



### 4.3.15 Terrorism

Terrorism is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as “the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives” (Title 28 CFR §0.85 2015). Terrorism is less about causing physical damage and injuries (and fatalities) as it is about creating and spreading fear. This fear may result in a change in key policy or business operations to cease. Terrorism may include the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive weapons; armed attacks; industrial sabotage; cyber terrorism; and other means. These categories can be further subcategorized or attacks can involve multiple categories, especially when considering the means and purpose behind the event.

This section provides a profile and vulnerability assessment of the terrorism hazard.

#### Location and Extent

An important consideration in evaluating terrorism hazards is the existence of facilities, landmarks, or other buildings of international, national, or regional importance. While Pike County has many notable landmarks from a local historic perspective, there are no sites which are considered significant landmarks in terms of national or international importance.

Nonetheless, terrorism can take many forms and terrorists have a wide range of personal, political, or cultural agendas. Therefore, there is no location that is not a potential terrorist target. Two types of terrorist activity are particularly relevant to Pike County: agroterrorism and intentional hazardous material releases. Agroterrorism is the direct, intentional, generally covert contamination of food supplies or introduction of pests and/or disease agents to crops and livestock. Approximately 3-percent of Pike County’s land area is dedicated to agriculture.

Several major transportation routes and two large gas transmission pipelines traverse the County; making intentional hazard material releases a potential threat to citizens and the environment. This hazard is addressed in Section 4.3.4. In addition, there are several bridges that connect Pike County to the New York – New Jersey metropolitan area that could be considered potential targets.

Although Pike County does not have a large number of facilities that could be considered targets, it does have the type of facilities that are considered, including school complexes, shopping areas, government buildings, including jails, water distribution systems and dams, power plants and communications systems. A complete list of critical facilities is included in Appendix E.

In addition, all bridges and railways (discussed in Section 4.3.17) across the County are considered potential targets.

Furthermore, the threat of a nuclear attack is rare but should not be eliminated. There are still several countries in the world with nuclear capability and other nations continue to try to obtain that capability. Any areas that are identified as high risk areas or target areas would experience the direct effects of the weapon, including blast, radiation, extreme temperatures, wind and light which is brighter than the sun. Depending on the size of the device, there could be total destruction within a 4-mile radius of the blast. Any survivors within a 20- mile radius can expect residual effects including fires, flooding, loss of power, fuel and water shortages, plus the release of other hazardous materials that may be in the area. People close to the blast would be killed. As the



distance increases, more people will survive, however, people that do survive the initial blast may die due to an increase in exposure to gamma rays.

Because of Pike County's location and proximity to the New York metropolitan area, should a major attack occur, Pike County should expect to receive some exposure from radioactive fallout. Pike County should also expect to see an influx of people from the New York metropolitan area seeking safety.

### Range of Magnitude

Any acts of terrorism can occur anywhere, at any time of day. The National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) communicates information about terrorist threats by providing detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector. When a threat arises, the Secretary of Homeland Security announces an NTAS Alert and shares the news with the public. The alert may include specific information about the nature of the threat, including the geographic region, mode of transportation, or critical infrastructure potentially affected, as well as steps that individuals and communities can take to protect themselves and help prevent, mitigate, or respond to the threat. The alert indicates whether the threat is elevated or imminent. Elevated threats are those that include no specific information about the timing or location. Imminent threats are threats believed to be impending, or occurring very soon. The alerts will be posted on-line on multiple government websites (which websites may vary dependent on the threat) and released to the news media for distribution. U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will also distribute alerts through its social media channels (DHS 2015).

Terrorism refers to the use of WMDs, including biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons; arson, incendiary, explosive, and armed attacks; industrial sabotage and intentional hazardous materials releases; and "cyber-terrorism." Within these general categories, however, there are many variations. Particularly in the area of biological and chemical weapons, there are a wide variety of agents and ways for them to be disseminated. Terrorist methods can take many forms, including:

- Agri-terrorism
- Arson/incendiary attack
- Armed attack
- Biological agent
- Chemical agent
- Cyber-terrorism (or computer-based attacks)
- Conventional bomb or bomb threat
- Hazardous material release (intentional)
- Nuclear bomb
- Radiological agent

In Pike County, terrorist attacks could vary from a mere threat to an individual facility, to the use of a high-yield explosive or other device in a highly populated area.

### Past Occurrence

Pike County has never suffered an international terrorist attack. However, Pike County has experienced domestic terrorism incidents. Table 4.3.15-1 displays terrorism incidents reported to PEIRS between 2002 and 2009. The most common terroristic threat was bomb threats. In addition to the events identified in the table below, Pike County indicated that between 2010 and 2016 (as of October 5, 2016), 48 incidents identified as suspicious activities in the County (Pike County 2016).



