Possible scenarios and challenges for CBRN preparedness

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Overview

- DSB, CBRN cooperation, different risks
- CBRN Challenges
- CBRN scenarios
- Terrorism vs. accidents – accidents do happen
- Can we sleep at night?
Operational concept

- Have full overview over developing vulnerable situations and risks which threaten society – in peacetime and war
- Take initiatives to prevent accidents, disasters and other undesired occurrences and ensure that preparedness measures are adequate
- In the event of inadequate safety and preparedness measures take initiative for follow up with the responsible authorities
Need for an overall National plan

- In 1999 the Ministry of Justice and the Police decided there was a need for an overall national plan for preparedness against weapons of mass destruction.
- Background: NATO’s new Strategic Concept.
- Plan finished in 2003, and a subject/vocational group with participants from relevant professional bodies established.
- The aim of the National plan is to give an overview of management and coordinating mechanisms, conditions of responsibility and availability of resources.
- The plan proposes interventions to be implemented, based on already established agency preparedness and other principles of responsibility.
- Reviewed and updated autumn 2007.
Participants

- DSB
- Directorate for the Police, and the Police Intelligence Service
- Directorate for human health
- The National human health institute
- The Defence microbiological lab.
- The Military head command
- The Military CBRN training centre
- The Defence Research Establishment
- The Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority
- The Food Control
- The Veterenarian institute
- Just recently: The Coastal authorities
- The Military intelligence service
Means of mass destruction (MMD)

- “Means of mass destruction is a term applied to radiological, biological and chemical substances that can potentially cause injury to persons or loss of human life on a large scale, heavy material damage, and the destruction of infrastructure.

- In addition, the threat to use as well as the actual use of such means is because of their nature likely to create great fear and concern among the population.”
CBRN
- Chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear

CBRNE
- Chemical, biological, radioactive and nuclear explosives
Police: RSC and On Scene Coordinator.

Ambulance: No CBRN equipment, decontamination u. Require clean patients

Fire Brigades: Initially OSC Knowledge and some equipment Lead agency regarding technical handling

Civil defence: Decontamination units – response time (hours) Knowledge and some equipment
Accidents do happen!
A safe and robust society – where everyone takes responsibility.

The likelihood of a catastrophe occurring within the next 5-10 years?

- War on Norwegian territory
- Food supply crisis
- Nuclear accident
- Break down in power supply/IT/communication
- Pandemic flu
- Acts of terror
- Major pollution
- Industrial or dangerous goods accident
- Public transport accident
- Natural disasters

Percentage (%)

- War on Norwegian territory: 10%
- Food supply crisis: 20%
- Nuclear accident: 30%
- Break down in power supply/IT/communication: 40%
- Pandemic flu: 50%
- Acts of terror: 60%
- Major pollution: 70%
- Industrial or dangerous goods accident: 80%
- Public transport accident: 90%
- Natural disasters: 100%
Threats

- Regular threats – occur often – the system learns how to respond – and it is economical feasible to have emergency preparedness plans and equipment.

- Irregular threats – one of a kind events. Practically impossible to provide a standard response. Unexpected, although they are imaginable.

- Unexampled events – virtually impossible to imagine.
One of a kind event.....
Unexampled events.....
Madrid

- March 11th, 2004
- 192 dead, 1500+ wounded...
- Ten bombs at four different places in the same city at the same time...
London

July 7th, 2005
3 subways
1 bus
52 dead
700 + wounded
Possible situations with extremely low probability but tremendous consequences

- “Thinking the unthinkable” – although there are attacks and accidents that would be characterised as “unrealistic”
- “What if….?” – The will to do intentional harm
- These scenarios will never be dimensional for emergency preparedness systems – but can pinpoint weaknesses and especially the need for co-operation
The need for quick response....

Immediate response – or – pause and assess?

- Running around as headless chickens?
- Or – look like Bambi trapped in the headlight?
Some scenarios

- A tool for planning and exercises
- Balance between realistic and imaginative
- Must be developed in further detail
Example 1

- Radioactive material in combination with a biological substance
How to detect and deal with it?

- Detection
- Perimeter
- Information to the public
- Decontamination
- Clean zones
Example 2

- Hazardous goods – traffic accident in populated area
Exercise Oslo 2006
More common situations....

- Suspicious packages and bags
- Unknown substances
- Challenging analysis
Coming work

- Evaluate the investments following September 11\textsuperscript{th} 2001
- Scenario workshops
- Develop scenarios in more detail
Assessing the capability and intentions in different groups
Civilian-military co-operation
Gro Harlem Bruntland:

“We can never avoid the dilemma that all our knowledge is of the past, while all our decisions are about the future”
• Are we succeeding in thinking the unthinkable?

• Are the systems robust and versatile enough to handle CBRN accidents and disasters?

• Should we in the Nordic countries rest assure that the US and UK will be much more attractive terrorist targets, also in the future?

• Can we sleep at night?