

Final Hazard Profile – Terrorism

Terrorism

 Terrorism	Frequency	50+ yrs	10-50 yrs	1-10 yrs	Annually
	People	<1,000	1,000-10,000	10,000-50,000	50,000+
	Economy	1% GDP	1-2% GDP	2-3% GDP	3%+ GDP
	Environment	<10%	10-15%	15%-20%	20%+
	Property	<\$100M	\$100M-\$500M	\$500M-\$1B	\$1B+
	Hazard scale	< Low to High >			

Risk Level

Frequency – Due to the differing types of terrorism and the variety of terrorist, political, and social extremist groups that perpetuate these acts, the likelihood of any act of terrorism taking place in Washington State is believed to be a frequency of once every 1 to 10 years. **Note:** *Although terrorist or violent extremist attacks and plots have not occurred consistently within the past decade, the Northwest has encountered more than 20 attempted and successful attacks in the past decade; averaging out to two per year.*

People – If a terrorist attack were to occur in a highly populated city in Washington, it can be expected that 1,000 to 10,000 people could potentially be impacted. **Note:** *This is based on a ‘worst case’ scenario, where an improvised explosive device (IED) is used in a large-scale attack similar to that of 9/11 or Mumbai. A more likely case scenario would be an active shooter, in which less than 100 people would be impacted. The actual numbers of people impacted by a terror event is dependent upon the terrorists’ motivation or desired outcome, tactic used, specific location, and weapon type.*

Economy – Recent terrorist attacks in the U.S. have negatively affected the local economy of the cities in which they occurred. If a terrorist attack were to occur in Washington State, a 1-2% gross domestic product (GDP) change would be an expected result. **Note:** *The psychosocial impacts would be a major effecting factor on the economy, in addition to the physical damage caused by a terror attack. Psychosocial impacts, also known as the “fear factor”, can include: the populaces’ perceptions of local or regional stability, hesitation of going to large public gatherings, mistrust in law enforcement and government to deter terror events, and a general uneasiness in certain areas where an extremist attack has occurred.*

Environment – Although the environment can be affected by an act of terrorism, the potential eradication of more than 10% of a species or habitat is considered to be unlikely. **Note:** *Though assessed to be of low probability, if arson is used as the primary tactic, such as an intentional forest fire, the environmental damages would grow exponentially with the size of the spread.*

Property – If a large-scale attack was to occur in a highly populated city or on a critical infrastructure in Washington State, the expected damage would likely be in excess of \$1 billion. **Note:** *This is based on a ‘worst case scenario’, where an IED is involved. A more likely case scenario would be an active shooter, in which less than \$1 million of damages would occur. The actual dollar amount incurred in any terror event is completely dependent upon the terrorists’ motivation or desired outcome, tactic used, specific location, and weapon type.*

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Summary

Hazard – Terrorism is a man-made hazard that is defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objective”. This threat includes acts of terrorism by international terrorist organizations, independent terror cells, homegrown violent extremists (HVEs), ‘lone wolf’ violent extremists, and any other group or individual using terror tactics (i.e. violence, death, damage, etc.) in the progression of their goals.

