



News Release

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For Immediate Release **Joint Information Center**
Oct. 19, 2007 **Portland, Ore.**
08:30 a.m. (Release 34) **503-253-8876**

Portland Radiological Incident

Consolidated Agency Response Update Number Three (3)

Federal, state and local authorities continue their coordinated response to the radiological explosion at the Steel Bridge on Tuesday morning. The following is a summary of updates for the period from noon to 4 p.m. today as provided by the agencies involved:

CONTROLLED ACCESS AREA (PIO, ECC)

The boundaries of the controlled access area in Portland, Ore., are NE Clackamas, the Willamette River, and NE 9th Avenue from NE Clackamas to NE Holladay, from E 9th and Holladay to NE First, NE First south to NE Oregon and west on Oregon to the Willamette River. State of Oregon radiological personnel have confirmed current levels of contamination are within this area.

Department of Energy is the only agency working within the controlled access area -- no city of Portland or Multnomah County personnel are present.

Any remaining individuals wishing to leave the controlled access area should exit at the following location for decontamination and information about monitoring personal health status. Re-entry into the area is being monitored by law enforcement personnel. Photo identification is required for anyone wishing to re-enter the area. Portland Fire & Rescue, with assistance from the Red Cross, provided individuals sheltering within the controlled access area with food, medicine and other supplies. The one remaining exit point is:

- NE Martin Luther King Boulevard at NE Holladay Street

A health and contamination screening area is still available at:

- David Douglas High School (1001 SE 135th Ave)

Portland Department of Public Works is developing a detour plan around the area.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

Water flow from the Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River and all dams on the Willamette River has been returned to normal for this time of year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, returned the flow to normal based on EPA and State findings that the water quality is unaffected by contamination from the explosion of the dirty bomb in Portland.

HEALTH (Christie Holmgren, State Public Health PIO):

There are a total of 147 reported fatalities associated with Tuesday's radiological explosion in Portland. Of this number, 66 died at the scene; 81 died in hospitals.

A total of 685 people were admitted into Portland metro hospitals. Of this number:

- 128 are in critical condition
- 147 are in moderate condition
- 329 were treated for mild conditions
- 7 people treated with Prussian blue

Some of those treated for moderate and mild conditions have been released.

Health and contamination screening areas are now only available at David Douglas High School (1001 SE 135th Ave.).

Dealing with contamination (source: Gregg Dempsey, EPA Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory):

- Those who exited the contamination area after 9 a.m. on Tuesday should double bag all clothing worn at that time, take a hot water shower using soap and shampoo (but not hair conditioner). Baby wipes may be used if a shower is not available.
- Put any items that may have been contaminated in plastic bags. Keep in a place out of reach of children and animals, such as the garage. There will be screening sites announced next week where people can take items to for screening.
- Refrain from eating, drinking, touching your face, or smoking until you have taken a shower.

Parental Tips (from Red Cross):

Because children are especially sensitive to the behavior they see in their role models, adults should take the time to explain the actions being taken to keep them safer and exhibit a sense of control and understanding of the situation. To help a child deal with this incident, follow some general steps:

1. Listen to their fears and worries; encourage them to discuss their feelings and misgivings.
2. Work with them to build up their sense of feeling protected.
3. Monitor and consider limiting your children's exposure to television and other media reports, beyond what is necessary to gain necessary

information about the event. Children may think the event is happening over and over again when they see or hear repeated reports and images.

Pets (Mult. Co. Chuck Poetz):

Among those evacuated from the controlled area were 14 pets who were decontaminated and transported to the shelter at Washington County Fairgrounds. Citizens looking for their pets are asked to identify them on the following Web address: web www.multcopets.org

Ten of the decontaminated animals have been re-united with their owners. Pictures of the remaining 4 animals have been posted on the web site. If these animals are not reclaimed, they will be taken to the Multnomah County Animal Shelter in Troutdale.

A contingency plan for stray animals has been activated by Multnomah County Animal Control. The animal rescue strike teams are now on call to enter the controlled access area with emergency crews to recover the animals. The strike teams will decontaminate the lost and found animals. Any additional information about animal health and care can be found on the Multnomah County Animal Control web site. www.multcopets.org

PUBLIC SAFETY (Terri – Ptd Police)

- Mayor Tom Potter lowered the threat level to Orange on Thursday at 12:56 PST.
- The non-emergency line for all incoming public calls is 2-1-1. Authorities are asking the public not to call 9-1-1 unless it is an emergency.
- Due to concerns raised by area Muslim, Portland police are increasing their presence at local mosques. Police have set up a special hotline for people to report bias or hate crimes – the number is (503) 823-0855.

SHELTERS

Over 40 shelters have been established throughout Oregon and part of Washington State, providing temporary accommodations for nearly 31,000 individuals. The Red Cross is prepared to continue serving additional individuals as needed. (Margaret Sanner Red Cross)

In response to the outpouring of concern and offers from the Portland area citizens, the American Red Cross has opened a Spontaneous Volunteer Center at Wilson High School which is located at 1151 SW Vermont Street, Portland OR 97219. People who would like to volunteer to assist the Red Cross with this relief effort may report to the center daily between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. For additional information please call 1-800-Red Cross.

TRANSPORTATION (Dave Thompson, ODOT)

The Steel Bridge remains closed.

The Freeways near the controlled access area remains closed. I-5 is closed between the Fremont Bridge and I-84. I-84 westbound ramps to Lloyd Blvd and I-5 northbound are closed. More details are available on www.tripcheck.com.

The railroad is closed through the controlled access area.

The Federal Aviation Administration has approved commercial and military flights in and out of the Portland International Airport. The FAA is still imposing flight restrictions two nautical miles around the controlled access area.

TriMet has limited operations. Call 503 238-RIDE (7433) for more information about specific bus routes and service restrictions.

The United States Coast Guard has lowered the alert level for the Willamette and Columbia Rivers to MAR SEC2. There are no longer restrictions to commercial or recreational water craft.

FEDERAL RESPONSE

In light of the attacks, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is encouraging every American to take three basic precautions to improve personal preparedness and safety.

- Prepare yourself and your family for situations that may be beyond your control. Each individual and family needs to have an emergency supply kit and a plan to deal with a situation like those in Guam, Portland, and Phoenix.
- Listen to and actively seek instructions provided by your local authorities. You may need to make decisions based on the latest information your local officials have to offer.
- Remain vigilant. Being alert, attentive, and observant of your surroundings and reporting unusual activity may help prevent further attacks.

For more information on protecting yourself and your family members and how to get prepared for an emergency situation, visit www.ready.gov.

40 Community Relations specialists from FEMA are in Portland today. They will be working in the affected counties to identify shelter sites and victim needs. 200 more community relations specialists will arrive on Friday.

A Joint State/Federal Field Office (JFO) opened Thursday, October 18 supporting a 24/7 unified effort of State, local, Federal response and recovery operation. The JFO is an administrative and logistical support office and is not available to the public.

U.S. Health and Human Services is shipping hospital equipment, staff, and medical supplies to Oregon to be available if needed to help health care providers. (U.S. HHS News Release)

FUTURE UPDATES (Oberg, FEMA)

In response to the Oct. 16 radiological explosion in Portland, federal, state and local authorities continue to hold daily media briefings. Tomorrow's briefing will be held at the Joint Information Center, 6221 N.E. 82nd Avenue in Portland at 10:00 a.m.

Important contact numbers:

Missing person hotline: 503-823-3088

Public information line: 503-253-8901

Websites:

For information on health, www.cdc.gov

For local Portland information, www.portlandonline.com

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