

What is terrorism?

There are several definitions of terrorism:

Terror - from the Latin word *Terr* - meaning to frighten.

The F.B.I. defines it as “The unlawful use or threat of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a Government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

The U.S. Dept. of State defines it as “The term terrorism means the premeditated, politically motivated, violence perpetrated against non-combatant targets by sub-national or clandestine agents usually intended to influence an audience.”

International Terrorism is conducted by foreign terrorists and transcends national borders. It can be state sponsored or privately funded.

Domestic Terrorism is conducted against citizens, government, or other institutions of one nation by terrorists that inhabit that same nation.

Terrorism is a CRIME, for example:

- Kidnapping, Murder, School Shootings
- Gangs / Mobs / Drug Trafficking
- Bombings, arson, hijacking
- Chemical or biological agents

Terrorism targets our homeland, our people and our communities. It seeks to instill disabling FEAR. Our agencies are capable of finding and defeating crime. We can choose to be **FEARFUL** or **FAITHFUL**.

What does a terrorist look like?

Terrorists can be male or female, young or old, of any race or religion. Terrorists have been called “extremists”, patriots, “freedom fighters”, “religious zealots”, and “environmentalists”. The one thing they have in common is a strong belief in a cause and a willingness to maim and kill to influence your opinion. Often they share the same basic beliefs held by a larger group, they just take those beliefs to the extreme.

A terrorist can be a person from another country who disagrees with or feels threatened by the “American Way”. Terrorists can be the college kids from the next town who do not believe in animal research. A terrorist can be someone from your church group who believes the only way to stop abortion is by bombing the clinic. A terrorist can be a veteran who believes his government has gone wrong. *Terrorism is a behavior that can be adopted by anyone.* It may be difficult to identify, but not impossible to defeat.

What a terrorist needs to succeed:

- Access to information, resources and their targets of choice
- A place to operate undetected
- A support network, local or foreign
- An unbelievable commitment to achieving his goals, possibly including dying

Terror can be rendered ineffective, discovered and stopped by denying any of the above elements.

What can you do to confront terrorism?

There are international, as well as domestic criminal terrorists living and operating in the United States. What can you do to help our authorities stop terrorism?

Be prepared for any emergency:

- Prepare your family, home and office; refer to the Red Cross guidelines
- Take first aid or CPR training
- Establish and exercise neighborhood Crime Watch teams
- Be involved with your community
- Practice and teach your children patience, patriotism, and tolerance
- Meet with your local response teams and learn their procedures
- Know how to get help *anywhere*

Know and be alert to your surroundings:

- Don't give a terrorist a place to hide
- Look for what appears to be out of place
- **Get to know your neighbors**
- Report suspicious acts and behaviors

Act responsibly:

- Be responsible for your attitudes and behaviors toward others
- Be committed to confronting terrorism
- Encourage, comfort and help others
- Pray against evil and for wise leadership and justice and peace
- Live with purpose and not in FEAR
- Celebrate FREEDOM
- **CHOOSE TO BE EMPOWERED**

How can you prepare for a potential terrorist event?

You can prepare yourself and your family as you would for any emergency. You should have an emergency plan and kit. Sit down with your family and plan what to do in an emergency, a location to meet or call to check in with each other. Have emergency supplies set aside to sustain your family for at least 72 hours until help can arrive.

Prepare identification kits in advance. In the case of a catastrophic event, you may need to help the emergency personnel identify a family member. Having a recent photo, good description, blood type, dental records, sample of hair and fingernail clippings and even a copy of fingerprints could be essential in identifying your loved ones if the need arises.

The American Red Cross has published numerous brochures and checklists on how to prepare for various disasters; other information can also be found on their website.

What should I avoid?

- Over reacting to situations, irrational behaviors
- Falsely accusing or concluding
- Applying generalizations or identifying fault based on culture, race etc.
- Taking matters into your own hands when professional assistance is available
- Dwelling on past events to the extent your fear becomes your master

Avoid becoming an UGLY AMERICAN, honor our values and respect others rights.

Where can you get help?

For more information on terrorism, contact or go online for a variety of publications from the agencies below:

Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency: (205) 349-0150
<http://www.tuscoema.org>

Alabama Emergency Management Agency <http://www.st.aema.al.us>

Center for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/>

American Red Cross
<http://www.redcross.org/pubs>

Federal Emergency Management Agency <http://www.fema.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation
<http://www.fbi.gov/> (205) 758-4277

Tuscaloosa Police Dept.
(205) 349-2121 Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Tuscaloosa County Sheriff
<http://www.tucsoal.org>
(205) 752-0616 Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Northport Police Department
(205) 339-6600 Emergency Dial 9-1-1

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CONFRONTING TERRORISM --A Civil Response--

A personal guide to building stronger, more resilient communities, together.

- *What is Terrorism?*
- *What does a terrorist look like?*
- *How does a terrorist succeed?*
- *What can I do?*
- *What should I avoid?*
- *Where can I get help?*
- *When can WE get started?*



**Working Together To
Restore Confidence
and Dispel Fear!**