

**NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD
CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM TO CONDUCT
EXERCISE TODAY, MARCH 13, IN LINCOLN**

**RELEASED BY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – The Nebraska National Guard’s 72nd Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) will conduct an exercise today, March 13, in Lincoln, Neb., in conjunction with its annual certification process.

The Lincoln-based 72nd CST (WMD) is a Nebraska Army and Air National Guard unit designed to support civil authorities at a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosive (CBRNE) incident by identifying CBRNE agents and substances, assessing current and projected consequences, advising authorities on response measures and assisting with appropriate requests for state support.

In today’s exercise, members of the unit will be responding to a request from the Lincoln Fire Department to help deal with a suspected terrorist attack on a railroad car carrying chlorine gas. CST unit members will be given the mission of identifying any known hazards in the area and assisting local first responders in correctly dealing with those hazards.

According to Guard officials, the day-long exercise kicked off earlier this morning and will culminate in a hands-on exercise beginning at 10 a.m. at Sawyer Snell Park, located at 3rd and South Street in Lincoln. During the exercise, Guard members will be entering a suspected “hot zone” in Level A protective suits with a variety of high-tech instruments to identify the potential hazards.

The Guardsmen are expected to begin entering the suspected “hot zone” at approximately 11:30 a.m.

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NOTE: The media is invited to cover the 72nd CST exercise. According to Guard officials, the Guard members will be setting up their equipment at around 10 a.m. at Sawyer Snell Park and should begin entering the “hot zone” at around 11:30 a.m. A public affairs official will be on hand to assist the media in covering the story.