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# ODP Fact Sheet

Office for State and Local  
Domestic Preparedness Support

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## TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY

### Texas Engineering Extension Service

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE & RESCUE TRAINING CENTER

#### Background

The National Emergency Response & Rescue Training Center (NERRTC) was established by the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) at Texas A&M University in the aftermath of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City. Since then, significant resources have been invested in its existing infrastructure by the State of Texas and TEEX.

The Conference Report for the 1999 Department of Justice (DOJ) Appropriations Act urged DOJ to use NERRTC at Texas A&M as a national training center to

*prepare Federal, State, and local officials, including law enforcement, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and other key agencies such as public works and emergency management agencies, to prepare for and respond to chemical, biological, or other terrorist acts.*

In June 1998, TEEX/NERRTC became a member of the National Domestic Preparedness Consortium (NDPC), an integral part of the Office of Justice Program's State and Local First Responder Training Program, consistent with guidance in the report accompanying the 1998 Appropriation Act. The Consortium was established by DOJ's Office of Justice Programs/Office for Domestic Preparedness (OJP/ODP) to provide expertise and training to the state and local emergency response community. It is a partnership of several nationally recognized public universities, the Justice Department, and the Department of Energy that brings together into a singular, coordinated, and integrated training program the various entities receiving

funding under OJP/ODP's domestic prepared-ness initiative.

NERRTC, with a physical complex valued at over \$125 million, integrates the well-established emergency response training programs and facilities of TEEEX into a one-stop shop for domestic preparedness. Its mission is to prepare federal, state and local officials, including emergency first responders, to effectively respond to acts of terrorism caused by weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Some of the training courses are provided at TEEEX's state-of-the-art facilities which include a 120 acre emergency operation training area, a mock city, a virtual reality training facility, an explosives area, a weapons range, assault houses, and water and wastewater training areas. Other training courses and the technical assistance are provided on-site in the state or in the local jurisdiction.

Under a cooperative agreement with OJP/ODP, TEEEX contributes to ODP's First Responder Training Program through the development and delivery of Responder Training Programs. TEEEX has developed and delivers emergency response training to local government officials, senior emergency response agency officials, public works agencies, and emergency medical services agencies and has developed several Internet-based, self-study courses

## **Course Offerings**

Unless otherwise noted, the following courses are

delivered on-site in the local jurisdiction at a facility provided by the requesting agency and are tailored to the needs of the jurisdiction.

### **Senior Officials Workshop**

This 1-day course for senior-level elected and appointed officials is designed as an introduction to strategic and operational planning regarding weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism incidents. Participants will learn how to assess potential targets within their communities and protective actions that can be taken. The course will focus on how to develop an integrated response that involves local, state, and federal resources and how to develop an awareness for special financial and legal considerations, and media impacts that a WMD incident may involve.

### **Mayor's Executive Seminar**

This 1-day seminar, designed for newly elected mayors, provides an introduction to the strategic and operational issues related to planning for a possible weapons of mass destruction terrorist incident. The seminar will engage the mayors in an interactive discussion, utilizing multi-media vignettes as well as nationally acclaimed speakers to stimulate the discussion. Course locations vary and are announced with the course.

### **Weapons of Mass Destruction: Threat and Risk Assessment**

This 3-day course is designed to prepare city and county leaders and agency administrators to conduct a proactive and comprehensive assessment of their vulnerability to a WMD terrorism incident. It will also assist them in evaluating their Emergency Operations Plan and terrorism annex, developing a needs assessment, and validating requirements for protection against and reaction to WMD terrorism. Scenarios that are tailored to the jurisdiction, based on a self-assessment completed by participants prior to the course, will be assessed during the class. The target audience includes city and county elected officials and planners and administrators from fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency management.

## **Emergency Medical Service Operations and Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction**

This 5-day course will equip emergency medical service (EMS) personnel, health care providers, and physicians with the skills needed to ensure proper patient triage and treatment in the event of exposure to weapons of mass destruction. Classroom material will be reinforced with actual hands-on treatment of patients in a WMD scenario. First responders will use their training to demonstrate proper techniques for detection and monitoring, triage, mass decontamination, treatment and stabilization. In addition, participants will receive training on the proper techniques for self-protection and limiting cross contamination.

