

# CERT

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

### *BRECKSVILLE – BROADVIEW HEIGHTS*

General Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/17/2011

Time: 7:00pm-7:45pm

Location: Brecksville Community Center

The meeting was a presentation on Citizen Awareness and Domestic Terrorism by Ken Werstak, Special Agent, WMD Coordinator for the FBI. General announcement were also given by Leslie Lesinski.

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#### **A. General Announcements**

1. Welcome--Leslie welcomed CERT members from neighboring communities and members of the Fire Department.
2. March Meeting--The March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting will be on Mitigation Assessment and Reporting. CERT will be utilized to meet a new requirement for cities to report damage to homes and businesses to the state within a very short time frame of a disaster event. This meeting will be a two hour training session.
3. Upcoming Drill—A drill is being planned for Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Preparedness Statistics—43% of Americans have no supplies in their home for emergencies. Fairport Harbor failed to contact 1/3 of citizens during the recent gas explosion due to the system not being able to contact cell phones.
5. Cleveland Council on World Affairs—Leslie was one of only two CERT representatives that were invited to attend a roundtable discussion on Pandemic Planning. The roundtable was attended by an international contingent. A large part of the discussion centered on the POD events that we were involved in. The group was very impressed with the POD that took place at the vocational school where we were able to inoculate 1,000 people/hour.

## **B. Domestic Terrorism and Citizen Awareness—Ken Werstak, WMD Coordinator, FBI**

1. There are two categories of terrorism, International and Domestic. Domestic events are those that occur on U.S. soil. Citizens need to be aware of unusual situation and report them to the authorities. Remember, if you see something, say something.
2. The type of events that can occur may involve chemicals, biological agents, radiation or nuclear. The lowest threat is with nuclear agents and highest with explosives.
3. Explosive devices can be created from commonly obtained chemicals. The Oklahoma City bombing was accomplished with a home made bomb referred to as ANFO, ammonium nitrate and fuel oil. Abnormally high purchases of chemicals considered oxidizers should be reported to the authorities. These include Triacetone triperoxide, ammonium nitrate, hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid, hydrochloric acid, hexamine tablets and urea nitrate. Household chemicals may also be used to create explosive devices including cold packs (ammonium nitrate), matches (potassium chlorate) and stump remover (salt peter). Industrial chemicals that may also be used include pesticides, fertilizer, arsenic, cyanide, acids and bases. One of the biggest problems to the FBI is the easy availability of directions on how to create these explosive devices on the internet.
4. The possibility of nuclear or radiologic events are monitored at large gatherings such as sporting events by agents with radiation detectors.
5. Targets that are considered vulnerable for attack are subways, military bases and natural gas facilities.
6. The FBI has 56 field offices in the U.S. with 400 resident agency offices. The Joint Terrorism Task Force shares information with other agencies. The mission is to be on the front lines investigating threats immediately and coordinating a response. Threat assessment of individuals involves the following aspects:
  - Technical feasibility—what do they have at their disposal
  - Behavioral resolve—how do they act
  - Operational practicality—what are they doing
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7. The biggest domestic threat today is from the individual identified as a “lone wolf”. This individual is someone who acts alone in carrying out an act of terrorism. The following 7 signs may indicate that an individual is involved in suspicious activity:

- 1.) Surveillance—watching the target, drawing diagrams/floor plans
- 2.) Suspicious questions—asking questions about facilities, buildings or businesses
- 3.) Testing security—driving in or entering barriers that are off limits
- 4.) Acquiring supplies—purchasing large quantities of suspicious items or stealing supplies
- 5.) Suspicious person--being where they are not allowed
- 6.) Dry runs—mapping routes by doing trial runs
- 7.) Deploying assets—placing equipment or supplies at the site

8. Citizens need to get involved to help recognize threats, if you see something unusual report it to the Police, Fire or FBI. Help increase your awareness by attending FBI workshops, CERT meetings and by visiting the Department of Homeland Security web site where suspicious activity can also be reported.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Sue Schindler*

Cc: E.Egut, J. Hajek, C. Jatsek, P. Koss