

[INSERT YEAR] STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

# SCENARIO SUMMARY – [TERRORISM]

**How To Use This Document:** *This scenario is intended as a “95% solution,” with local planners customizing the scenario to their objectives and the unique hazards of their environment. This document is meant to be a tool that facilitates the exercise of the capabilities identified in the Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE) Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan (MYTEP), and the objectives identified each year. Local exercise planners* ***are not required*** *to use the scenario suggested here, but are strongly encouraged to ensure local exercise objectives are confirmed prior to customizing this document.*

*If using this scenario, exercise planners should use the customizable features of the scenario to indicate the facilities affected and the number of fatalities and injuries. All components of the scenario are optional. Each jurisdiction/agency/organization is encouraged to examine likely threats and hazards in their area and adjust the numbers, locations, and details accordingly.*

*Bracketed text (e.g., [your jurisdiction]) and/or text in gray highlight is provided to aid with location-specific customization. All times are approximate and can be adjusted as needed. This scenario information will be reflected in the Situation Manual to prompt discussion questions based on the objectives, as well as in the Master Scenario Events List to prompt response among law enforcement, fire, public health, emergency medical services, healthcare, and other stakeholders. For the functional exercise, it is recommended that exercise planners leverage the Master Scenario Events List in addition to this document.*

## SCENARIO

**Part I: Determine the locations and scale of each incident by filling in the following:**

| **Instructions** | **Fill In** |
| --- | --- |
| 1. **Your city and/or jurisdiction** |  |
| 1. **The location of the first incident**   **(Recommendation: a public venue or space where a crowd may gather, e.g. farmers market, public square, religious gathering place)** |  |
| 1. **The location of the second incident**   **(Recommendation: a local K – 12 school)** |  |
| 1. **The location of the third incident**   **(Recommendation: a local healthcare facility)** |  |
| 1. **A public health or healthcare facility**   **(Recommendation: a local long term care or assisted living facility, ideally near the location selected for [C] above)** |  |
| 1. **A local hospital, not directly impacted by an incident that would potentially receive patients** |  |

***\*Note*** *– you may use your own facility as the location of one of the incidents in Part II. This determination should be based on the objectives chosen for your exercise (for example, lockdown and/or patient evacuation versus patient movement/receipt, medical surge, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indicates an area for exercise planners to insert a name, number, or supporting detail that would further customize the narrative for your local jurisdiction.*

**Part II: Insert your answers to Part I in gray, bolded, bracketed areas as appropriate. Use the Pre-Incident Information below to determine procedures and protocols leading up to your tabletop and/or functional exercise(s), such as intelligence sharing and increased security.**

## PRE-INCIDENT INFORMATION

*[September]*

* There were a series of Twitter posts referencing the “coming judgment upon the American people in **(A).”**
* All were posted between [September 22] and [September 23], and were quickly deleted.
* The Joint Terrorism Task Force associated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Field Office near **(A)** received some intelligence near the end of [September] suggesting that there are preparations to conduct a Paris-style attack in early [October] somewhere near **(A).**
* This intelligence led to the arrest of a 23-year-old male suspect, who was found with both ammunitions and explosives in his apartment, as well as a police scanner app on his phone.

*[October]*

* On [October 17], a 24-year-old male opens fire at a local community clinic. The shooter has a semi-automatic rifle and manages to mortally wound two people and critically injure five others before law enforcement appears on-scene. The shooter commits suicide before being apprehended. The victims are taken to **(D).** It is later determined by the FBI that this may have been an intelligence-gathering mission, meant to determine the response times and protocols for a potential future attack.
* On [October 28], a homeless man informs law enforcement that he saw a group of people in white vans meeting under a freeway overpass for the past few nights.

*[November]*

* [Optional pre-incident EOC/DOC activation:] In the investigations made by the FBI and law enforcement, there was some indication of a potential attack or incident occurring on [insert date of exercise]. Law enforcement has coordinated with local emergency management and county agencies to activate Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) / Department Operations Centers (DOC) and place first responders on high alert.
* [Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]

