



### FACT SHEET: DEALING WITH TERRORISM

LEARN -> [Guidelines for a Safe School](#)

#### **BEFORE**

Learn about the nature of terrorism.

- [Terrorists](#) look for visible targets where they can avoid detection before or after an attack.
- Terrorists look for still, non-moving and/or easy targets.
- [Terrorists](#) look to disrupt and [inflict terror](#).
- [Terrorists](#) look to control and disturb our normal lives, all the while attempting to build themselves up.

Prepare to deal with a terrorist incident by adapting many of the same techniques used to prepare for other crises.

- Conduct a Professional "[School Site Safety Survey](#)" to determine hazards or safety concerns.
- Be alert and aware of the surrounding area. The very nature of terrorism suggests that there may be little or no warning.
- Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Like:
  - Individuals carrying strange items or weapons in inappropriate places
  - Notes placed in strange places.
  - Vehicles sitting in one place for long periods of time.
- Learn in advance who to call and what to do if you notice an unusual person or situation.
- Notice your immediate surroundings and write down what you have noticed or seen so as not to forget details.

#### **SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PREPARED**

School should be prepared to safeguard students and prepared at times to maintain students in extended lockdowns.

- Have an up-to-date and comprehensive "[Crisis Response Action Plan](#)" and "[Response Team](#)".
- Review emergency evacuation procedures. Know where fire exits are located.
- Evaluate and review your first aid trained staff. Contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross for additional information.
- Help develop "Community Watches" or "[Community Action Organizations](#)".
- Keep the following items in a designated place on each floor of the building.
  - [Shelter-in-Place Kits](#) providing needed items when in lockdown.
  - First aid kit and manual

#### **AFTER**

Schools and parents should remain calm for their students and children. Items that we can do are:

- Set aside time to do some physical relaxation, if possible in the class.
- Stick to your daily routine as much as possible. At times of crisis a familiar pattern of a regular school day can bring a sense of order.
- If needed consult a counselor or family doctor, if they need additional help. A Counselor or Doctor can clearly understand a student's problem of [fear](#).
- Link up with community resources to help children/students cope (e.g. ministers, social workers, community nurses, crisis centers and church organizations).
- **Keep this in perspective:** a large number of students are killed in car accidents...we don't instill fear about car riding. We educate on how to take precautions and navigate the dangers; we don't stop driving/riding in cars.

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