**WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)**

**DEFINITIONS, CONSEQUENCES, AND RESPONSE DIFFICULTIES**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)** | | | |
| **Type of WMD** | **Definition (According to Title 18, USC 2332a)** | **Consequences** | **Response Difficulties** |
| Explosives | Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket…missile…mine or device similar to the above | Deaths, injuries, damaged structures | Similar to that of other explosions and large fires |
| Chemical | Poison gas, blister gas | Deaths, injuries, possible contamination, possible long-term effects | Similar to accidents planned for in current LEPC emergency response plan, but could be more extensive in effect (e.g, VX release in a crowded convention center or school) |
| Biological | Any weapon involving a disease organism | Deaths, injuries, contamination, long-term, far-reaching geographic effects | Agents may be unknown; locations may vary and multiply as people travel  Nuclear |
| Nuclear | Any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life | Deaths, injuries, contamination, possible long-term, far-reaching effects | Similar to that of other explosions and large fires plus radiation; could have long-term far-reaching effects |