

# Chronology of Aum Shinrikyo's CBW Activities

## Introduction

Six years ago, on March 20, 1995, five members of the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo (Supreme Truth) boarded subway trains in Tokyo, Japan, and released the deadly chemical nerve agent sarin. The attack killed 12 people and injured over 1,000, of whom 17 were critically injured (requiring intensive care), 37 were severely injured (with muscular twitching and gastrointestinal problems), and 984 were slightly injured (with pinpoint pupils but no other symptoms).

Aum's interest in chemical and biological weapons (CBW) terrorism can be traced back to 1990. Between 1990 and 1995, Aum launched 17 known CBW attacks, with motivations ranging from assassination to mass murder. Of these attacks, 10 were carried out with chemical weapons (four with sarin, four with VX, one with phosgene, and one with hydrogen cyanide) and seven attempted attacks were carried out with biological agents (four with anthrax and three with botulinum toxin, although in both cases the microbial strains were apparently nonvirulent). In addition to these cases, Aum is alleged to have killed 20 of its dissident members with VX and has been linked more tenuously to more than 19 other CBW attacks and attempted attacks (13 attacks where Aum involvement is suspected and six possible copycats).

Since 1995, many of the perpetrators of the Tokyo subway attack have been jailed and are awaiting trial, and others have been sentenced to life in prison or to death by hanging. Although Aum has changed its name to Aleph, has decreased significantly in numbers, and claims to focus on its computer software company, its dangerous apocalyptic ideology remains. The group still has a membership of about 1,000, and the attendance of at least 7,000 people at its 1998 training seminars indicate that it is growing again.

In an effort to focus attention on the CBW terrorism threat posed by Aum and other potentially threatening groups, the staff of the Chemical and Biological Weapons Nonproliferation Program (CBWNP) at the Monterey Institute's Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) has compiled the following chronology of CBW incidents involving Aum Shinrikyo.

The information in this chronology was taken from the Monterey WMD Terrorism Database, which is maintained at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. The database contains information on over 900 terrorist and criminal incidents worldwide involving, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, from 1900 to the present.

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## CHRONOLOGY OF AUM SHINRIKYO CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND RELATED INCIDENTS

Date	Aum Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive	
	*confirmed Aum *suspected Aum			(all in Japan unless otherwise noted)	(a perpetrator without a listed court sentence = a pending trial)	(immediate victims)	(medical and psychosomatic symptoms; fatalities and casualties)		
A	Apr 1990	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators sprayed what they thought was botulinum toxin from three trucks they drove near two U.S. naval bases, Narita airport, the Diet, the Imperial Palace and the headquarters of a rival religious group.	botulinum toxin (could not be produced): three trucks equipped with custom spray device	Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka and Narita	Shigeo Sugimoto and other Aum members	civilian population in vicinity of U.S. Naval bases in Yokohama and Yokosuka, Narita airport, the Diet, and the Imperial Palace	attempt failed: the cult had not isolated <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> (from which botulinum toxin is derived) from the soil they collected at the basin of the Tokach River, Hokkaido	To bring about an apocalyptic war, or retaliation for the defeat of 25 Aum members running for political positions.
B	22 Oct 1992	confirmed Aum	Shoko Asahara led more than 40 of his followers to Zaire with the supposed intent of giving medical assistance to Ebola patients. However, it is believed that Aum's true purpose for traveling to Zaire was to collect samples of the Ebola virus.	Ebola virus: no dissemination	Zaire, Africa	Shoko Asahara & 40 other members of Aum	none	none: the cult probably failed to acquire Ebola samples	To collect samples of Ebola virus for research and development for use as a weapon.
C	9 June 1993	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators attempted to spread what they thought was botulinum toxin in Tokyo, Japan, during Prince Naruhito's wedding by using a car that had been equipped with a spraying device.	botulinum toxin (inactive): car equipped with custom spray device	Tokyo	Aum members	guests at the wedding of Prince Naruhito	attempt failed: the cult had not acquired a usable strain of <i>Clostridium botulinum</i> (from which botulinum toxin is derived)	To disrupt the Prince's wedding, seize power and place the blame on the United States.
D	June - July 1993	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators twice sprayed the vaccine strain of <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> from the roof of their New Tokyo Headquarters building in Kameido, Koto ward.	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (vaccine strain): custom spraying device fitted with fan	Tokyo	Fomihiro Joyu; Seiichi Endo; Hideo Murai; Kiyohide Hayakawa; Kazumi Watabe; Masaya Takahashi and other members of Aum	civilian population in vicinity of Aum's Tokyo compounds, the Imperial Palace, and the legislature	attempt failed: the cult had not acquired a usable strain of <i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	To test the dissemination device, to injure elected officials and possibly to lend credibility to Aum's allegations that the U.S. military was using poison gas and biological weapons on the Japanese population.
E	June - Aug 1993	confirmed Aum	Aum members spread vaccine strain of <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> twice: first against the legislature, then the Imperial Palace and the Tokyo Tower. They used a truck equipped with a custom-made spraying device.	<i>Bacillus anthracis</i> (vaccine strain): three vehicles with custom spraying device	Tokyo	Shoko Asahara, Shigeo Sugimoto and other members of Aum	The legislature, the Imperial Palace and the Tokyo Tower	attempt failed: nozzle was clogged, Aum disseminated the vaccine strain of <i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Perhaps the incident was a simulation of apocalyptic war.
F	late 1993 - early 1994 (two attempts on same target)	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators attempted to murder the leader of a rival spiritual organization with the nerve agent sarin on two separate occasions.	sarin: unknown dissemination method (first attempt); sarin: a radio-controlled helicopter and an unspecified vehicle equipped with sprayer (second attempt)	Tokyo	Seiichi Endo; Tomomitsu Niimi; and Tomomasa Nakagawa	Daisaku Ikeda, head of the Soka Gakkai Buddhist organization	attempts failed: on the first attempt the perpetrators were scared off by unknown individuals who were following them. On the second attempt the perpetrators experienced technical difficulties (the radio-controlled helicopter crashed and the vaporization system in the unspecified vehicle caught on fire)	Asahara was reported to have held a grudge against Ikeda for "abusing Buddhism" and "selling his soul to the devil."

