



Weapons of Mass Destruction

Glossary

Acquire: to obtain, to get

Acute: intense, sudden

Aftermath: the time after an event

Agent: in this context: a substance or a cause

Al Queda: the name of a terrorist organization

Anthrax: a bacterial biological agent

Arson: illegal use of fire

Bacteria: single-celled organisms that can cause illness in people, plants, and animals

biological agents: a bacteria, virus, or toxin used as a weapon

blasting caps: the part of an explosive device that sets off the detonation

B-NICE: Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, Explosive **botulism toxins:** a nerve poison that causes serious paralytic illness **CBRNE:** Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear, Explosive

chemical agents: a chemical substance used as a weapon

Chlorine: a commonly-used disinfectant, highly toxic as an inhalation hazard

Cholera: an illness cause by a bacterial infection

common denominators: characteristics that events or objects have in common

contaminated: poisoned

covert: hidden or secret

credentials: in this context: identification documents

cryptic: not easily understood, **obscure cyanide:** a highly toxic **chemical detonation:** blast, explosion **devastation:** destruction

disrupt: to disturb

dry run: a practice event

escalate: to increase

evacuate: to send people away to safety **excerpt:** a piece or segment of something

explosive: a bomb

first responder: emergency personnel and trained security professionals

hazardous: dangerous

ID theft: stealing someone's identification

Ignite: to start to burn

ill-gotten gains: something that has been stolen **impersonate** to pretend to be someone else **incendiary devices** things that start a fire **infectious disease-causing agent** a substance that causes a disease that spreads easily.



Isolate: to keep someone away from others

Landline: a telephone connected through a cable; not a cellular phone

Liaison: a connection

mass transit: group vehicles, such as buses, trains, planes

mustard agent: phosgene gas used in World War I

nuclear weapons: an atomic bomb

plague: an infectious disease caused by bacteria

pre-incident indicators: events that suggest that something is about to happen

radiological material: substances that can cause illness or death which come from an atom with an unstable nucleus decaying until it becomes stable and releasing radiation

rally: a public meeting

retaliation: revenge

sarin: a synthetic chemical warfare agent classified as a nerve agent

scenario: a situation

secondary devices: something that is intended to explode after the initial attack to cause further damage

self-propelled: moving by itself, such as for example a rocket

shielding: protection

shrapnel: pieces of metal blasting out from an explosive device **smallpox:** a contagious and sometimes fatal disease cause by a virus **stationary:** standing still

suicide: killing oneself

supremacist: someone who thinks he is by nature better than other types of people, for example people of other races

surveillance: observing an area or a situation

symbolic: figurative, representative **symptom:** an indication or a sign **symptomatic:** indicative

to push an objective: to strongly propose something

toxic: poisonous

toxin: a poisonous substance

trigger methods: methods of exploding something

utility facilities: buildings and infrastructure for electricity, water, gas, etc.

viable: possible, working

vigilant: observant

virus: an illness-causing organism smaller than a bacteria

vulnerabilities: defenselessness, exposure, weakness