Table 1 Regional Terror and Violent Extremist Cases –

May 2012	Ian Stawicki – Opened fire at Seattle coffee shop, hijacked car, killed himself.
Oct 2011	Abdisalan Hussein Ali – 3 rd American killed as Al-Shabaab suicide bomber.
Sep 2011	Michael McCright – Vehicular Assault against U.S. Marines on I-5 in Seattle.
Jun 2011	Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif and Walli Mujahidh – Seattle MEPS attack plot.
May 2011	Joseph Brice – Amateur IED maker advertising via YouTube in Clarkston, WA.
Jan 2011	Kevin Harpham – Foiled Spokane MLK Jr. Parade backpack bomb plot.
Nov 2010	Mohamed Osman Mohamud – Foiled Portland Christmas Tree VBIED Bombing.
Nov 2009	Maurice Clemmons – Murdered 4 Lakewood Police Officers at a coffee shop.
Oct 2009	Christopher Monfort – Murdered Seattle Police Officer and firebombed vehicles.
Dec 2008	Ruben Shumpert – Ex-convict joins al-Shabaab, killed in Somalia fighting.
Mar 2008	Earth Liberation Front (ELF) – Destroyed 4 Snohomish homes with arson fires.
Jul 2006	Naveed Afzal Haq – Seattle Jewish Federation shooting deemed ‘Hate Crime’.
Dec 2005	Oussama Abdallah Kassir – Trainer at AQ terror training camp in Bly, Oregon.
Dec 2005	Michael Curtis Reynolds – Agreed to blow up Oil Pipelines in Idaho for AQ.
Nov 2005	Dominick Sergio Maldonado – Active Shooter and kidnap at Tacoma Mall.
Jun 2003	Paul Douglas Revak – U.S. Coast Guard facility bomb plot in Bellingham, WA.
Oct 2002	“Portland 7” – Attempt to join AQ and fight against U.S. forces in Afghanistan.
May 2001	ELF’s Justin Solondz and Briane Waters – UW Horticulture Building Arson.
Dec 1999	Ahmed Ressay – LAX Millennium Bomb Plot; intercepted in Port Angeles, WA.

Probability of Future Events – It is impossible to provide a precise probability of future events of this type but the general consensus is anywhere from 1 to 10 years. The most likely tactics to be used are Active Shooter(s), Bombings (any variety), and Cyber Attacks. The least likely tactics to be used are Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Bombing/Attack and Hijacking/Skyjacking. Most likely targets are assessed to be Government Facilities, Commercial Facilities (Public Assembly, Retail, Entertainment and Media, etc), Transportation, and Military and Law Enforcement.

Jurisdictions at Greatest Risk – Generally, terrorists target densely populated or high profile areas, therefore any of the State’s major urban areas could be considered at risk, as well as any of the State’s higher profile critical infrastructure. King, Pierce, Snohomish, Clark, and Spokane counties have the highest population and critical infrastructure density in the State. However, the specific motivations of terrorist and violent extremists dictate target selection, thus any location in Washington has the potential to become a target.

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The Hazard

Despite more than a decade of robust counterterrorism and homeland security efforts, forecasting potential terrorist targets and events has proven to be a difficult task—if not near impossible—at a national level, as well as, within Washington State. International terrorist organizations, independent terror cells, Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs), and ‘Lone Wolf’ violent extremists are all determinedly and concurrently employing efforts to cause harm to the U.S., its allies, and its interests. The sheer volume, evolving tactics, and chance indicators seen in historical acts of terrorism against the Homeland are primary reasons Washington State is including the ‘Terror Threat’ to its statewide Threat Mitigation Plans. This Terrorism Profile intends to outline, among other things, some of the risk factors which make Washington State a target-rich environment, and therein, identify critical focus areas for threat mitigation planning at the state and local levels.

Threat Definitions

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines **terrorism** as “the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objective”. The definition continues to specify terrorism as either domestic or international, based upon the origin, base, and objectives of the terrorist organization.

“**Domestic Terrorism** involves groups or individuals who are based and operate entirely within the United States and Puerto Rico without foreign direction and whose acts are directed at elements of the United States Government or [its] population.”¹ (Examples: 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympic Park bombing, 2009 murder of George Tiller (late-term abortion physician), 2010 Hutaree Militia plots against Law Enforcement, 2010 Austin IRS plane attack.)

“**International Terrorism** is the unlawful use of force or violence committed by a group or individual, who has some connection to a foreign power or whose activities transcend national boundaries, against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”¹ (Examples: September 11 World Trade Center attacks, 2005 London Train bombings, 2009 Fort Hood shooting, 2010 Mumbai attacks, 2010 Time Square attempted bombing.)

“**Cyberterrorism** is the convergence of cyberspace and terrorism. It refers to unlawful attacks and threats of attack against computers, networks, and the information stored therein when done to intimidate or coerce a government or its people in furtherance of political or social objectives. [A cyberterrorism] attack should result in violence against persons or property, or at least cause enough harm to generate fear. Virtually initiated attacks which lead to the death or bodily injury, explosions, or severe economic loss can also be included in cyberterrorism-related activities. Attacks against elements of a government’s critical infrastructure could also be classified as acts of cyber-terrorism depending on the impact of such an event.”² (Examples: 2002 CIKR Digital Systems Site Casing, 2003 Ohio Nuclear Power Plant servers crashed by Slammer Worm, 2012 Al-Qa’ida calls for “Electronic Jihad” against U.S. CIKR.)

