

A large, iconic mushroom cloud from a nuclear explosion, with a bright orange and yellow core and a dark, billowing top, set against a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a rocky, desolate landscape with some distant hills.

Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Operations Plan

- Provides a framework for an organized, predictable, and deliberate response to the events and demands associated with caring for victims of disasters.
- A disaster is any unplanned event that can cause
 - Death or serious injury to patients, staff, or the public
 - Operation disruption or hospital shutdown
 - Physical or environmental damage
 - University Health Conway's financial or public standing to be threatened
- Disasters can consist of internal or external disasters, acts of terrorism, or natural disasters.

Emergency Operations Plan - Overview

- The emergency operations plan addresses
 - Mitigation
 - Preparedness
 - Response
 - Recovery activities
- The Command Center for the University Health Conway emergency response and management will be located in the Hospital Board Room.
- Employees should review the emergency operations plan and departmental policies to understand their role in an emergency.

Emergency Operations Plan - Overview

General response procedures:

- A Code Yellow or disaster plan announcement will be made.
- Remain in your work area and follow supervisor instructions.
- If not in your work area, return immediately.
- If at home, report to work normally unless called in earlier.
- Have proper identification (i.e., University Health Conway ID badge).
- Report to your work area. If not needed, report to the labor pool.

Emergency Codes

- **Code Blue – Medical Emergency**
- **Code Black – Bomb Threat**
- **Code Gray – Severe Weather**
- **Code Orange – Hazardous Chemicals**
- **Code Pink – Infant/Child Abduction**
- **Code Red – Fire**
- **Code White – Security Alert/Hostage**
- **Code Yellow – Disaster/Mass Destruction**

Natural Disaster – Tornado Information

- **Signs of an approaching tornado include:**
 - **A dark, often greenish sky**
 - **Large hail**
 - **A loud roar similar to a freight train**
- **Know the difference:**
 - **Tornado Watch – conditions are favorable for a tornado.**
 - **Tornado Warning – a tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar.**
- **A tornado can develop so rapidly that advance warning is not possible.**

Natural Disaster – Tornado Information

- **A Code Gray announcement will be made.**
- **Staff, ambulatory patients, and visitors should:**
 - **Move to an enclosed, windowless area. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside.**
 - **Stay off elevators.**
 - **Cover your head and neck with a blanket, table, or your arms.**
- **Non-ambulatory patient rooms shall be secured by:**
 - **Pulling drapes and/or lowering window shades to protect patients from flying glass.**
 - **Moving patients as far as possible from windows.**

Acts of Terrorism

- Since Sept. 11, 2001, healthcare organizations must prepare for terrorist incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).
- WMD's are weapons that are capable of high order destruction and/or of being used in such a manner as to destroy large numbers of people. Examples include:
 - Chemical weapons
 - Biological weapons
 - Radiological weapons



