

Homeland Security Planning Scenarios and Summary Descriptions

Threat	Description Summary	Projected Consequences
Nuclear Denotation	Terrorists detonate a 10-kiloton nuclear device in a large city	450,000 or more evacuees; 3,000 square miles contaminated; hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impact
Biological Attack	Terrorists spray anthrax spores in a city using a concealed spray device	13,000 fatalities and injuries; extensive contamination; billions of dollars in economic impact
Biological Disease Outbreak – Pandemic Influenza	Natural outbreak of pandemic influenza that begins in China and spreads to other countries	87,000 fatalities; 300,000 hospitalizations; \$70 to \$160 billion impact
Biological Attack – Plague	Terrorists release pneumonic plague into three areas of a large city	2,500 fatalities; 7,000 injuries; millions of dollars in economic impact; possible evacuations
Chemical Attack – Blister Agent	Terrorists spray a combination of blister agents into a crowded football stadium	150 fatalities; 70,000 hospitalized; more than 100,000 persons evacuated; \$500 million in economic impact
Chemical Attack – Toxic Industrial Chemicals	Terrorists use grenades and explosive devices at petroleum facilities	350 fatalities; 1,000 hospitalizations; 50% of facility damaged; up to 700,000 persons evacuated
Chemical Attack – Nerve Agent	Terrorists spray Sarin into the ventilation system of three commercial buildings in a city	6,000 fatalities in buildings, 350 injuries downwind; evacuations of unknown number of people; \$300 million in economic impact
Chemical Attack – Chlorine Tank Explosion	Terrorists use explosives to release a large quantity of chlorine gas	17,500 fatalities; 100,000 hospitalizations; up to 70,000 persons evacuated; contamination at sight and waterways
Natural Disaster – Major Earthquake	7.2 magnitude earthquake occurs in a major metropolitan area	1,400 fatalities, 100,000 hospitalizations; 150,000 buildings destroyed; hundreds of billions of dollars in economic impact
Natural Disaster – Major Hurricane	Category 5 hurricane strikes a major city	1,000 fatalities, 5,000 hospitalizations; 1 million people evacuated; millions of dollars in economic impact
Radiological Attack – Radiological Dispersal Device	Terrorists detonate “dirty bombs” in three cities in close proximity	180 fatalities, 20,000 detectible contaminations in each city; billions of dollars in economic impact
Explosives Attack – Bombing Using Improvised Explosive Device	Terrorists detonate IEDs in a sports arena, use suicide bombers in a public transit concourse, and in a parking facility	100 fatalities, 450 hospitalizations; local economic impact; minimal evacuations
Biological Attack – Food Contamination	Terrorists contaminate food with anthrax in processing facilities	300 fatalities, 400 hospitalizations; million of dollars in economic impact
Biological Attack – Foreign Animal Disease (FAD, Foot & Mouth Disease)	Terrorists infect livestock at specific locations	No casualties; huge loss of livestock; hundreds of millions of dollars in economic impact
Cyber Attack	Terrorists conduct cyber attacks on US financial infrastructure	No casualties; millions of dollars in economic impact

Source: Keith Bea, “The National Preparedness System: Issues in the 109th Congress,” CRS Report for Congress, March 10, 2005.