

WHAT TO DO IF A DIRTY BOMB GOES OFF

OFFICIAL UPDATES LU-Alert · RTL, 100.7 · 112

DO THIS NOW

- 1** Get away from the smoke and dust, and cover your nose and mouth with a cloth. Leave your belongings behind.
- 2** Go inside the nearest solid building and stay there. A solid building offers better protection than a car.
- 3** Close the doors and windows, and switch off ventilation, heating and air conditioning. Stay in a room in the middle of the building, away from doors and windows.
- 4** Take off your outer clothes and shoes as soon as you are inside. This removes up to **90 %** of the dust. Put them in a closed bag, away from people.
- 5** Shower or wash with soap and water, hair first, and put on clean clothes.
- 6** Switch on the radio, **RTL, 100.7**, and watch for LU-Alert messages. Plan to stay inside for at least **24** hours, or until the authorities say you can leave.
- 7** Leave the children where they are: schools and crèches follow the official instructions. Call **112** only if someone is hurt, and text rather than call otherwise.

BEFORE

HOW WARNINGS REACH YOU

- Under Luxembourg's CBRN plan, the government announces protective measures through LU-Alert, sirens, the radio and infocrise. Learn the signals on **Alerts and sirens**.
- A dirty bomb is an explosive that spreads radioactive dust. Sheltering works the same way as in a **nuclear alert**: get inside, stay inside, listen to the radio.

PREPARE TO STAY IN FOR A DAY OR MORE

- Stock water, **4 L** per person per day for **72 hours**, and food you can eat without cooking. See the **emergency kit checklist**.
- Keep strong plastic bags, soap and a spare set of clothes and shoes for each person.

- Learn now how to switch off the ventilation at home and at work.
- Keep a battery or wind-up radio and a charged power bank in the kit.

IODINE TABLETS

- Iodine tablets protect only the thyroid. Take them only if the authorities tell you to, and never go outside to look for them.

AFTER

- Come out only when an official message says it is safe. Follow the instructions on where you may go and which areas stay closed.
- Keep the bag of clothes closed and away from living areas until the authorities say what to do with it.
- Do not eat anything from your garden in the affected area until the authorities say you can. Wash pets before you let them back in.
- Follow official instructions on who needs a contamination check and where to go.
- Feeling anxious after such an event is common. Talk about it with people close to you, and see **Coping with a crisis** if it does not ease.

IF YOU ARE...

LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN

- Help them take off their outer clothes and wash, and explain in plain words: we stay inside, we wash the dust off, we listen to the radio.

OLDER, ILL, OR LIVING WITH A

DISABILITY

- If you need help to undress or wash, ask someone you trust and tell them what happened, so they can protect themselves too.
- Keep your medicines for at least **7 days** within reach, with the chargers for any equipment you depend on.

WITH PETS

- Keep them inside with you. If they were outside, wash them before you let them in.

IN A FLAT ABOVE THE THIRD FLOOR

- You do not need to go down. Choose an inner room or the hallway, away from the windows, and keep the windows shut.

EASY-READ SUMMARY

 Go inside and stay inside.

 Close the windows and switch off the ventilation.

 Take off your outer clothes and have a shower.

 Listen to the radio for instructions.

 Call for help only if someone is hurt.

Last reviewed: 25/10/2026 Sources for this page