A **Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE)** is defined as “a person of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the U.S. or its territories who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically-motivated terrorist activities (including support to terrorism) in the furtherance of political,

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social, or religious objectives promoted by a foreign terrorist organization (FTO), but is acting independently of direction by the FTO.”³ HVEs may assemble in groups, but typically act independently in attacks or other acts of violence. (Examples: Hosam Smadi – Dallas Skyscraper plot, Umar Farouk Abdulmuttalab (aka Underwear Bomber) – Attempted bombing on Northwest Airlines flight on Christmas Day 2009, Farooque Ahmed – 2010 D.C. Metro plot, Khalid Aldawsari – 2011 plot to attack President G.W. Bush’s Texas home, and others like this.)

A **Lone Wolf** is defined as someone who commits or prepares for violent acts in support of some group, movement, or ideology, but does so alone, outside of any command structure. They are simply an HVE, International or Domestic Terrorist acting alone. A Lone Wolf may be motivated by any terrorist or violent extremist ideology, and may have even communicated at some point with others about the ideology, but decided to act alone. (Examples: “Unibomber” Theodore Kaczynski, Eric Rudolph - 1996 Olympic Park attacks, Joseph Andrew Stack - 2010 Austin IRS Plane attack.)

A **Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)** is defined by the FBI as “any explosive or incendiary device, as defined in Title 18 USC, Section 921, as a bomb, grenade rocket, missile, mine, or other device with a charge of more than four ounces. A WMD is further defined as “any weapon designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals or their precursors.”⁴ (Examples: 2001 Anthrax attacks, 2002 Dirty Bomb plot, 2009 plan to shoot down NY National Guard planes with stinger missiles.)

Previous Occurrences

While Washington State is historically seasoned with violent extremists, there were less than a dozen major terrorist events in the Northwest prior to September 11, 2001. One of the first major terrorism cases in the Northwest was the Rajneeshee bio-terror attack in February 1984, where members of the Rajneesh [cult] intentionally contaminated local restaurants with salmonella in The Dalles, Oregon. Other notorious terror cases include the arrest of Ahmed Ressam, the “Millennium Bomber,” in December 1999, and the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) firebombing of University of Washington’s (UW) Horticulture Center in May 2001.⁵



Figure 16-2: The skeleton of what was the UW Center for Urban Horticulture building after various ELF members firebombed it in 2001.

Since 2001, there have been more than 20 terrorism and violent extremism cases in or with connections to the Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Idaho). Once viewed as an external problem, the U.S. has been subjected to a growing number of homegrown and domestic terrorism events, making it more commonplace than ever before. Though terrorism is not new, the vast number of methods in which an attack can occur has seemingly expanded due to an increased interest. A plot can include multiple combinations of tactic type, weapon(s) type, location, target type, and number of operators. Increased security measures over time have forced terrorist and violent extremists to become more innovative in their attempts to concoct the most effective and lethal combinations of attack components while maintaining the ability to go undetected until the time of the operation.

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Attacks resulting from international terrorism, domestic terrorism, and significant criminal activity can be manifested in numerous ways. The following attack categories are the most likely methods in which these threats would materialize. Included are notable local incidents for that category.

