**UNIT 4: Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives**

LESSON 6: Case Studies in Terrorist Acquisition and Use of CBRNE Weapons

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| **Lesson Topics**   * Rajneeshees * Aum Shinrikyo * Chechens * Bruce Ivins (anthrax letter mailer) * Lessons learned * Timothy McVeigh * David Hahn (not a terrorist; but a cautionary tale of how easy it is to develop CBRNE) | **Learning Objective:**  The student will:   * Explore the case studies and report on the local radiological risks. | |
| **Engage**  Access prior knowledge   * What do you know? How did you learn it?   Pique their interest   * What do you see, think, wonder when you see this image, watch this video, or hear this story? | | **Resources** |
| **Exploration**   * Identify groups and individuals who were engaged in behavior that was consistent with terrorism. * Examine and discuss the nature, consequences, and root causes of domestic, international, and trans-national acts of CBRNE terrorism. * Watch Frontline, “The Anthrax Files.”   Rajneeshees   * Bhaqwan Shree Rajneesh; spiritual leader from India. * 1981- thousands of his disciples moved to Wasco and Jefferson counties. * Disciples were called “Sannyasin.” * Became a cult. * Charges to members of the group later included attempted murder, assault, arson, immigration fraud, wiretapping, and conspiracy.   Aum Shinrikyo   * Cult known as Aum Supreme Truth (AUM). * Established in 1987 by Shoko Asahara. * Cult wanted to take over Japan and the world. * Was initially recognized as a religion under Japanese law but was later revoked when group started to say the United States would initiate World War III with Japan causing Armageddon. * On March 20, 1995, the group released a chemical nerve agent (Sarin gas) into Tokyo subway: 12 civilians died with another 6,000 injured. * Group has been responsible for other mysterious chemical accidents. * The leader, Shoko Asahara, was arrested by Japanese authorities.   Chechens   * Chechnya, officially the Chechen Republic, is a constituent republic of Russia situated in the North Caucasus in Eastern Europe, close to the Caspian Sea. * Fought for independence from Russia. * October 2002, 50 Chechen terrorists seized a venue of 800 people at the Moscow Music Theatre. * Chechen terrorists threatened to kill everyone unless Russia ended its war with Chechnya. * Russian authorities responded with a chemical gas intervention. * At the conclusion, all 50 Chechen terrorists and 117 hostages died.   Bruce Ivins (anthrax letter mailer)   * Fall 2001, envelopes were mailed to U.S. Senate offices that contained Anthrax. * The Anthrax letters caused the death of 5 people. * Investigation lasted seven years as the FBI mistakenly pursued the wrong suspect. * Dr. Bruce Ivins, Army scientist, was identified as the sole perpetrator after his suicide.   Timothy McVeigh   * Was responsible for the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Murrah Federal Building, Oklahoma. * The bomb killed 168 innocent people. * McVeigh was a war-decorated American. * Two other subjects, Michael Fortier and Terry Nichols, were prosecuted since they had knowledge of the plot. * McVeigh was radicalized after the stand-off at Waco, Texas. * McVeigh was sentenced to death for his involvement in the Murrah Federal Building bombing.   Lessons learned   * CBRNE from past events are a legitimate threat to the American community. * Significant investments in public education and preparedness for threats of terrorism. * Americans have become more knowledgeable of the threats that could occur in the country.   David Hahn (not a terrorist; but a cautionary tale of how easy it is to develop CBRNE)   * Was a boy scout who attempted to build a nuclear breeder reactor in a shed on his mother’s property for a merit badge. * David was able to create a list of 14 radioactive isotopes from common household items such as smoke detectors. * David was able to obtain radium and other radioactive materials before it was discovered by police. * David endangered 40,000 people in the surrounding neighborhood. | | **Teacher Resources:**  Websites:  OPB. (2012). Rajneeshpuram  [https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html)  Huffpost. (2018). I covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s what ‘Wild Wild Country’ leaves out.  [I Covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s What ‘Wild Wild Country’ Leaves Out. | HuffPost](http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/)  FAS. Aum Supreme Truth (Aum) a.k.a. Aum Shinrikyo Aleph. (n.d.) [http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/)  Frontline. (2011). The Anthrax Files [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/](http://www.start.umd.edu/)  CNS. (2002). The Moscow Theater Hostage Crisis: Incapacitants and Chemical Warfare by CBWNP  <https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/>  Linder, D. (2006). The Oklahoma City Bombing & The Trial of Timothy McVeigh [http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html](https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/)  Pangi, R. (2002). Consequence Management in the 1995 Sarin Attacks on the Japanese Subway System  [https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/consequence\_management\_in\_the\_1995\_sarin\_attacks\_on\_the\_japanese\_subway\_system.pdf](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cult-wild-wild-country-netflix_n_5ab2b37de4b054d118df49c1)  Silverstein, K. (1998). The Radioactive Boy Scout: When a teenager attempts to build a breeder reactor [http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/](http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm)  University of Maryland, College Park - START  [http://www.start.umd.edu/](https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/)  **Student Resources:**  Websites:  OPB. (2012). Rajneeshpuram  [https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/cult-wild-wild-country-netflix_n_5ab2b37de4b054d118df49c1)  Huffpost. (2018). I covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s what ‘Wild Wild Country’ leaves out.  [I Covered The Rajneesh Cult. Here’s What ‘Wild Wild Country’ Leaves Out. | HuffPost](http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html)  FAS. Aum Supreme Truth (Aum) a.k.a. Aum Shinrikyo Aleph. (n.d.) [http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm](https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/legacy/files/consequence_management_in_the_1995_sarin_attacks_on_the_japanese_subway_system.pdf)  Frontline. (2011). The Anthrax Files <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/anthrax-files/>  CNS. (2002). The Moscow Theater Hostage Crisis: Incapacitants and Chemical Warfare by CBWNP  [https://nonproliferation.org/the-moscow-theater-hostage-crisis-incapacitants-and-chemical-warfare/](https://www.oshonews.com/2012/11/16/oregon-experience-rajneeshpuram/)  Linder, D. (2006). The Oklahoma City Bombing & The Trial of Timothy McVeigh [http://law2.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/mcveigh/mcveighaccount.html](http://www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aum.htm)  Silverstein, K. (1998). The Radioactive Boy Scout: When a teenager attempts to build a breeder reactor <http://harpers.org/archive/1998/11/the-radioactive-boy-scout/> |
| **Explanation (10 min)**  Prepare a report: Identify natural radioactivity sources in your local community and possible exposure risks to the local population. | |
| **Elaboration (20 min)**  Prepare to discuss the David Hahn incident and the danger it posed to the community. What responsibility did the local authorities have for those risks? | |
| **Formative Assessment:**  The elaboration activities | |
| **Summative Assessment:**  As required by the curriculum and school system | |