**Tip: Scaling the Scenario for Rural/Suburban/Urban Areas**

* Rural Jurisdictions: If a complex, coordinated terrorist-driven or multi-site incident is not determined to be a relevant risk for your area, please note that the scenario can easily be altered to workplace violence-related, rather than terrorist-driven. You can also limit the number of sites, focusing on one or two rather than three or four.
* Suburban Jurisdictions: A key piece of this scenario is the crossing of jurisdictional lines. If your area does not determine a complex, coordinated terrorist-driven incident to be a relevant risk, consider your jurisdictions’ response should the event occur in a nearby urban area. How might it cross into your jurisdiction? Would the public potentially be “fleeing” to less populated areas?
* Urban Jurisdictions: Consider the geography and infrastructure involved in a multi-site attack in your area. How would transportation corridors be affected? How would your ability to get resources to the sites be affected? Tailor the scenario to test these particular elements for your city.
* All: Intelligence/information sharing with federal and state partners such as the FBI may be particularly important for these scenarios, since they are often the lead agency. Tailor the scenario, particularly the pre-incident information, to align with the information-sharing procedures followed by your nearest local Field Office and/or Joint Terrorism Task Force.

## DAY OF THE INCIDENT: [INSERT DATE OF PLAY]

**[INSERT TIME] – First Incident**

* A local event, \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_, is being held at (**B**). Many people begin to arrive for the event, slated to begin in 45 minutes.
* A white van drives up to the area, with a logo for “Class 21 Catering.” A security guard approaches the van to redirect him. The van surges forward, striking and fatally wounding the security guard. It continues to accelerate, launching into the crowd of bystanders before hitting the wall of a building. Witnesses describe seeing a man in his early 20’s jump out of the driver’s seat and running [east] alongside the main thoroughfare.
* Local law enforcement arrive on-scene within six minutes and immediately begin cordoning off the area, setting up a perimeter, interviewing witnesses, and conducting a search for the driver.
* Initial estimates: \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Injuries \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Fatalities \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Psychological Impact[[1]](#footnote-2)

**[100 MINUTES POST INCIDENT #1] – Second Incident**

* A male and a female in their 20’s enter a local school, **(C),** following one of the parents into the building. They walk into the main entrance posing as concerned parents looking for a lost child. Shortly after, the two suspects pull automatic weapons from a black backpack and begin firing on staff and students in the hallways.
* The school’s security cameras capture the entire incident. While a few classrooms are able to lockdown in time, the shooters are able to enter several other classrooms, fatally wounding additional students and staff.
* Local law enforcement arrive on scene within seven minutes and establish Incident Command. They are unable to find the shooters on campus. After review of security camera footage, it is believed they escaped into the residential neighborhood behind the school. The **(E)** [long-term care / assisted living] facility is located directly behind the school and is put on lockdown by local law enforcement. A perimeter is established, and a search for the suspects begins. The school is located near the county line, and neighboring jurisdictional authorities are involved in the search.
* Initial estimates: \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Injuries, \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ Fatalities\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Psychological Impact

**[20 MINUTES POST INCIDENT #2] – Traffic Incident**

* A black van heading [south] on a local freeway collides with a cargo truck in the left lane, causing a multi-car pileup. Several witnesses observed the driver of the black van exiting and running away from the vehicle. Traffic comes to a standstill.

**[30 MINUTES POST TRAFFIC INCIDENT] – Third Incident**

* A small white van drives up to the loading dock of local healthcare facility, (**D**). This is the same healthcare facility that received many of the victims from the first and second incidents. The van sports a false logo for “MedReady Linen Services” and the driver is dressed in a nondescript brown uniform (as witnesses later report).
* Shortly after, an explosion rocks the entire right side of (**D)** where the loading dock was located. Multiple wings are affected, and some areas of the building collapse. There are staff and [patients/residents] trapped underneath the rubble. Others flee from the main entrance on the other side of the facility.
* Initial estimates: \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Injuries, \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Fatalities\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Psychological Impact

