

CRC DRILL: SCENARIO NARRATIVE

Background

During the past 5 years, U.S. and international intelligence and law enforcement agencies have been tracking the activities of a new terrorist organization known as the Global Terror Faction. There are many gaps in current knowledge regarding the group's leadership and the size of its membership. However, the available evidence suggests that the organization has received financing, training, technical know-how, and other support from one or more despotic regimes. In recent months, U.S. and international agencies have intercepted communications from the group suggesting it may have succeeded in acquiring sufficient fissile material for the construction of an Improvised Nuclear Device (IND). The communications are consistent with other intelligence information suggesting the group seeks to target a U.S. or Western European city with a crude nuclear weapon. There has been increased vigilance in radiological monitoring at ports of entry, and the National Nuclear Security Agency has placed several of its emergency teams on standby.

The Event

A 10–15 kiloton IND explodes in the heart of Centropolis during the morning rush hour. All buildings within a 2-mile radius of ground zero are seriously damaged and fires rage throughout the area. Buildings up to 5 miles away from ground zero have minor building damage, primarily broken windows. There are few survivors within the 2-mile zone, and those within 5 miles have moderate to serious injuries. Most utilities within the city have been disrupted and electricity is out in most areas.

Centropolis has a population of 1,000,000 people and is a major business center. Major interstate highways and railways pass through the city center. Centropolis International Airport is located 12 miles downwind from ground zero.

Medical facilities were quickly overwhelmed with injuries, and hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes downwind of ground zero are still sheltering in place while the fallout plume passes.

News coverage of the devastation in Centropolis has been continuous and includes interviews with survivors. Eye-witness accounts indicate that thousands have been killed or seriously injured. Experts have been on all major networks speculating about size and type of weapon involved and the motive of the attackers.

Actions Taken

- The Governor has declared a State of Emergency and invoked the state's emergency plan. State offices and schools have been closed until further notice.
- The President has made a Presidential Disaster Declaration. All regional federal assets, including Civil Support Teams, U.S. Department of Energy Radiological Assistance Program Teams, and National Laboratories have been activated and are deploying to Centropolis to assist with response and recovery operations.

- All residents and those in businesses, hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes downwind of ground zero have been ordered to stay indoors while the fallout plume passes.
- Residents upwind and within 10 miles of ground zero have been ordered to evacuate. School buses are being brought in from throughout the state to aid in the evacuation.
- The Federal Aviation Administration has restricted all air traffic within 200 miles of Centropolis, with the exception of military and approved emergency response aircraft.
- Railway traffic into and out of the city has been suspended.
- Vehicular traffic into Centropolis is restricted to approved emergency responders. Most roads and highways are supporting evacuation of the city.
- Military action is underway in the designate security area around ground zero (within a radius of 10 miles).

Community Reception Centers

As part of the integrated response, Community Reception Centers (CRCs) are activated to receive and screen evacuees for radiological contamination. The CRCs are located 100–300 miles upwind from Centropolis and are not at risk from radioactive fallout.

Those most severely injured were sent to aid stations in and around Centropolis. However, the CRCs are to expect to receive victims with minor to moderate injuries. Hundreds of buses full of evacuees are expected to arrive over the next 48 hours. Thousands of self-evacuees are also expected to report to the CRCs.

Due to the extensive response needed at Centropolis, the CRCs must be self-sufficient for at least 48 hours, when additional resources and assets will arrive from other regions of the country.

[Locality Name] CRC

The day after the IND explosion, a CRC has been set up in [your locality], 100 miles upwind from Centropolis. The first evacuees are expected to arrive within the hour.

Note: This scenario narrative is intended only for the Exercise Planning Team and should not be shared with players.