

First Responder Questions¹

How well prepared is your agency for a terrorist incident that could affect your personnel and/or facilities? The questions below should be asked to rank and file personnel on the “Front Line”, those who would be in the position of First Responder. Advise those providing information that you will respect their confidentiality and ask them to respect your fact-finding process by not discussing the interview with others. This provides an “out” if their supervisor asks them what was discussed. The employee can say that they were told to refer all questions to you, and not to talk about the interview. All good supervisors should have no trouble with you talking to their people.

Do you have immediate access to your Department’s Terrorism Response Plan, and can I see it? _____

Has everyone in your team trained on this plan? _____

Specifically, what terrorism training have you had, if any? _____

Have you received any new equipment specifically designed to help you during a terrorist incident, such as a new gas mask filter? _____

When was the last terrorism drill in which you participated? _____

Was this drill(s) with emergency responders? _____

What are the top 10 terrorist targets in your city or county? _____

Is your facility one of them? _____

Would a terrorist act at any of the targets directly affect your facility? _____

Do you have an Emergency Response Plan that deals with specific acts of terrorism (Fire, HazMat, Explosive devices, etc.)? _____

If you do have a plan, is it readily accessible and can I see it? _____

Have you inspected or walked around any potential targets within your area of responsibility? _____

¹ Extracted, in part, from the White Paper, “The Incident Command System and the Concept of Unified Command at a Terrorist Incident”, by Lt. John Kane, Sacramento, CA Police Department

If such an inspection was done, are the results written down and available to all first responders? _____

Have you discussed the principles of how you would respond to a terrorist act with any of your supervisors? _____

Have you had any training on the Incident Command System? _____

Can you explain the concept of Unified Command? _____

Does your agency have a specific person who coordinates all information and training regarding terrorism? _____

Who is this person? _____

Have they been teaching classes and are they accessible to you? _____

Do you think the management of your agency has placed a sincere emphasis on training for critical incidents and terrorist acts? _____