



FACT SHEET: DEALING WITH TERRORISM

LEARN -> [Guidelines for a Safe School](#)

BEFORE

Learn about the nature of terrorism.

- [Terrorists](#) look for visible targets where they can avoid detection before or after an attack.
- Terrorists look for still, non-moving and/or easy targets.
- [Terrorists](#) look to disrupt and [inflict terror](#).
- [Terrorists](#) look to control and disturb our normal lives, all the while attempting to build themselves up.

Prepare to deal with a terrorist incident by adapting many of the same techniques used to prepare for other crises.

- Conduct a Professional "[School Site Safety Survey](#)" to determine hazards or safety concerns.
- Be alert and aware of the surrounding area. The very nature of terrorism suggests that there may be little or no warning.
- Take precautions when traveling. Be aware of conspicuous or unusual behavior. Like:
 - Individuals carrying strange items or weapons in inappropriate places
 - Notes placed in strange places.
 - Vehicles sitting in one place for long periods of time.
- Learn in advance who to call and what to do if you notice an unusual person or situation.
- Notice your immediate surroundings and write down what you have noticed or seen so as not to forget details.

SCHOOLS SHOULD BE PREPARED

School should be prepared to safeguard students and prepared at times to maintain students in extended lockdowns.

- Have an up-to-date and comprehensive "[Crisis Response Action Plan](#)" and "[Response Team](#)".
- Review emergency evacuation procedures. Know where fire exits are located.
- Evaluate and review your first aid trained staff. Contact the local chapter of the American Red Cross for additional information.
- Help develop "Community Watches" or "[Community Action Organizations](#)".
- Keep the following items in a designated place on each floor of the building.
 - [Shelter-in-Place Kits](#) providing needed items when in lockdown.
 - First aid kit and manual

AFTER

Schools and parents should remain calm for their students and children. Items that we can do are:

- Set aside time to do some physical relaxation, if possible in the class.
- Stick to your daily routine as much as possible. At times of crisis a familiar pattern of a regular school day can bring a sense of order.
- If needed consult a counselor or family doctor, if they need additional help. A Counselor or Doctor can clearly understand a student's problem of [fear](#).
- Link up with community resources to help children/students cope (e.g. ministers, social workers, community nurses, crisis centers and church organizations).
- **Keep this in perspective:** a large number of students are killed in car accidents...we don't instill fear about car riding. We educate on how to take precautions and navigate the dangers; we don't stop driving/riding in cars.

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