



# Hazard Risk Assessment

## Terrorism

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

### Terrorism

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This section discusses a number of potential types of terrorist attacks. Resources are available to assist you in completing this assessment in the Risk Assessment Resources section. 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 police.

#### Definition

Terrorism is considered to be a hostile act, committed against the state, designed to exercise the systematic use of terror, especially as a means of coercion.

#### 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. 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 there is a limited ability on the part of federal and provincial government departments and agencies to collect, collate, analyze and synthesize the modest amount of substantive qualitative information on actors, their actual and potential capabilities, intended targets, and recorded attempts to penetrate or attack assets or systems<sup>1</sup>.



### It Happened Here...

On September 18, 1992 9 workers were fatally injured in an explosion after crossing the picket line at the Giant Yellowknife gold mine in Canada's Northwest Territories. A deliberately placed home-made bomb was determined as the cause of the blast.<sup>2</sup>

Canada's pipeline industry was on high alert in October 2008 when there was series of acts of sabotage in which targeted EnCana sour-gas pipelines about 50 kilometres southeast of Dawson Creek, B.C., near the Alberta border. In these incidents explosives were used. No one was injured.<sup>3</sup>

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."<sup>4</sup>

### Terrorism- General <sup>5 6 7 8 9</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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"/>	Terrorists may hold extremist views. Are there organizations with extremist and/or violent ideologies operating in your community?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There are foreign terrorist organizations operating in Canada. Have the RCMP notified the community that known terrorists are located in your community?

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

Terrorism - Biological<sup>10 11 12</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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<sup>13</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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<sup>14</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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 database protection systems in place?

Terrorism – Explosives and Bombs <sup>15 16</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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 magazines 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 <sup>17 18</sup> - Human-caused

<b>Hazard Rating</b>	High Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Need More Info <input type="checkbox"/>	Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
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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?

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> CBC News. Retrieved April 17 2011 from [http://archives.cbc.ca/society/crime\\_justice/clips/17416/](http://archives.cbc.ca/society/crime_justice/clips/17416/)
- <sup>3</sup> CBC News. Retrieved April 17 2011 from <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2008/10/16/bc-second-pipeline-explosion-dawson-creek.html>
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- <sup>8</sup> Kollek, Daniel (2003) *Terrorism in Canada*. Prehospital and Disaster Medicine 18(2) 71-79 .
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- <sup>12</sup> Centre for Disease Control (2010) "Emergency Preparedness and Response." Retrieved February 19 2011 from [www.emergency.cdc.gov](http://www.emergency.cdc.gov)
- <sup>13</sup> British Columbia (2002). "Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Terrorism Consequence Management Plan." Retrieved February 3 from [http://www.pep.gov.bc.ca/hazard\\_preparedness/terrorism\\_consequences.html](http://www.pep.gov.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/terrorism_consequences.html)
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- <sup>15</sup> Garrick, John B., Hall, James E, Kilger, Max (2004). *Confronting the risks of terrorism: Making the right decisions*. Reliability Engineering and System Safety 86(2).
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