Capability Standard – Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination, and Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination is the capability to assess and manage the consequences of a hazardous materials release, either accidental or as part of a terrorist attack. It includes testing and identifying all likely hazardous substances onsite; ensuring that responders have protective clothing and equipment; conducting rescue operations to remove affected victims from the hazardous environment; conducting geographical survey searches of suspected sources or contamination spreads and establishing isolation perimeters; mitigating the effects of hazardous materials, decontaminating on-site victims, responders, and equipment; coordinating off-site decontamination with relevant agencies, and notifying environmental, health, and law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction for the incident to begin implementation of their standard evidence collection and investigation procedures.

Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement is the capability that includes the broad range of activities undertaken by law enforcement and related entities to detect, examine, probe, investigate, and conduct operations related to potential terrorist activities. Current and emerging investigative techniques are used with an emphasis on training, legal frameworks, recognition of indications and warnings, source development, interdiction, and related issues specific to antiterrorism activities.

Associated Target Capabilities – Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination; Information Gathering and Recognition of Indicators and Warnings; Intelligence Analysis and Production; Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Explosive Device Operations; CBRNE Detection; Critical Infrastructure Protection; Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense; Epidemiological Surveillance and Investigation; Laboratory Testing; Emergency Public Safety and Security Response; Explosive Device Operations; WMD and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination. Additional information on building this capability can be found on pages 69 (Intelligence and Information Sharing and Dissemination); 81 (Information Gathering and Recognition of Indicators and Warnings); 91 (Intelligence Analysis and Production); 103 (Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement); 115 (Explosive Device Operations; CBRNE Detection); 129 (Critical Infrastructure Protection); 141 (Food and Agriculture Safety and Defense); 161 (Epidemiological Surveillance and Investigation); 175 (Laboratory Testing); 263 (Emergency Public Safety and Security Response); 337 (Explosive Device Operations); and 361 (WMD and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination) of the U.S Department of Homeland Security’s September 2007 document: Target Capabilities List: A Companion to the National Preparedness Guidelines.

Desired Outcomes – Hazardous materials releases are rapidly identified and mitigated; victims exposed to the hazard are rescued, decontaminated, and treated; the impact of the release is limited; and responders and at-risk populations are effectively protected. Suspects involved in criminal activities related to homeland security are successfully deterred, detected, disrupted, investigated, and apprehended. All counterterrorism-related cases are aggressively prosecuted.

The jurisdiction has created and maintains an Emergency Operations Plan and a Resource Manual that:

Prevention Activities
Describes the process for managing and ensuring operational and threat awareness among government organizations and sectors.

Describes the process for sharing information between the fusion center(s) and the EOC(s).

Describes the integration of prevention activities in support of response and recovery operations.

Protection Activities

Describes the process for managing the CIKR identification and protection efforts involving all threats and hazards.

Describes the integration of protection activities in support of response and recovery operations.

Terrorism

Identifies and describes as part of the jurisdiction’s Hazard Analysis or other relevant Plan(s), terrorism hazards and terrorism events to potential targets, critical infrastructures, key industries, etc.

Identifies and describes as part of the jurisdiction’s Hazard Analysis or other relevant Plan(s), the impacts of terrorism hazards and events that may confront the jurisdiction.

Identifies the agencies and the actions they will take for direction and control during a local terrorism threat/event response.

Identifies and describes the actions to be taken within the jurisdiction at each level of terrorism threat/event response (minimal threat, potential threat, credible threat, WMD incident).

Identifies and describes mutual aid and related resource support efforts that will/can be applied by the jurisdiction in a terrorism threat/event response.

Identifies and describes the communications and notification systems among local, state, and federal sources that may be employed in a terrorist threat/event response.
Identifies the agencies and the actions that they will take to warn and inform local officials of terrorism threats/events.

Identifies the agencies and the actions that they will take to warn and inform the general public of terrorism threats/events.

Identifies and describes the actions that will be taken to decontaminate buildings and other sites that have been adversely impacted by terrorism prior to their reoccupation.

Identifies and describes the actions that will be taken to preserve evidence and provide site security.

