

Hazard Risk Analysis

Terrorism

Terrorism - General
Terrorism - Biological
Terrorism - Chemical
Terrorism - Cyber Terrorism
Terrorism - Explosives and Bombs
Terrorism - Nuclear

Terrorism

This section discusses a number of potential types of outside terrorist attacks that could threaten that could threaten a community. It is not possible to conceive of every possible terrorist attack that could occur on Canadian soil; however, there are some general questions that should allow you to determine whether or not further research is needed to determine the risk of terrorism in your community. Assessing the risk of terrorism should always be done in conjunction with the local RCMP.

Definition

Terrorism is considered to be a hostile act by an individual or group of people, committed against a governing authority and designed to exercise the systematic use of terror (violence, mass destruction to civilian lives, damage to important structures, etc.), especially as a means of coercion. It is important to note that terrorism is different from other conventional forms of violence and is not the same as riots or conflictual social action (refer to the documents in other sections) – terrorist attacks are meant to intimidate the general public of a country, region, or large area, and not just governments, in order to achieve a political, religious or ideological purpose.

Discussion

Terrorism can include a number of different types of actions. Most common are bomb threats, or the actual blowing up of a structure or site with a bomb; sabotage to a building or structure; and kidnapping or hostage situations.

Since 9/11 there have been increased concerns of terrorist activities in Canada from internationally-based groups. Of concern are bio-chemical attacks (e.g., use of anthrax or sarin gas), radiation or nuclear attacks (e.g., dirty bombs), and food and water contamination. Increasingly there are concerns regarding cyber-terrorism and the ability to infiltrate major

computer servers and corrupt data bases and financial transactions. Cyber crime and the criminal and terrorist use of information technology are significant issues for law enforcement.

A sophisticated information infrastructure, a large pool of potential hackers within the country, and heavy reliance on computer-based CI are all factors in making computer-based crime a serious threat to Canada.

However, currently the various departments and agencies of the federal government are working to collect, collate, analyze, and synthesize information available on who potential terrorist actors might be, their actual and potential capabilities, intended targets, and recorded attempts to penetrate or attack assets or systems.

It Happened Here...

On May 20, 2020, a Toronto teenager became the first Canadian ever charged with carrying out an “incel”-inspired terror attack. Incel, short for “involuntarily celibate,” is an online subculture focused on members’ perceived inability to find romantic or sexual partners. The suspect had already been charged with murder shortly after the incident, which took place at an erotic massage parlour, two other people, a man and a woman, were found outside the premises with stab wounds.

On January 29, 2017, six men were killed and others injured after a shooting at a Quebec City mosque. Alexandre Bissonnette, 27, was charged with six counts of first-degree murder and five counts of attempted murder using a restricted firearm. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard both called the shooting a terrorist attack.

On August, 2016, police shot and killed terror suspect Aaron Driver in Strathroy, Ontario, after he made a video that suggested he was planning to detonate a homemade bomb in a Canadian city during morning or afternoon rush hour. Driver detonated an explosive device in a taxi cab before police killed him.

On October 22, 2014, Parliament Hill security and police shot and kill Michael Zehaf-Bibeau after he killed Canadian soldier Cpl. Nathan Cirillo at the National War Memorial and then stormed the Parliament Buildings.

In the summer of 2006, police carried out a massive anti-terrorism sweep in southern Ontario and arrested 17 people. One terrorism plot was to bomb the Toronto Stock Exchange and other prominent buildings. The other plot was “the attempt to create a large al-Qaeda type cell in Toronto — to arm themselves with weapons, and then to create some sort of mayhem that would scare the Canadian public into withdrawing troops from Afghanistan.”

Terrorism- General - Human-caused

Hazard Rating				High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have there been previous terrorist attacks in or near your community?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Terrorists generally target specific locations. Are there potential targets in your community such as: strategic military or government facilities; airports or airfields; high profile landmarks; or religious institutions?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other potential terrorist targets may include infrastructure related or controversial resource developments. Are there major developments such as transportation corridors, power lines, hydroelectric dams, or oil and gas pipelines through or near your community?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are foreign terrorist organizations operating in Canada. Is there a lack of communication with the RCMP in regards to whether or not there are known terrorists are located in your community?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The RCMP is developing an intervention program that mobilizes community resources and local law enforcement to recognize and address individuals at risk of becoming radicalized to violence. Is there a lack of communication with the RCMP in regards to whether there are individuals at risk of becoming radicalized to violence?							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The likelihood of violence is associated with anti-authority activists from groups such as the Freeman-on-the-Land, Sovereign Citizens, and similar movements within Canada. Does your community have a number of known members of these types of movements living in your community and/or hosting regular meetings of these groups?							

ASSESS THE RISK FOR THE REMAINING TERRORISM HAZARDS ONLY IF YOUR COMMUNITY IS AT RISK OF TERRORISM.

Terrorism - Biological - Human-caused

Hazard Rating		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological terrorist attacks may occur through the use of bacteria, viruses, or toxins. Are there laboratories or other facilities that use bacteria, virus, or toxins in or near to your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are biologically dangerous materials used in, stored in, or transported through your community?					

Terrorism – Chemical - Human-caused

Hazard Rating		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are dangerous chemicals used, stored, or transported through your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are chemical refineries or chemical plants located in or near your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there laboratories or other facilities that use dangerous chemicals located in or near your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain chemicals may be combined to create dangerous chemical compounds. Are chemicals that may be used in agriculture, industry, or at recreational facilities improperly stored?					

Terrorism – Cyberterrorism - Human-caused

Hazard Rating		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Internet security is growing problem around the world. Does your community lack high-level security protocols and strong database protection systems in place?					

Terrorism – Explosives and Bombs - Human-caused

Hazard Rating		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explosives are used and stored in various locations in Canada, such as for mining or highways avalanche control. Are explosives located in or near your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Explosive devices can be constructed from readily available materials. Are common explosives or ingredients for explosives used, stored, or transported in your community?					

Terrorism – Nuclear - Human-caused

Hazard Rating		High Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No	Need More Info	Not Applicable	FACTORS					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are facilities that use or make nuclear/radioactive material located in or near to your community?					
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are nuclear/radioactive materials used in, stored in, or transported through your community?					

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