

County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
Emergency Medical Services Agency
Disaster Medical Services

Disaster Training Unit Course Description

Topic: Homicide Bombings: EMS and Hospital Preparation for the Effects of Explosive Blasts

Course Hours: 1

Course Description: This course covers the effects of terrorist homicide bombings. A graphic review of the mechanisms of explosive blasts including overpressure, blast winds, thermal effects and the injuries that may result from each mechanism. Included in this lecture are the techniques for managing the scene at the site of explosion and information about the long term effects of terrorist bombings such as the psychological consequences that occur to both victims and rescuers.

Target Audience: Physicians, Nurses, Paramedics, Safety and Security staff, Disaster staff and Public Information Officers.

Objectives: At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to:

- Define “terrorist bomb”.
 - Compare and contrast between a terrorist blast and an accidental explosion.
 - State the three types of bomb designs used by terrorist.
 - State two mechanisms unique to explosive blasts that lead to injuries.
 - Identify two factors that affect the type and number of injuries.
 - Describe the pathophysiological mechanisms that lead to “blast lung.”
 - Describe how blast overpressure can result in bowel rupture and rupture tympanic membranes.
 - Describe mechanism used by terrorists to increase penetrating trauma.
 - Describe how blast forces result in amputation injuries.
 - State the number one medical management concern of a terrorist explosion.
 - State the most important factor to be used to guide all operations at the scene of a terrorist bombing.
 - Describe one non-physical pathology that can result from being involved with a terrorist bombing.
 - Describe the mechanisms that society has used to recover after a terrorist bombing.
 - State why terrorists use a suicidal approach when making a bombing attack.
 - State one effective method for preventing a suicide bomb attack.
-