

Dirty Bomb

Fact Sheet for the Public

Health and Safety Information for the First Hours

This is an urgent health message from Multnomah County Health Department.

Public officials believe that a bomb containing radioactive material, sometimes called a “dirty bomb,” has been exploded in the *xxx area*.

Keep in mind that a dirty bomb is NOT a nuclear bomb. Most of the injuries from a dirty bomb are from the blast itself, such as burns or bleeding.

If you are not very close to the blast, you are not in any immediate danger.

Some people who were in the immediate area of the blast may experience minor radiation sickness, which can start within minutes and last for several days. This typically includes nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Federal, state, and local officials are working together to find and treat people who need help.

In addition, public officials are starting to close off the area, find and treat anyone with injuries, and help people in the area decontaminate themselves.

Local authorities will monitor levels of radiation and determine what should be done to protect public health. Public officials will share updated information as soon as they learn more.

By staying informed and following instructions from health officials, you can protect yourself, your family, and the community against this public health threat.

Go to [insert local media information here] to hear the latest information from local officials.

For more information on dirty bombs, go to the HHS Web site at www.hhs.gov, or the CDC Web site at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/radiation/dirtybombs.asp>, or call the CDC Hotline at 1-800-CDC-INFO.