



Terrorism and WMDs: Awareness and Response

John Pichtel

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Terrorists continue to enhance their technical sophistication in constructing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) with devastating effects. Chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) weapons now pose a greater threat than ever before. Emphasizing basic chemistry and biology, including microbiology and human health, **Terrorism and WMDs: Awareness and Response** is an introductory manual on CBRNE weapons that helps prepare emergency response, counterterrorism, and security professionals to respond to a WMD attack quickly and effectively.

Examines different threats and the best response

Taking a non-technical approach to technical concepts, the book begins with an overview of the historical and ideological context of modern terrorism and CBRNE weapons. Specific CBRNE weapons are discussed, and each section provides a history of the particular type of weapon as well as details on the design, structure, properties, and behavior of the weapon. The book examines the impacts of CBRNE weapons on human health and recommends safety precautions for both emergency responders and the public. The final section of the book addresses specific responder issues, particularly the Incident Command System, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE), decontamination, and site remediation.

Learning tools to aid comprehension

More than 170 photos and illustrations supplement the text, questions at the end of each chapter test comprehension, and a glossary provides clear definitions to better understand complex terminology. Intended as a starting point for understanding CBRNE weapons and their grave potential for destruction, the book

offers practical instruction on how to respond to intentional and accidental releases.

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