Rank	State	Number of Attacks	Rank	State	Number of Fatalities
1	California	574	1	New York	2,818
2	New York	492	2	Virginia	196
3	Puerto Rico	241	3	Oklahoma	170
4	Florida	144	4	California	61
5	Illinois	108	5	Pennsylvania	48
6	Washington	88	6	Puerto Rico	22
7	District of Columbia	81	7	Texas	19
8	Oregon	60	8	Colorado	18
9	Massachusetts	50	9	District of Columbia	17
10	Texas	48	10	Florida	15

Active Shooters (Single): An individual who participates in a random or systematic shooting spree demonstrating their intent to continuously harm or kill others. These situations are dynamic and evolve rapidly, demanding immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to stop the shooting and limit harm or loss of life to innocent victims.⁶

On May 30, 2012, Ian Stawicki^{USPERS} opened fire at a small Seattle café, killing two patrons. He then fled the scene and headed to first Hill, where he preceded to hijack a car, killing the woman occupying it. The spree didn't end until nearly five hours later when, confronted by police in West Seattle, he dropped to his knees and shot himself in the head.⁷

On July 28, 2006, Naveed Haq^{USPERS} was arrested for shooting six women, one fatally, at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. The shooting came a day after the FBI had warned Jewish organizations nationwide to be on alert after Hezbollah leaders in Lebanon urged to bring the war raging in the Middle East to the West. Open sources indicate Haq was not affiliated with any group, but rather had a personal antagonism towards Jews.^{8,9}

Active Shooters (Multiple): A group who participates in a random or systematic shooting spree demonstrating their intent to continuously harm or kill others. These situations are dynamic and evolve rapidly, demanding immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to stop the shooting and limit harm or loss of life to innocent victims.¹⁰

On June 22, 2011, Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif^{USPERS} and Walli Mujahidh^{USPERS} were arrested and charged with conspiracy after planning to attack the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) in Seattle with machine guns and grenades after previously planning, but discounting, an attack at Joint Base Lewis McChord (JBLM). According to FBI investigators, “Abdul-Latif said that ‘jihad’ in America should be a ‘physical jihad,’ and not just ‘media jihad,’ expressing his view that it was necessary to take action rather than just talk.” Abdul-Latif, an ex-con with a robbery and assault record, faces a life sentence, while his co-defendant, Mujahidh, faces 27 to 32 years in federal prison.¹¹

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On October 4, 2002, seven individuals were arrested for attempting to join Al-Qa'ida in their fight against the U.S. military and coalition forces in Afghanistan. Later coined the "Portland 7," they were all named in the 15-count indictment that included charges of "conspiracy to levy war against the United States, conspiracy to provide material support and resources to al-Qa'ida, conspiracy to contribute services to al-Qa'ida and the Taliban, conspiracy to possess and discharge firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence, possessing firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence and money laundering."¹²

Bombings (IED/SVIED): A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract. It is typically devised from non-military components; *Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) or Suicide-Vest Improvised Explosive Device (SVIED)*.¹³

On January 17, 2011, Kevin Harpham^{USPERS} placed a remote-controlled backpack improvised explosive device (IED) at a park bench near the march route on the morning of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Spokane, WA.¹⁴

On June 9, 2003, Paul Douglas Revak^{USPERS}, a [then] 20-year old self-proclaimed Anarchist, was arrested for planning to bomb a U.S. Coast Guard facility in Bellingham, WA. He attempted to precipitate a revolution in the U.S. and discussed targeting several military installations. He was arrested when he negotiated with an undercover FBI agent for the purchase of explosive device components. Charged with threatening to use a WMD, he was only sentenced five years probation under a plea agreement.¹⁵

On December 14, 1999, Ahmed Ressay, a 32-year old Algerian living in Montreal, Canada, was arrested by U.S. Customs agents while trying to enter the U.S. from Victoria, British Columbia on a ferry to Port Angeles, WA. Ressay was attempting to enter the U.S. while toting 240-pounds of homemade explosives in the trunk of his rented vehicle. He was charged with smuggling explosive material into the United States. Initially, law enforcement officials investigated the possibility of a terrorist bombing during the year 2000 New Year's Eve celebration at the Seattle Space Needle, since an event of this kind normally draws thousands of people in celebration, but later determined the explosives were meant for a bombing at the Los Angeles International Airport that was to happen on New Year's Eve.¹⁶

Bombing (VBIED): Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) use explosives to weaponize cars, trucks and even motorcycles; in assassinations aimed at killing a specific individual(s) and in attacks designed to achieve mass destruction to people and property. These can be either set to detonate remotely or by some type of trigger.¹⁷

