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## LESSON LEARNED

### Large-Scale Logistics Operations: Locating the Logistics Center Outside of the Security Perimeter

#### SUMMARY

During a large-scale emergency response, a logistics center should be established *outside* of the site's security perimeter. Locating the logistics center off-site avoids unnecessary delays by ensuring that supplies do not have to pass through the security perimeter unless specifically requested on-site.

#### DESCRIPTION

At 9:02 am on April 19, 1995, a massive terrorist bomb ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, collapsing major portions of the structure and prompting a 16-day response and recovery effort. To support this effort, the Oklahoma City Fire Department (OCFD) established an on-site logistics center within the security perimeter. All supplies had to move through the security perimeter to reach the OCFD logistics center. Many of these supplies were excess donations or were not needed on-site and thus had to be redirected back outside of the security perimeter. The constant, high-volume flow of supplies through the security perimeter caused unnecessary delays.

In retrospect, OCFD believes that locating the logistics center just outside of the security perimeter would have solved this problem. Logistics personnel could have received all supplies at the off-site location, where deliveries would not have been obstructed by security procedures. Once inventoried, supplies could have been organized and distributed as needed, either to the secured site or to other locations. More importantly, such a system would have saved time by ensuring that only those supplies specifically required on-site passed through perimeter security.

During a large-scale emergency response, the logistics center should be located just *outside* of the security perimeter. Locating the logistics center off-site avoids unnecessary delays by ensuring that only the requisite supplies pass through the security perimeter.

#### CITATION

- The City of Oklahoma City. *Final Report: Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building Bombing, April 19, 1995*. July 1996.  
([https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content\\_id=9849](https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=9849))

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