# CHRONOLOGY OF AUM SHINRIKYO (Continued)

	Date	Aum Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive
G	9 May 1994	confirmed Aum	Aum members attempted to murder an attorney by releasing sarin in the ventilator system and on the windshield of his car as it sat outside the Kofu District Courthouse. The attorney was involved in assisting Aum victims.	sarin: released into ventilation system of victim's car and placed on "front glass" of victims car	Tokyo	Yoshinobu Aoyama, sentenced to 12 years in prison; Seiichi Endo; Masahiro Tominaga; Yoshihiro Inoue; Ikuo Hayashi; Tomomitsu Niimi; and an unnamed 17-year-old girl	Taro Takimoto, attorney working on behalf of Aum victims	1 casualty (Taro Takimoto) consisting of narrowed vision and other symptoms of nerve agent exposure	To retaliate against the victim for his work assisting Aum members in leaving the group and heading the Canary Association, a group of lawyers and counselors involved in helping Aum victims.
H	27 June 1994	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators released the nerve agent sarin in a residential neighborhood in Matsumoto, Japan, with a van equipped with a heating pot (used to vaporize sarin) and a fan.	sarin: van equipped with custom vaporizing device	Matsumoto	Seiichi Endo; Hideo Murai; Tomomitsu Niimi; Tomomasa Nakagawa; Yasuo Hayashi; Masami Tsuchiya and Satoru Hashimoto, sentenced to death	judges who lived in apartments near the parking lot; civilian population in the vicinity	7 fatalities, 144 confirmed serious injuries, 126 more complained of symptoms; injuries included headache, vision impairment, nausea, eye and throat irritation, memory loss, vomiting, choking and cramps (not including injuries to perpetrators)	To kill the three judges hearing a fraud case that was brought against the cult, with the ultimate objective being to delay the ruling.
I	1 September 1994	suspected Aum	Some 231 people inhabiting seven towns in Japan's Nara Prefecture were stricken with skin and eye irritation. All the injuries were accompanied by complaints of a foul odor that smelled liked rotten eggs.	unknown	Nara Prefecture	Aum members	civilian population in seven towns across Nara Prefecture	231 injuries consisting of eye and skin irritation	Unknown.
J	20 September 1994	confirmed Aum	While a journalist was sleeping in her apartment, the perpetrators released phosgene gas through her mail slot. The journalist had accused Aum of having kidnapped a man.	phosgene: released through mail slot of apartment	Yokohama	Tomomitsu Niimi (released the gas); Tomomasa Nakagawa; Seiichi Endo; Satoru Hashimoto	Shoko Egawa (journalist)	1 casualty (Shoko Egawa) consisting of coughing, difficulty talking, and bronchial irritation	To retaliate against the journalist for her coverage of the 1989 disappearance of Tsutsumi Sakamoto, who was suspected to have been kidnapped and killed by Aum.
K	Fall 1994	confirmed Aum	Perpetrators killed up to 20 dissident members by squirting them with VX.	VX: unknown dissemination method	Japan (unknown)	Tomomitsu Niimi; Akira Yamagata	dissident Aum members	up to 20 fatalities	To punish dissident members and conduct experiments.
L	Fall 1994	suspected Aum	It is suspected that Aum members attempted to kill an attorney by placing VX on the door handle of his car. The attorney had been working on behalf of Aum victims.	VX: "painted" on the door and handle of victims car	Tokyo	Aum members	Taro Takimoto, attorney working on behalf of Aum victims	attempt failed: reason unknown	To retaliate against the victim for his work assisting Aum members in leaving the group and heading the Canary Association, a group of lawyers and counselors involved in helping Aum victims.
M	Fall 1994	suspected Aum	It is suspected that Aum members attempted to kill an attorney by mixing what they believed to be botulinum toxin into his drink. The attorney had been working on the behalf of Aum victims.	botulinum toxin: mixed into victim's drink	Tokyo	unknown	Taro Takimoto, attorney working on behalf of Aum victims	attempt failed: the cult had not acquired the necessary strain of Clostridium botulinum (from which botulinum toxin is derived)	To retaliate against the victim for his work assisting Aum members in leaving the group and heading the Canary Association, a group of lawyers and counselors involved in helping Aum victims.