## **Public Works: Planning for and Responding to a Terrorism/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incident**

This 3-day course focuses on enhancing the capabilities of public works leadership, in coordination with local and state emergency response personnel, to plan for, respond to, and manage a weapons of mass destruction terrorism incident. The course presents the fundamental skills, knowledge, and attitudes that will be needed by public works managers and supervisors when they are called upon to respond to or develop a plan to prevent or mitigate a WMD incident, including chemical and biological agents, nuclear/radiological weapons and explosive devices. In order to foster a proper level of multidisciplinary understanding, participants from the fire service, HazMat team, emergency medical, law enforcement, and public health disciplines are invited to the course.

## **Weapons of Mass Destruction: Incident Management/Unified Command**

This 4-day course for incident and emergency management coordinators, and emergency operations center staff, focuses on the special challenges faced by senior-level incident management personnel in dealing with a mass casualty terrorism incident. The course is designed to prepare key personnel to effectively coordinate emergency response efforts to a WMD terrorism incident, including the ability to integrate communications and planning among fire, rescue, EMS, law enforcement, emergency management, public officials, and state and federal agencies. It combines classroom lecture and scenario-based team exercises with simulations, videos, and case histories. This course is delivered at NERRTC at Texas A&M in College Station, Texas.

## **Internet-Based Course Offerings**

The following internet-based courses can be accessed via the TEEEX Web Campus at:

<http://www.teexweb.tamu.edu/campus>.

### **Terrorism Awareness for Emergency First Responders**

This awareness-level course addresses basic concepts of terrorism and the terrorist threat. The course recognizes key on-scene indicators of a suspicious event as well as appropriate self-protective measures. The course also covers security issues unique to terrorist events, appropriate notifications and the command and control structure associated with crime scene activities. The course is designed for fire service, emergency management, EMS, law enforcement, HazMat, public works, disaster response, emergency communications, public health, armed forces/national guard personnel. The course is self-paced and should take approximately 4 hours to complete.

### **Emergency Medical Services**

This course addresses incident management, responder considerations, and medical response at a WMD incident. The focus of the course is on the treatment of patients at mass casualty sites and making EMS and other medical personnel aware of unique considerations associated with a terrorist event. Successful completion of this course will equip responders with a general understanding of the specific issues involved in responding to terrorist incidents and provide the background knowledge needed to participate in technician-level courses for WMD. The target audience is designed for EMS and public health personnel as well as doctors and nurses.

### **Public Works: Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism - Basic Concepts**

This course provides a unique opportunity for public works employees to acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to help them protect public safety and infrastructure from the threat of a WMD terrorism incident. The course is designed for personnel in Public Works Departments at the director, assistant director, division manager, and superintendent levels.

### **Technical Assistance**

ODP-sponsored technical assistance is provided to states and local jurisdictions by TEEEX to help them conduct the threat and needs assessments related to WMD terrorism. The assistance is provided through a series of training workshops for multidisciplinary teams who work together to develop the expertise to conduct thorough threat, vulnerability, public health, risk, capabilities and needs assessments to analyze the results, and to use this information to develop a jurisdictional or statewide domestic preparedness strategy.

The workshops are designed to help the state or jurisdiction to:

Identify stakeholders and participants early in process

Focus on acquiring "ownership" and input from participants

Identify threats and resources

Apply a multidimensional (multiple assessments) and a multidisciplinary (fire, law enforcement, health, public works, etc) approach

Identify needs and solutions

Identify strengths and vulnerabilities and how to enhance or mitigate

Applies knowledge and skills in scenario/simulation building

## **Eligibility to Attend Training**

Representatives from local and state emergency response agencies, see course description for more information.

## **Costs to the Participants**

The training and course materials are provided at no cost to the state or local organization or responder. The cost of travel, meals, and lodging are also provided for those attending a course held at the TEEX training facility,

[hoerhrl@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:hoerhrl@ojp.usdoj.gov)

## **To Schedule Training**

All requests for ODP-sponsored training are made through the Domestic Preparedness Training Point of Contact (POC) in the State Administrative Agency designated by the Governor to administer the State Domestic Preparedness Equipment Grant Program and to develop the state's risk assessment and statewide domestic preparedness strategy. The list of POC's is available on ODP's webpage at:

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp>.