On November 26, 2010, federal law enforcement officials arrested Mohamed Osman Mohamud^{USPERS}, 19, and accused him of plotting to bomb Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland, OR during a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony. An estimated 10,000 people were at the ceremony during the attempt. Mohamud, born in Somalia, was charged with trying to use a weapon of mass destruction. He thought he was detonating a car bomb at the packed ceremony after federal agents said that they had spent nearly six months setting up a sting operation. Mohamud had reportedly become a radicalized, violent Islamic extremist while living and studying in Oregon.¹⁸

Arson and Firebombing: Any willful or malicious firebombing, burning, or attempt to burn, with the intent to defraud, harm or kill others, or destroy property; including a dwelling house, public building, motor vehicle or aircraft, personal property, etc.¹⁹

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On October 22, 2009, Christopher Monfort^{USPERS} emplaced improvised incendiary explosive devices (IIED) under two patrol vehicles parked in a maintenance yard as part of his violent campaign against the Seattle Police Department. The bombs designed to target and kill police, firefighters and medics who arrived to battle the arson blaze. Monfort is also responsible for the murder of a police officer a week later (see more in ‘Murder/Assassination’ section below).²⁰

On May 21, 2001, Justin Solondz^{USPERS}, Briana Waters^{USPERS}, and three other members of the environmental extremist group Earth Liberation Front (ELF) placed a homemade incendiary device in a filing cabinet in the University of Washington Horticulture Center, causing approximately \$4 million in damages. Solondz and Waters have been the only two sentenced so far.²¹

Murder / Assassination: The killing of a selected victim, usually by bombing, small arms, or poison; typically for a political, religious, or social-psychological effect.²²

On November 29, 2009, Maurice Clemmons^{USPERS} walked into a Forza Coffee shop where he shot and killed four Lakewood, WA police officers who were preparing to start their day shifts. Clemmons was later shot and killed by a police officer after a two-day manhunt. He had a violent past that included multiple run-ins with law enforcement and possible mental instability that influenced his hatred towards law enforcement officers.²³

On October 31, 2009, Christopher Monfort^{USPERS} shot and killed an officer on duty in the Central District of Seattle, culminating his politically-driven, violent war against the Seattle Police Department. The officer was seated in a parked patrol car with another officer discussing a traffic stop when Monfort stopped his vehicle alongside the patrol car, opened fire on the two officers, then fled the scene. One week later, Monfort was apprehended and seriously wounded after being shot by police officers in Tukwila.²⁴ He is awaiting trial.

Other Explosives or Weapons: The calculated use of explosives or other weapon type in order to attain goals that are political or religious or ideological in nature; terror attack using weapon type not already covered.²⁵

On September 8, 2011, Michael McCright^{USPERS} was arrested and charged with second-degree assault after a July 2011 incident in which he swerved his privately owned vehicle at a government vehicle occupied by two Marines north of Seattle. McCright allegedly has ties to Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif.²⁶

CBRN Attack / Bomb: Weaponized chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials that are intentionally used in criminal acts with the intent to harm or kill others; acts may include the deliberate dumping or release of hazardous materials, poisoning of one or more individuals, or contamination of food, livestock and crops.²⁷

See reference above to Kevin Harpham^{USPERS} and the Martin Luther King Day Parade bomb attempt, in Spokane, WA. The backpack he used had been cut to allow the insertion of the wooden-framed, 6-inch steel pipe loaded with 128-quarter ounce weights that were coated with rat poison to act as an anti-clotting agent.²⁸

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Kidnappings and Hostage-Takings: The overt seizure of a facility or location and the taking of hostages; used to establish a bargaining position and to elicit publicity; for the purpose of gaining money, release of jailed comrades, and publicity for an extended period.²⁹

See reference above to Naveed Haq^{USPERS} shooting at the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle. To gain access to the building, he held a 14-year old girl hostage at gunpoint. Once they were in the building, the girl ran and hid, and then Haq proceeded to shoot.³⁰

Support to Terrorism: Anyone who provides material support or resources or conceals or disguises the nature, location, source, or ownership of material support or resources, knowing or intending that they are to be used in preparation for, or in carrying out, an act of terrorism or violent extremism.³¹

