

'Dirty Bomb' Blast Opens Terror Drill



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland International Raceway in north Portland is staged for a terrorism attack in an exercise to test federal, state and local police and emergency response agencies.

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Saturday, October 27, 2007

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A bright flash and a loud bang meant to simulate a dirty-bomb attack opened the biggest counterterrorism exercise in U.S. history Tuesday.

Federal state and local police and emergency response agencies are taking part in the weeklong drill, called TOPOFF4, taking place near

Portland International Raceway in north Portland.

About 200 local residents with authentic-looking injuries gave some reality to the exercise. People exposed to fake radioactive material were sent to local hospitals for sorting and decontamination. Dozens of Red Cross workers were also

among the teams working the scene.

Similar exercises are being staged in Arizona and Guam. Officials say the drills also help responders be prepared for other emergencies such as earthquakes, major storms or other natural and man-made disasters.

Flu Shots for the Uninsured

Flu shots will be available by appointment at Portland-area Safeway stores through November for \$28.

The store at 5920 N.E. Martin Luther King Blvd. is also organizing a drop-in flu clinic for Tuesday, Oct. 23 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Drop-in flu clinics during these same hours will also occur at the Safeway store at 16409 S.E. Division St. this Saturday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Nov. 10.

Bruce Olson of Dreyers Ice Cream helps promote a flu-shot clinic Tuesday at the Safeway store on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Anti-Crime Measure Impact Studied

Son of Measure 11 could put thousands behind bars

(AP) - A measure to require minimum sentences for drug and property crimes could put 4,000 to 6,000 more Oregonians behind bars, a study given to state lawmakers says.

The measure is sponsored by

Kevin Mannix, a former lawmaker and Republican governor candidate who wrote 1994's Measure 11, a corresponding measure for more serious crimes.

His new measure is expected to be on the ballot in 2008. It would

require minimum sentences of 14 to 36 months for a host of drug and property crimes.

"We aren't going to be able to build prisons fast enough to house them," said Sen. Vicki Walker of Eugene.

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The Red Cross is here. When disaster struck a little boy and his family, someone was there, providing shelter, a hot meal, a teddy bear, and a hug. But this Red Cross volunteer is not the only hero in this picture. Behind her are Oregonians just like you, who generously donate to their local chapter of the American Red Cross. You can't always be there for a child or family in need. But you can guarantee that someone will. To protect. To care. To donate, visit redcross-pdx.org.

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