Table 4.3.15-1. Terrorism Incidents/Suspicious Activity in Pike County from 2002 to 2009

Date	Location	Type
02/08/2002	Lehman Township	Bomb Threat
02/14/2003	Palmyra Township	Bomb Threat
06/11/2003	Palmyra Township	Bomb Threat
12/18/2003	Palmyra Township	Bomb Threat
10/28/2004	Palmyra Township	School Bomb Threat
03/29/2006	Lehman Township	School Bomb Threat
04/05/2006	Lehman Township	School Bomb Threat
05/10/2006	Westfall Township	Bomb Threat
05/30/2006	Palmyra Township	Suspicious Activity
09/11/2006	Lehman Township	School Bomb Threat
07/02/2007	Dingman Township	Suspicious Device
12/29/2007	Blooming Grove Township	Suspicious Device
02/21/2008	Lehman Township	Terroristic Threat

Source: PEIRS, 2002-09

### Future Occurrence

Based on historical events, Pike County can expect to experience several terrorist threats or suspicious activities each year; however, few will result in an actual terrorist incident. Previous events in the County have not resulted in what are considered significant terrorist attacks; the severity of a future incident cannot be predicted with a sufficient level of certainty. Based on the recent incident events, the future occurrence of terrorism in Pike County can be considered *possible* as defined by the Risk Factor Methodology probability criteria (refer to Section 4.4).

### Vulnerability Assessment

The probability of Pike County becoming a terrorist target should remain relatively low, however, because of its proximity to other more vulnerable areas its vulnerability and potential for secondary impacts is increased. The County may experience some serious issues with influx of people from the more metropolitan areas to the east in situations of terrorism and/or nuclear threats to these areas. This influx of population in these critical situations would stress the facilities of the County and its municipalities.

Since the probability of terrorism occurring cannot be quantified in the same way as that of many natural hazards, it is not possible to assess vulnerability in terms of likelihood of occurrence. Instead, vulnerability is assessed in terms of specific assets. By identifying potentially at-risk terrorist targets in a community, planning efforts can be put in place to reduce the risk of attack. All communities in Pike County are vulnerable on some level, directly or indirectly, to a terrorist attack. However, communities where the previously mentioned potential targets are located should be considered more vulnerable. Site-specific assessments should be based on the relative importance of a particular site to the surrounding community or population. Threats that are known to exist and vulnerabilities include:

- Inherent vulnerability:
  - Visibility – How aware is the public of the existence of the facility?
  - Utility – How valuable might the place be in meeting the objectives of a potential terrorist?
  - Accessibility – How accessible is the place to the public?
  - Asset mobility – is the asset’s location fixed or mobile?





- Presence of hazardous materials – Are flammable, explosive, biological, chemical and/or radiological materials present on site? If so, are they well secured?
- Potential for collateral damage – What are the potential consequences for the surrounding area if the asset is attacked or damaged?
- Occupancy – What is the potential for mass casualties based on the maximum number of individuals on site at a given time?
- Tactical vulnerability:
  - Site Perimeter*
    - Site planning and Landscape Design – Is the facility designed with security in mind – both site-specific and with regard to adjacent land uses?
    - Parking Security – Are vehicle access and parking managed in a way that separates vehicles and structures?
  - Building Envelope*
    - Structural Engineering – Is the building’s envelope designed to be blast-resistant? Does it provide collective protection against chemical, biological and radiological contaminants?
  - Facility Interior*
    - Architectural and Interior Space Planning – Does security screening cover all public and private areas?
    - Mechanical Engineering – Are utilities and HVAC systems protected and/or backed up with redundant systems?
    - Electrical Engineering – Are emergency power and telecommunications available? Are alarm systems operational? Is lightning sufficient?
    - Fire Protection Engineering – Are the building’s water supply and fire suppression systems adequate, code-compliant and protected? Are on-site personnel trained appropriately? Are local first responders aware of the nature of the operations at the facility?
    - Electronic and Organized Security – Are systems and personnel in place to monitor and protect the facility?

Pike County is involved in a Regional Catastrophic Planning Team which includes counties in New York and New Jersey in the New York City metropolitan area. The counties involved in the initiative correspond to the U.S. Census Bureau’s New York-Newark-Bridgeport, NY-NJ-CT-PA Combined Statistical Area (CSA) and include the largest city in the United States (New York), the two largest cities in New Jersey (Newark and Jersey City), and Bridgeport, Connecticut. Pike County is the only participating Pennsylvania county. The team offers planning support for COOP and COG plans, debris management plans, shelter plans, logistical planning, mass fatality planning, and mass casualty planning. Through Pike County’s involvement in the group, the County is able to plan for evacuation and sheltering needs if a terroristic incident were to occur.