On October 27, 2012, Abdisalan Hussein Ali^{USPERS}, a 22-year old who was born in Somalia, but raised in Seattle and Minnesota, was the third American killed as an Al-Shabaab suicide bomber in Mogadishu. He was a pre-med student before purportedly being recruited into al-Shabaab and travelling to Somalia in 2008.³²

On May 9, 2011, Joseph Brice^{USPERS}, a 21-year old from Clarkston, WA, was arrested for assembling, practicing, and detonating homemade IEDs. He created a YouTube channel called Strength of Allah, to which he posted demonstrations of the IEDs and advertised his willingness to build them for others; thus, the charges of support to terrorism.

In April 2009, Abdifatah Yusuf Isse^{USPERS} pled guilty to training with and providing material support to al-Shabaab, beginning in December 2007. A prior economics major at Eastern Washington University, Isse also admittedly had contact with Shirwa Ahmed, the first known American suicide bomber, while he was being trained in Somalia.³³

On December 12, 2008, Ruben Shumpert^{USPERS}, aka Amir Abdul Muhaimeen, was reportedly killed in Somalia while fighting for al-Shabaab. He was under investigation by the FBI for distributing jihadi video recordings and providing weapons training while living in Seattle before fleeing the U.S. with the help of local Somali Islamic extremists.³⁴

On December 11, 2005, Oussama Abdallah Kassir was arrested for serving as a trainer, alongside founder James Ujaama, at an Al-Qa'ida affiliated terror training camp in Bly, Oregon.³⁵

Hijacking and Skyjacking: The seizure by force of an aircraft, surface vehicle, vessel, its passengers, and/or its cargo; often creates a mobile, hostage barricade situation.³⁶

While there has been no hijacking or skyjacking incidents in Washington State, SeaTac International Airport is one of Seattle's most valuable and vulnerable assets. Additionally, Washington is home to numerous cruise ship terminals and the nation's largest ferry fleet. A successful maritime attack would have a significant economic and psychological impact.

In 2004, an AQ member in U.S. custody told interrogators that the original 9/11 plan called for terrorists to seize 10 planes and attack targets on both coasts, including a black-glass skyscraper that towers over downtown Seattle.³⁷

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Cyber Attack: A deliberate exploitation, disruption, or destruction of information/data, computer systems, computer programs, technology-dependent enterprises and networks through the use of malicious code to alter computer code, logic or data; aka Computer Network Attack (CNA).³⁸

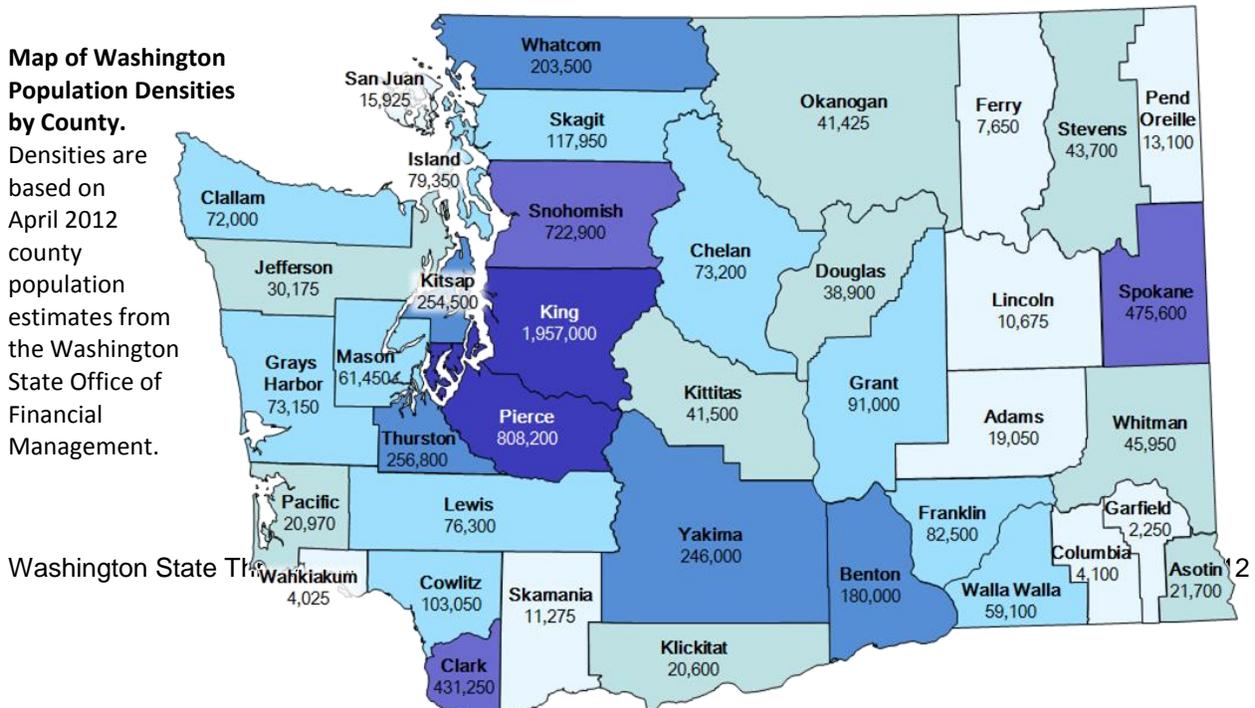
In October of 2012, actors claiming affiliation with the hacktivist group Anonymous threatened to launch “Operation Grand Jury Resisters” in response to the treatment of suspects implicated in federal crimes that occurred during May Day activities in Seattle. Online personas specifically cited the City of Seattle’s www.seattle.gov public website, the FBI, and the district’s U.S. Attorney’s Office as targets for cyber attacks.

