



These variables will assist the planning team in building an exercise scenario that involves a chemical agent. The following factors should be determined in sequential order when developing the scenario:

- 1. Persistent or Nonpersistent Agent.** Persistent agents tend to remain in the environment where they were released for an extended period of time. Agents classified as nonpersistent lose effectiveness after only a few minutes or hours (depending on subsequently listed factors). An example of a persistent agent is lewisite; an example of a nonpersistent agent is sarin. The agent selected for an exercise may be based on the venue identified and the capabilities of the jurisdiction to respond to the agent’s characteristics (e.g., lethality, symptomology).
- 2. Open Air or Enclosed Venue.** An open-air venue is outside (e.g., a stadium or park). An enclosed venue has limited space (e.g., an arena or exhibit hall). When selecting the agent involved in the exercise scenario, the type of venue should be considered. For example, if the agent selected is nonpersistent, the venue should not be open air due to the agent’s dissipating characteristics.
- 3. Single or Multiple and/or Secondary Device(s).** This is the number of devices involved in the scenario. The planning team will need to determine the method of dissemination for the agent, type of devices (explosive or nonexplosive), and number of devices that will initiate the event. Consideration should also be given to including a secondary device that would target first responders in the scenario.
- 4. No Notice or Credible Threat Warning.** The planning team should determine if there will be a warning phase during the exercise that presents participants with credible threat information that the potential for an attack is heightened (e.g., homeland security advisory system, intelligence gathering) or if the attack occurs without any such warning.
- 5. Casualties.** Based on the lethality of the agent, the type of venue (or simulated location), and the number of devices, the planning team should determine approximately how many casualties should be affected in the exercise scenario. This number should also be based on the jurisdiction’s capabilities to respond to a mass casualty situation. Planners should be careful not to overwhelm participants during the exercise.

Agent	Venue	Devices	Warning	Casualties
Nonpersistent	Open air	Single	No notice	+500
		Multiple	Credible threat	<1,000
Persistent	Enclosed	Secondary		<5,000
				>5,000