

# **First Responders Guide to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)**

Practical Techniques and Procedures for  
Responding to a Terrorist Incident Involving  
WMD

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ISBN 978-1-934904-11-4

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Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



This handbook  
is dedicated to the  
first responders in New York City  
who lost their lives in the  
September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.  
Additionally, to the Pentagon Force  
Protection Agency and the  
Arlington County, Virginia, Fire Department.

Their sacrifices have not and will not be forgotten.



# Foreword

Since 2002, when *First Responders Guide to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): Practical Techniques and Procedures for Responding to a Terrorist Incident Involving WMD* was first published, there have been significant changes in the techniques, equipment, and response units involved in the area of WMD. I have tried to capture them in this second edition of the *Guide*.

The purpose of this book remains twofold. It is designed to be a practical, concise “shirt-pocket” reference for the First Responder who could be called to a site where WMD have been employed. It is also a primer for the average citizen desiring practical information on threat agents and procedures for surviving a domestic WMD attack and its aftermath. Unlike other references, this handbook covers nuclear and radiological weapons and devices as well as chemical and biological weapons. This handbook is designed as a quick reference and not a definitive text on WMD.

The handbook is divided into four sections — General Information, WMD Technologies, Equipment and Response Assets, and Consequence Management. Appendices containing terms and definitions, points of contact, information resources, etc., follow these sections. The intent is to impart an understanding of various aspects of the threat and then present ways of dealing with it.

The information used in the preparation of this handbook was taken from relevant U.S. Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other open-source reference material.





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