



# ***City of Leawood***

## **Preparing for Domestic Terrorism in Leawood, Kansas** ***Questions and Answers***

### **Q) What is the City of Leawood doing to prepare for elevated threat levels?**

A) The City is constantly engaged in activities to prepare for all types of disasters or elevated threats. Some activities include:

- The development of extensive **Emergency Operations Plans** which provide coordination between City staff, elected officials, and outside agencies during any disaster or major emergency.
- Constant communication with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that we have all the latest and most accurate intelligence information to identify and respond to any credible threat. These agencies include the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as county and state emergency management agencies.
- Ongoing training for emergency response personnel with regards to domestic terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and disaster response. Much of this training is done with other jurisdictions to ensure a coordinated response between all agencies.
- Maintaining a heightened alert by all emergency response personnel as well as an increased awareness for all other City employees during these uncertain times.

### **Q) What does the City of Leawood do when the threat level increases?**

A) The City works extremely hard to be prepared for any threat. During heightened threat levels, the City increases efforts to remain in constant contact with other agencies, including the federal government, to identify and respond to any credible threat. Emergency services personnel will share information and evaluate threats as conditions change. Should a credible threat exist in the area, the City will engage and utilize any and all resources necessary to minimize its impact on the citizens of Leawood.

**Q) Is the City of Leawood prepared to respond to a domestic terrorism incident?**

A) The events of September 11, 2001 showed us that no one can ever be **“prepared enough”**. However, the City constantly prepares for all types of threats and/or hazards by constant communication both internally and externally, and by ongoing planning and situational practice.

**Q) Are there facilities in Leawood that could be targeted?**

A) Every community has **“critical facilities”** and infrastructure that could be targeted. The City has worked closely with Johnson County on threat assessment to ensure that those facilities have been identified and all necessary disaster planning has been done, should a credible threat emerge.

**Q) What can I do to prepare?**

A) People should always be prepared for any disaster. In this part of the country, there is always the threat of natural or man-made disasters such as tornadoes, floods, ice storms, or chemical spills on the highway. Preparing for those types of emergencies will help prepare you for any threat of domestic terrorism. The City of Leawood will continue to provide information on its website, through the local media, or upon request, that provides key steps everyone should take to prepare or respond to any situation. **“All hazard”** preparedness is the single most important step you can take to get through a disaster, either natural or man-made.

**Q) Do I need duct tape and plastic?**

A) Yes, as well as many other items that will increase your preparedness for a disaster. Having some basic items gathered in an **Emergency Preparedness Kit** for your home and vehicle, before a disaster occurs, will make you and your family more prepared. Having duct tape and plastic available to seal a room in your house may be useful for any chemical spill, or even a major fire that emits toxic smoke in your neighborhood. For specific information about putting together an emergency preparedness kit or to find out more about sheltering-in-place, visit <http://www.jocoem.org/pubedu.htm>.

**Q) Where are the Fallout Shelters in Leawood?**

A) There are no fallout shelters in Leawood or anywhere else in Johnson County. Fallout shelters were common back in the civil defense era when there was a perceived threat from a nuclear attack. Some older buildings may still have signs that say “Fallout Shelter”, however, those locations are usually designated as emergency shelters from severe weather.

**Q) How can I get involved to help my neighborhood?**

A) The City works closely with neighborhood watch programs and encourages everyone to get involved. In addition, the Leawood Fire Department participates with Johnson County in a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training program, designed to prepare citizens, businesses, community groups, or homes associations for any disaster. The CERT program provides basic training, which will enable people to help themselves and their neighbors during and after a disaster, while waiting for emergency responders to arrive. For more information click CERT on the menu bar.

**Q) What else can I do?**

A) Stay informed and prepared to respond to any type of disaster. Education and training are the two most important components of emergency preparedness. In today’s environment, you must constantly be aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity. If it’s an emergency, call 911. For other concerns or questions please call City Hall at (913) 339-6700.

**Q) How will I be notified about increased threats, hazards, and/or disasters in Leawood?**

A) Tuning in to a local radio or television station is always helpful. In addition, a NOAA all hazard/weather radio can be the single best way to receive critical and timely information, especially concerning severe weather. Click on Weather/All Hazard Radio to find out how to get a radio for your home and business.