Maritime Attack: The undertaking of criminal acts and activities within the maritime environment, using or against vessels or fixed platforms at sea or in port, or against any one of their passengers or personnel, against coastal facilities or settlements, including tourist resorts, port areas and port towns or cities.³⁹

Washington State has one of the sixth largest maritime ports in the U.S. and houses the nation’s largest ferry fleet, servicing approximately 22.3 million riders per year.⁴⁰ Local cruise ship terminals also host over 200 cruise ships annually and are responsible for generating over \$2 million into the local economy. While there have been no terror incidents within the State’s maritime sector, a successful maritime attack locally would have a significant economic and psychological impact.

Probability of Future Events

Historically, terrorists and violent extremists have demonstrated their continued desire to commit acts of terrorism in highly populated or high profile areas. Numerous critical infrastructures and public events have been the targets of foiled terror plots in Washington State, as well. The map below displays the population densities of counties within Washington. Highly populated counties tend to have a heavier infrastructure base to support a large population and, therefore, typically have more potential targets for terrorists and violent extremists seeking to inflict harm on these types of systems. This is not to say that these are the only target-rich environments. For example, intelligence reporting indicates terrorists’ interests in targeting infrastructure such as dams, food supplies, or cyber infrastructures; which can be located in sparsely populated areas or are not centralized to one specific locale.



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*Click [here](#) for source data in Excel.

Less than 20,000
20,000 – 49,000
50,000 – 149,000
150,000 – 399,000
400,000 – 749,000
750,000 and above

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Communities vulnerable to terrorist incidents are those that have high visibility, or are internationally known (i.e. Seattle), and those communities containing highly visible targets. The Department of Homeland Security has identified 18 critical infrastructure and key resource (CIKR) sectors which covers the gamut of facilities, sites, routes, and systems which are most vulnerable to acts of violence, intrusion, or destruction. Additionally, special events or sites attracting large gatherings tend to be the most lucrative targets due to the high volumes of potential victims, and become even more appealing during visits by high profile personalities and dignitaries. Examples of high impact targets within the 18 CIKR sectors include:

- Commercial buildings (stadiums, concert venues, convention centers, theatres, parks, shopping malls, casinos, etc.)
- Cyber / Information Technology (system networks, power grids, communication industry, etc.)
- Special events (parades, religious services, festivals, other planned celebrations, etc.)
- Government (courthouses, schools, universities, hospitals, etc.)
- Law Enforcement / Emergency Services (first responders and all law enforcement facilities, equipment, personnel, etc.)
- Defense (military bases, facilities, airfields, equipment, personnel, national laboratories, etc.)
- Transportation (airports, bridges, ferries, interstate highways, passenger rail, tunnels, seaports, hazardous materials pipelines, etc.)
- Financial Institutions / Banks
- Historical landmarks, monuments, museums, and other iconic sites
- Dams, water reservoirs, and the power distribution network

