Lessons Learned from Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attack and Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks

Tatsuo FUNATO
Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd.
Japan
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Tokyo Metro Co., Ltd.
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Outline of Tokyo Metro

- Routes: Ginza Line, Marunouchi Line, Hibiya Line, Tozai Line, Chiyoda Line, Yurakucho Line, Hanzomon Line and Namboku Line,
- Total operating kilometerage: 183.2 km
- Number of stations (above ground): 168 (21)
- Number of passengers per day: 5,590 thousand
Sarin Gas Attack

• March 20, 1995 (Monday) 8:14AM
• Occurred on 5 trains, on 3 lines

Casualties

• Fatalities: 10 passengers, 2 employees
• Hospitalized: 960 passengers, 39 employees
• Outpatient treatment:
  4,446 passengers, 197 employees

Total 5,654 persons
Outline of the Sarin Gas Attack

Method employed in the crime: To prick a bag containing sarin liquid (about 900ml) with the tip of an umbrella

* Indiscriminate terrorist attack, using sarin gas, a deadly poison

* Occurred within the premises of the subway, a closed space

* Sarin gas was dispersed at several locations within a half an hour span resulting in multiple attacks

Incident site where many people were killed by the use of a poisonous agent within the premises of the subway
Tsukiji Station of the Hibiya Line
Tsukiji Station of the Hibiya Line
Kasumigaseki Station

Haz-mat unit of the Tokyo Fire Department in Action
Casualties

- 1 passenger killed
- 2 passengers killed
- 5 passengers killed
- 2 employees killed

Marunouchi Line
- Ikebukuro
- Kodemmacho
- Hatchobori
- Tsukiji
- Kasumigaseki
- Kamiyacho
- Naka-meguro
- Ogikubo
- Honancho
- Nakano-sakaue
- Yoyogi-uehara

Hibiya Line
- Naka-meguro
- Yoyogi-uehara

Chiyoda Line
- Kodemmacho
- Hatchobori
- Tsukiji
- Kasumigaseki
- Kamiyacho
- Naka-meguro
- Ogikubo
- Honancho
- Nakano-sakaue
Kasumigaseki Station of the Hibiya Line
Car No. 8 of the Train No. B711T
Kasumigaseki Station – Self-Defence Forces in Action
Lessons Learned from the Sarin Gas Attack

• The standard manual needs to be adjusted in order to be prepared to handle multiple simultaneous incidents (disasters and/or accidents), should the situation arise.

• Organization among divisions (both operational and technical) should be set-up, by region, to ensure timely rescue operations.

• All staff should have certified life-saving skills to enable them to perform life-saving procedures anytime, anywhere, as necessary.
Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks
(Based on the Lessons Learned from the Sarin Gas Attack)

1. Preventive measures (Deter occurrence)

2. Actions to be taken when an incident occurs

3. Improve response capability (organizational, etc.)
Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks (Part 1)
(Based on the Lessons Learned from the Sarin Gas Attack)

1. Preventive measures (Deter occurrence)

- **Security cameras** are installed at all stations
- **Routine patrols** are carried out in specified areas by contracted security guards.
- **Manuals** should be drawn up on how to respond, should a poisonous gas attack occur.
- **Windows** that can be easily opened or closed manually, as necessary for ventilation purposes, are installed in cars.
Installation of Security Cameras at All Stations
Routine Patrols by Contracted Security Guards at Specified Areas
Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks (Part 2)
(Based on the Lessons Learned from the Sarin Gas Attack)

2. Actions to be taken when an incident occurs

• Passengers should be evacuated immediately, while the proper agencies (fire department and police) are contacted.

• Trains in transit between stations should continue on to the nearest station, with windows opened for ventilation.
Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks (Part 3)
(Based on the Lessons Learned from the Sarin Gas Attack)

3. Improve response capability (organizational, etc.)

- Establishment of emergency networks by region, including operational and technical divisions.

- Upgrade staffs emergency life saving skills.
Regional Disaster Prevention Network

Divided into 15 Regions
Training Under the Instruction of the Tokyo Fire Department
In-house Countermeasures Against Terrorist Attacks

- Drawing up a response manual and training.
- Passengers are evacuated to safety.
- Cooperation among divisions (both operational and technical) to form emergency networks.
  ⇒ Regional Disaster Prevention Network