

National Survey Shows Lack of Preparedness for a Dirty Bomb Attack

Last update: 2:06 p.m. EDT Sept. 9, 2008

WASHINGTON, Sept 09, 2008 /PRNewswire-USNewswire via COMTEX/
-- The Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition (R-TAC) today released a national survey on homeland security preparedness, showing that at least 81% of those polled said the threat of a "dirty bomb" is serious, yet less than one third (32%) feel prepared for a terrorist attack.

The national survey of public sentiment finds that a majority of likely voters would not know what to do in the event of a "dirty bomb" attack, and have not taken steps to make themselves more prepared.

"Seven years after 9/11 proved that America was vulnerable, the American people know the danger of a dirty bomb, but they don't know what to do about it," said R-TAC chairman James P. Pinkerton. "The sense of urgency that sparked R-TAC will help deploy much-needed support to federal, state, and local responders to address the threat of a dirty bomb. This is the best way to honor their efforts and protect America."

AMONG THE FINDINGS:

-- 81% said they consider the threat posed to the United States by the possibility of a "dirty bomb" attack by terrorists to be serious.

-- A majority (56%) said they were not confident they would know what to do in the event of a "dirty bomb" attack.

-- 63% said they do not feel prepared in the event of a terrorist attack on their community.

-- Only 34% of voters agreed the government was doing a good job informing people about preparedness for a terrorist attack.

The nationwide survey of 502 likely voters was conducted August 25-28, 2008 by Mr. Peter Brodnitz of the Benenson Strategy Group. To view the poll in its entirety, please visit www.r-tac.org.

About Benenson Strategy Group:

The Benenson Strategy Group is a nationally recognized strategic research and consulting firm founded in 2001. Peter Brodnitz was named "Pollster of the Year" in 2007 by the American Association of Political Consultants -- a bi-partisan award given to one pollster per election year. The Benenson Strategy Group's clients include Governor Tim Kaine (VA), Senator Jim Webb (VA), and Barack Obama's campaign for President.

About R-TAC:

The Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition (R-TAC) is a national, not-for-profit and nonpartisan coalition composed of a broad group of first-responders, business groups, health advocates and homeland security experts. R-TAC seeks to prepare, protect, and prevent a radiological disaster in our country by providing information and resources on the risk of a radiological catastrophe such as a series of "dirty bomb" attacks.

For more information about the coalition, please visit www.r-tac.org. To set up a media interview with Chairman Pinkerton or any of the Advisory Board members, please contact Tarah Donoghue at 202-879-5817.

SOURCE Radiological Threat Awareness Coalition (R-TAC)

<http://www.r-tac.org/>