## INCIDENT UPDATE & RECOVERY

**[FOUR HOURS POST INCIDENT #1]**

* Law enforcement locate the male and female suspects hiding in an abandoned warehouse across county lines. A shootout ensues, mortally wounding one police officer and injuring three others. Both shooters are apprehended, alive but wounded. They are sent to another local hospital, **(F),** for treatment.
* The [school] served a large population of students with access and functional needs, and individuals with intellectual disabilities. These students require particular attention and consideration in response efforts. All incident site responses need to incorporate whole community planning.
* Local press outlets obtain the security camera footage from the [school], and are depicting graphic video footage of the mass casualties from the active shooter incident at **(C)**.
* The traffic incident that occurred was deemed unrelated to the other incidents.
* The driver from the first incident is apprehended by local law enforcement, after receiving an anonymous tip of a person matching his description hiding out in a local park.
* An international terrorist organization claims credit for the attack, posting on social media congratulations to their “esteemed warriors in **(A).”**
* All incident sites are flooded with bystanders and family members looking for their loved ones. Many of the event attendees at **(B)** are tourists who are not native English-speakers. Their family members require interpretive services. They are anxious for information.
* The explosion at the hospital has now, in total, XXX injuries and XXX fatalities. Search and Rescue teams are still working to extract victims from the rubble. There are many family members flooding local hotlines asking for information about loved ones who either worked or were treated at the hospital. There are requests for more Search and Rescue teams to be brought in.
* The hotlines established by the county are flooded with phone calls from members of the public seeking information, resources, or just someone to talk to about the incidents.
* There are questions about whether or not schools will be closed over the next few days.
* Staff at **(F)**, in the Command and Operations Centers, and first responders in the area are deeply affected by the events. Some are showing signs of exhaustion, while others are quiet and isolated. Some are showing signs of stress. There is a need for additional mental and behavioral support. Some staff/responders had family members or friends involved in the incidents.
* There are concerns about those with pre-existing disorders, acute syndromes, or behavioral health conditions, with a potential worsening due to the trauma of these events.
* Conversely, medical personnel, law enforcement, and first responders from other healthcare facilities and jurisdictions have flooded the area with offers of volunteering and donations. It is unclear who is managing volunteers and donations.
* [Add any additional details relevant to your jurisdiction/agency/facility’s exercise]
* Totals: \_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Injuries, \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ Fatalities\_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_Psychological Impact

**Tip: Estimating Psychological Impact**

* Use an appropriate mental health triage system
* Apply metrics from other incidents (e.g. there is data available on psychological impacts from other incidents, such as 9/11, which can be applied to your population)
* Work with local behavioral health services and volunteers to approximate for each incident based on the characteristics of your community

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

* “Active Shooter Planning and Response: Learn How to Survive a Shooting Event in a Healthcare Setting.” Department of Homeland Security, Healthcare & Public Health Sector Coordinating Council and the International Association of Emergency Medical Services Chiefs. 2017. <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/preparedness-planning/_documents/active-shooter.pdf>
* Braziel, Straub, et al. “Bringing Calm to Chaos – A critical incident review of the San Bernardino public safety response to the December 2, 2015 terrorist shooting incident at the Inland Regional Center.” Critical Response Initiative, 2016. <https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-w0808-pub>
* “Family Information Center Planning Guide for Healthcare Entities.” Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Services Agency. 2013.

<http://dhs.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dhs/ems/disastermedicalservices/fic>

* “First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in Improvised Explosive Device and/or Active Shooter Incidents.” Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs, 2015. [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/First Responder Guidance June 2015 FINAL 2.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/First%20Responder%20Guidance%20June%202015%20FINAL%202.pdf)
* Hick, Hanfling, et al. “Health and Medical Response to Active Shooter and Bombing Events.” National Academy of Sciences Discussion Paper, 2016. <https://nam.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Health-and-Medical-Response-to-Active-Shooter-and-Bombing-Events.pdf>
* “Incorporating Active Shooter Incident Planning into Health Care Facility Emergency Operations Plans.” U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 2014.
* “The Role of Public Health in Terrorism and Active Shooter Preparedness and Response.” National Association of County & City Health Officials. 2016. <http://nacchopreparedness.org/the-role-of-public-health-in-terrorism-and-active-shooter-preparedness-and-response/>

***Video Resources[[2]](#footnote-3)***

* “Three Days of Terror - Paris Attacks Special Report.” BBC Special Report. Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BerGOnVrboc>
* ABC News. “Video Shows the Moment Truck Barreled into the Christmas Market in Berlin.” December 22, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOeO6Cw_n4M>
* Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. “Surviving an Active Shooter.” March, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFQ-oxhdFjE>
* ABC News. “Boston Marathon Explosions: Two Bombs Near Finish Line.” April 16, 2013. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dupw2pH3oes>
* ABC News. “San Bernardino Shooting Suspects’ Violent Standoff with Police.” Dec 3, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJVrMo4ynzs>
* WFLA News Channel 8. “Orlando Officials Open Family Assistance Center for Victims.” June 15, 2016. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb5MFHEgso4>

1. . We encourage local exercise planners to include estimates of the mental health impact of these events. This can be based on mental health triage systems, past incidents, or utilizing a basic algorithm, such as multiplying every fatality by an average number of family members. The objective is to begin planning for a large psychological impact. See page four for more information. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. . Please note that these links may no longer be active once these documents are released or downloaded. We cannot guarantee the availability of these videos. If a link does not work, we recommend searching for similar clips online using the key terms found in the video titles. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)