased eagerness to be held accountable before the law.

Mitigating Threats and Reducing Costs & Liability

To mitigate these threats, companies must be proactive in detecting threats and determining what effective protective actions should be taken making use of internal resources. Knowledge of external emergency services is also important to any organization. In addition to minimizing risk and providing a safer environment for employees and visitors, insurance rates will be positively affected through proper planning and training minimizing the already extraordinarily high cost of doing business.

AWR 160 - Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Training

Training for potential terrorist activities is an important part of the day-to-day activities for everyone. It is the federal government's opinion that everyone should have a basic awareness of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Terrorism and Preparedness. To that end, the Department of Homeland Security in cooperation with its consortium members has developed AWR 160 training.

Developed by the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), the WMD Awareness-Level Training Course is a six-hour program that provides awareness-level instruction on recognition, avoidance, isolation, and notification (RAIN) techniques in a WMD environment. Various videos, pictures and PowerPoint presentations are used to provide a realistic view of WMD and Terrorism.

Your instructor is federally certified by the Department of Homeland Security to provide practical Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness Level Training.

The training covers prevention and deterrence, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosive (CBRNE) hazards. It also covers various Domestic & International Terrorist groups and the threats they pose.

THE AGENDA

Improve Your WMD & Terrorism Awareness Skills

The course includes the following modules:

Prevention & Deterrence

- Terrorism & WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
- Actions indicating terrorist activity
- Potential terrorist targets
- General precautions for self protection

Chemical Agents

- Toxic industrial chemicals
- Choking agents
- Blood agents
- Blister agents
- Nerve agents



Biological agents

- Description of biological agents
- Signs & symptoms of exposure
- Physical characteristics

Radiological Materials & Nuclear Weapons

- Radiological & radiation material
- Radiation exposure, physiological signs & symptoms

Radiological dispersal devices, nuclear weapons
Contamination vs. exposure, internal vs. external

Explosive Devices

Characteristics of explosives
Indicators of explosive manufacture
Potential explosive Indicators

To mitigate these threats, individuals must be able to detect threats and determine effective protective actions making best use of internal resources, as well as external emergency services.

Note: A post & pre-test are given and a certificate awarded upon course completion and test score verification. Graduates are considered certified in Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Awareness by the Department of Homeland Security. This course is *NFPA 472 compliant and meets the requirements for Hazardous Materials Awareness Level training.

** (National Fire Protection Association) NFPA 472 = STANDARD FOR COMPETENCE OF RESPONDERS TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS / WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION INCIDENTS*



ABOUT YOUR COURSE INSTRUCTOR

Detective Sergeant Steven Schneider, CHS III

During his 15 years in Law Enforcement, your instructor has attended and completed a multitude of emergency services related and train-the-trainer courses. He has a wide array of experience in several areas including Weapons of Mass Destruction, Community Anti-Terrorism Training, Investigations, Corrections Management, Inmate Custody and Care, Road Patrol and General Administration. This experience has been gained through his degree programs, employment with two large investigative companies and one of the largest Sheriff Office's in the United States. He is a member of the Oakland County Incident Management Team and has completed Type IV Incident Management Team Training as well as COBRA Live Chemical Agent Training. In addition, he is an adjunct instructor and guest lecturer for private and public higher educational institutions and has taught departmental members as well as private sector individuals in a variety of subjects. Your instructor holds the designation of Certified in Homeland Security (CHS-III).

Education: Bachelor Degree in Business Administration / Masters Degree in Public Administration

Instructor Certifications:

Department of Homeland Security:

Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness
Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts
Operational Weapons of Mass Destruction
Incident Response to Terrorist Bombing
Radiological/Nuclear Awareness
Community Emergency Response Teams

Department of Justice:

Law Enforcement Terrorism/Extremism Instructor
Community Anti-Terrorism Instructor

Michigan State Police:

Unified Incident Command Systems

Private Sector:

Recognition, Prevention and Management of Excited
Delirium and Sudden, In-Custody Deaths

Recipient of the first annual Michigan Homeland Security Consortium's ***First Responder Award***