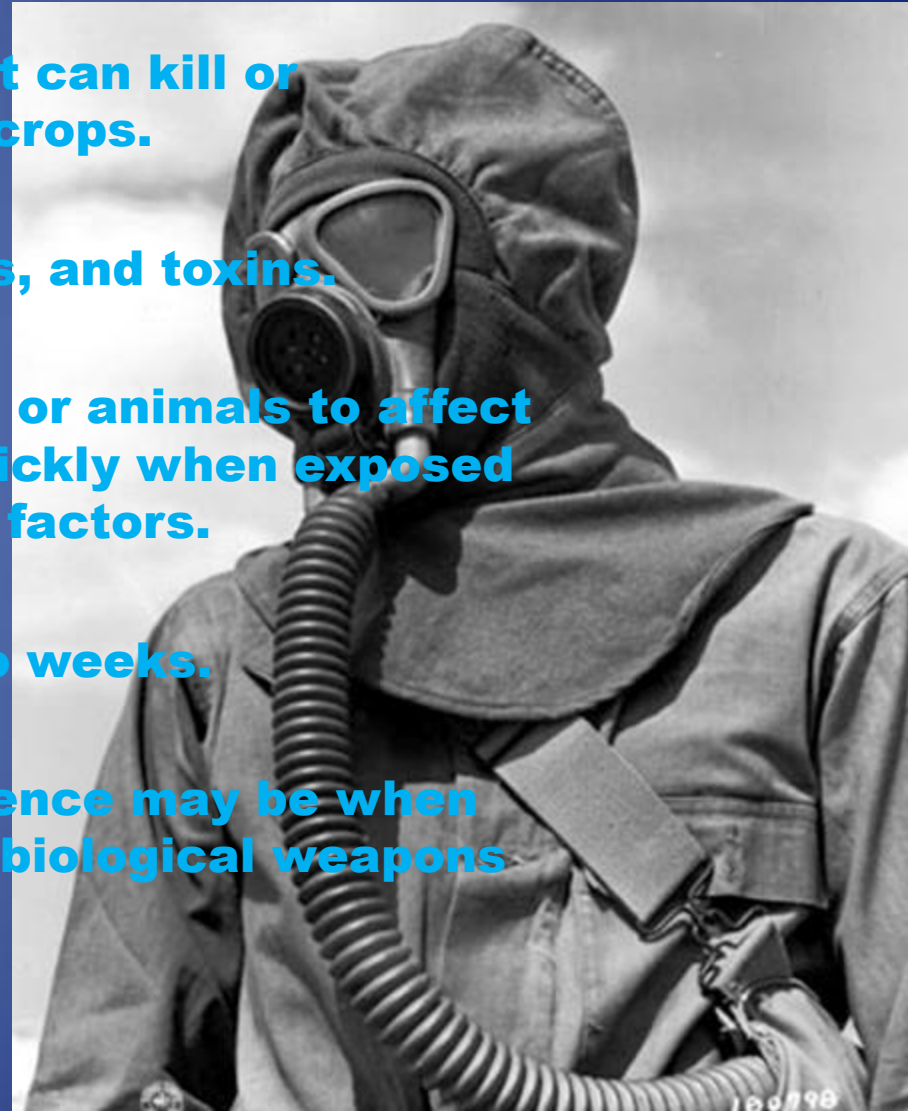
Acts of Terrorism – Chemical Weapons

- Consist of vapors, aerosols, liquids, and solids that have toxic effects on people, animals, or plants.
- Examples include cyanide, nerve agents, and incapacitating agents.
- Dispersed through air, water, and physical contact. Potentially lethal but difficult to deliver in lethal concentrations.
- Symptoms are displayed immediately (seconds to minutes) or delayed (hours to days).
- Post delivery signatures could include colored residue; dead plant, insect, animal or human life; or pungent odor.



Acts of Terrorism – Biological Weapons

- **Consist of organisms or toxins that can kill or incapacitate people, livestock, or crops.**
- **Examples include bacteria, viruses, and toxins.**
- **Dispersed through air, water, food, or animals to affect a large population. Breakdown quickly when exposed to sunlight or other environmental factors.**
- **Symptoms are displayed in days to weeks.**
- **If no evidence of attack, first evidence may be when symptoms of a disease caused by biological weapons are noted.**



Acts of Terrorism – Radiological Weapons

- **Consist of a combination of explosives and radioactive material designed to scatter dangerous and sub-lethal radioactive material over a general area.**
- **Non-weapons grade radiological materials are widely used and readily available in medicine, agriculture, industry, and research.**
- **In most cases, immediate death and injures result from the explosion. Low-level exposure to contamination could slightly increase the long-term risk of cancer.**
- **Post delivery signatures include physical destruction from explosion. Radiological contamination could be unknown until symptoms are displayed or testing is conducted.**

Protection

- If you see anything unusual, such as liquids leaking from a bag or spraying device:
 1. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth or damp towel.
 2. Take short, shallow breaths and leave the area immediately.
- If you think you may have been contaminated:
 1. Remove your outer layer of clothing.
 2. Wash your face, hands, and any part of your body not covered with clothing. Use soap and lots of water.
 3. Contact the Safety Office and report as much detail as possible.



For More Information

- **Read the Hospital Safety Manual located online, in your department, or at the Safety Office.**
- **Familiarize yourself with departmental or unit policies and procedures.**
- **Contact the Safety Office at ext. 7489 or Ancillary Director at ext 7576.**