Identifies and describes the actions that will be taken to provide communications and information security.

Identifies and describes the actions that will be taken to decontaminate farms and cropland that have been adversely impacted prior to their re-use.

Identifies and describes the actions that will be taken to temporarily relocate and shelter people prior to the decontamination of affected areas and to relocate people for an extended period.

Comments and Notes:

Civil Unrest

Identifies/discusses the jurisdiction’s specific concerns, capabilities, training, procedures, agencies, and resources that will be used to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from civil unrest emergencies (riots, school shootings, etc.).

Comments and Notes:

Lethal Chemical Agents and Munitions

Identifies and/or discusses the jurisdiction’s specific concerns, capabilities, training, procedures, agencies, and resources that will be used to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from lethal chemical agents and/or munitions (sarin, mustard, and VX). Include a hazard analysis summary that discusses where/how chemical agent incidents are likely to impact the community.
Accounts for actions that will be taken to prepare for and respond to other hazards that have been identified in the jurisdiction’s hazard analysis (mass casualty, airline/plane crash, train crash/derailment, school emergencies, etc.).

A fully-functioning set of these capabilities should address the following measures:

The jurisdiction’s weapons of mass destruction response operations have been established, are maintained in EOP/SOP/SOG, and includes the following elements:

- The jurisdiction has established coordination with local, county, state & federal/regional HAZMAT/EMS response agencies for response support.
- The jurisdiction has coordinated with hospitals & medical treatment facilities for medical treatment procedures.

Chemical/Radiological Response
The jurisdiction’s chemical/radiological response operations have been established, are maintained in EOP/SOP/SOG, and includes the following elements:

- The jurisdiction has Hazardous materials emergency response plan established, using hazard identification & analysis.
- Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) established in compliance with SARA Title III, ORC and pertinent rules and regulations.
- The jurisdiction has developed resource agreements and/or written mutual aid agreements with other government agencies and counties.
- The jurisdiction has developed resource agreements and/or mutual aid agreements with business/industry and contractors.
- The jurisdiction has developed resource agreements and/or mutual aid agreements with medical care facilities.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) adequate for radiological contaminated environments.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) adequate for Biological contaminated environment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams are equipped with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) adequate for Chemical contaminated environment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate radiological terrorist incident detection equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate Biological terrorist incident detection equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate Chemical terrorist incident detection equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate radiological terrorist incident mass casualty decontamination equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate Biological terrorist incident mass casualty decontamination equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have adequate Chemical terrorist incident mass casualty decontamination equipment.
- HAZMAT/EMS response teams have pharmaceuticals immediately available in sufficient quantities to treat terrorism incident mass casualties.
- Treatment pharmaceuticals have been positioned at hospitals and medical treatment facilities in sufficient quantities to treat mass casualties.
- Public Work crews are equipped to respond to a biological incident.
- Public Work crews are equipped to respond to a chemical incident.

- Selected law enforcement and fire response individuals are trained and equipped to operate in a radiological environment.
- Selected law enforcement and fire response individuals are trained and equipped to operate in a biological environment.
- Selected law enforcement and fire response individuals are trained and equipped to operate in a chemical environment.

Comments and Notes:
Capability Assessment – Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination, and Counter-Terror Investigation and Law Enforcement

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has engaged an integrated team to develop this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has developed an integrated plan for this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has identified the hazards/threats that would necessitate the application of this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction’s local responders have the necessary training to effectively carry out this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has access to the necessary resources to effectively carry out this capability (either local or identified through MOUs).

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction’s local responders have received the necessary training to be able to carry out this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction’s local responders have the expertise to carry out this capability.

1 2 3 4 5 The jurisdiction has tested this capability within the last year through exercise or activation.

Scale Key:

1- The jurisdiction has not started to develop this measure.
2- The jurisdiction has started to develop this measure, but we are not far along in the process.
3- The jurisdiction has developed this measure, but it needs to be improved.
4- The jurisdiction has fully developed this measure.
5- The jurisdiction has fully developed and tested this measure.