Current Overwatch

The FBI is the lead agency in the U.S. for all matters concerning terrorism and violent extremism. Therefore, the current mitigation plan for such in Washington State mirrors that of the FBI's national-level procedures and guidelines. Specific outreach and coordination in response to a terror incident, while mostly predetermined, will be customized for the incident and dictated to response partners at that time.

Currently, the Seattle Field Office of the FBI has various task forces operating to address terrorism matters, including:

- Puget Sound Joint Terrorism Task Force (PS-JTTF)
- Puget Sound Counterterrorism Working Group (PS-CTWG)
- Inland Northwest Regional Terrorism Task Force (IN-RTTF)
- Northwest Cyber Crime Task Force (NW-CCTF)

These FBI task forces work, in conjunction with local and state law enforcement agencies, to share information and to conduct terrorism investigations. Key partners with the FBI's counterterrorism efforts in the Northwest are the officers, investigators, and analysts from the Washington State Fusion Center, Internal Revenue Service, Washington State Patrol, Seattle Police Department, U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and various other intelligence and law enforcement agencies. In addition to these task forces and partnerships, counterterrorism remains the FBI's highest priority and can levy agents and analysts from around the nation to mitigate these threats.

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Assessment

Acts of terrorism and violent extremism are the most challenging of all hazards to face. While hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters can be scientifically forecasted, tracked, and somewhat safeguarded against, acts of terrorism are far less predictable. Furthermore, identifying what measures to take once a threat is detected or an attack has already occurred is more of an art than science. The initial unpredictability and the difficulties in conducting response planning for successful attacks are all completely dependent upon the specific combination of—among dozens of other factors—the numbers, skills, training, motivations, extent of radicalization, and abilities of the operators combined with the time of attack, specific location, weapon type(s), tactics, intended target(s), barriers, and numbers of potential victims. Dozens of factors, equating to thousands of possible combinations, equals a seemingly infinite number of attack scenarios that could play out. Take for example, the 2008 Mumbai Attacks. This four-day long event included 11 coordinated hostage-takings, shootings, arson, and bombings across the city. It was conducted using 10 operators, who traveled from Pakistan to Mumbai India via boat. The targets expanded over a wide range of CIKR sectors and included a world heritage site, railway station, café, taxis, hotels, Jewish Center, law enforcement, and the local populace. A total of 164 people were killed, more than 300 were wounded, and damage to the city was estimated to be [equivalent to] almost \$20 million USD.⁴¹ Additionally, consider the Fort Hood shooting, where a U.S. Army soldier, Nidal Hasan ^{USPERS}, began a deadly shooting spree after being radicalized with the help of Anwar al-Awlaki ^{USPERS}. This attack was conducted by one man, with a handgun, while in his military uniform. He was able to singlehandedly kill 13 people and wound 29 others. Property damage was slight, but the psychosocial effects felt by U.S. citizens were likely equivalent to that of the Mumbai Attacks.

The weighty differences in attack types in just those two examples are reasons why man-made threats, unless detected and thwarted early, are difficult to plan for and attempt to mitigate. Over the past 12 years, the U.S. Intelligence Community has worked extensively to collect on potential threats, thwart plots, and implement security measures in order to deny terrorists or violent extremists opportunities to cause harm within the Homeland. The undying will and evolving persistence of the enemy necessitates we continue to develop effective information sharing conduits, conduct collective mitigation planning and exercises, and look to the statistical enumeration of historical events as foundations for deterring future attacks.

Jurisdictions Most Threatened and Vulnerable to Terrorism Hazards

This was not determined.

Potential Climate Change Impacts

Changes in climate would most likely have very little impact (if any) on a terrorist or violent extremist attack (unless using arson or CBRN tactics).

At Risk State Facilities

This was not determined.

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