

As a nation we need to come to **GRIPS** with why nuclear terror would be the worst disaster conceivable.



### **G**lobal Cascading Effects

*“If it happens anywhere it will affect everywhere.”*

A nuclear terrorist attack would inflict a cascading series of global effects. Instantaneous and self-sustaining, the global and economic shock coupled with the possibility of a worldwide depression would take priority over all other critical issues such as hunger and global warming.

### **R**etaliation

*“Someone will have to pay.”*

How and against whom we would retaliate would be a critical question. Political pressure on our remaining leaders to strike back against *someone* would be overwhelming and irresistible. The consequences of this retaliation would upset the already uncertain balance of power.

### **I**rreversible

*“Our world would change forever.”*

The impact of an act of nuclear terrorism would be irreversible. Radioactive fallout at ground zero would render entire sections of a target city for decades. Equally irreversible would be a dramatic and permanent loss of our sense of security and our civil liberties.

### **P**aralyzed - Airport and Seaport Traffic

*“There will be a complete Lock-Down.”*

Fear of follow-up attack would drive the government to radical steps that would have broad economic, legal and political impacts. Ports and airports would be closed. All container shipping would be halted as the country went on high-alert prudently exploring the possibility of an additional attack.

### **S**toppable

*“We can prevent this.”*

Nuclear terrorism is preventable. Billions of dollars and tens of thousands of hours spent on preparedness could be saved if we focused those resources prevention. The overriding policy focus must be on doing everything possible to ensure that such an attack never happens.