

'Every place' can expect terror

Emergency responders gather in city

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Emergency responders are boosting their skills for dealing with terrorist attacks, as Calgary's deputy fire chief says no place is immune to the threat of terrorism.

Speaking on the first day of the third annual conference, Ken Uzeloc said firefighters, paramedics and police need to be ready.

"Every place is some place to worry about it now. It's not just focusing around international, high, state-run terrorism; this comes right down to the pipeline bombings in northern B.C.," he said.

With the oilsands in northern Alberta and oil and gas companies headquartered in Calgary, the city is a prime target for an attack — either at the hands of extremist groups or "run-of-the-mill" protesters,

Uzeloc said.

About 150 emergency responders from across Canada and the U.S. Midwest are attending the three-day conference. Speakers include a bomb technician, terrorism expert and defence researcher.



Ken Uzeloc

Uzeloc said conference attendees will take part in global examinations of issues in the morning and then break into groups of specific disciplines for in-depth discussions.

The conference emphasizes collaboration between fire, police and paramedics. Uzeloc said they must work together because responding to a terrorist attack could involve rescues, medical treatment, police investigations and more.

"We're going to work together no matter what agency to ensure we offer the best protection to our citizens and country as possible," he said.

"Nowadays it's 'we' as opposed to 'us.'"

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