## CHRONOLOGY OF AUM SHINRIKYO (Continued)

	Aum Date Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive	
N	Fall 1994		It is suspected that Aum members attempted to kill an attorney by squirting a mixture of hair oil and VX into a keyhole that he used. The attorney had been working on behalf of Aum victims.	VX: squirted into keyhole	Tokyo	Aum members	Taro Takimoto, attorney working on behalf of Aum victims	attempt failed: reason unknown	To retaliate against the victim for his work assisting Aum members in leaving the group and heading the Canary Association, a group of lawyers and counselors involved in helping Aum victims.
O	28 Nov and 2 Dec 1994	confirmed Aum	On two separate occasions the perpetrators attempted to murder a man outside his home in Nakano Ward by squirting him with VX. The man had been assisting dissident members of the cult.	VX: squirted or injected from a syringe	Tokyo (Nakano ward)	Tomomitsu Niimi (directed the attack); Yoshihiro Inoue; Akira Yamagata; Masami Tsuchiya; Tomomasa Nakagawa; Satoru Hirata; Katsuya Takahashi; Seiichi Endo	Noboru Mizuno	1 injury resulting in 45 days hospitalization for nerve agent exposure	To punish the victim for offering shelter to former Aum followers and for helping a victim file a lawsuit against the cult for the return of "donations" made to the cult.
P	12 Dec 1994	confirmed Aum	Aum members posing as joggers attacked a man on the street by spraying his face with VX and/or injecting it into his head or neck. The victim, who was allegedly spying on the cult, was pronounced dead four days later.	VX: squirted or injected from a syringe	Osaka	Tomomitsu Niimi; Akira Yamagata (squirted the syringe); Satoru Hirata (directed attack); Tomomasa Nakagawa (served as backup for attack); Masami Tsuchiya (manufactured the VX); Yoshihiro Inoue (directed attack); Katsuya Takahashi (served as backup for attack)	Tadahito Hamaguchi	1 fatality	To punish the victim for allegedly spying on the cult.
Q	Jan 1995	suspected Aum	The perpetrators were involved in testing biological agents on dissident members of the group by mixing the agents in their food.	biological agents: injection and contaminated food	Japan (unknown)	Shoko Asahara and followers	dissident Aum members	unknown: victims "disappeared" after the dinner party	Possibly to punish disloyal members by forcing them to serve as unwitting guinea pigs for Aum weapon experiments.
R	4 Jan 1995	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators attempted to kill the leader of the "Aum's Supreme Truth Victims Group" by spraying him with VX nerve agent in front of his Tokyo home.	VX: squirted or injected from a syringe	Tokyo (Minato ward)	Tomomitsu Niimi; Satoru Hirata; Akira Yamagata (carried out attack); Katsuya Takahashi; Masami Tsuchiya (development of VX); Yasuo Hayashi (carried out attack); Tomomasa Nakagawa (development of VX); Takeshi Matsumoto (involved in surveying victim)	Hiroyuki Nagaoka, head of the "Aum Supreme Truth Victim's Group"	1 injury consisting of loss of consciousness and numbness of limbs; victim was hospitalized for several weeks	To prevent the victim from encouraging Aum members to leave the group.
S	Feb 1995	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators attempted to murder the leader of a rival religious organization by placing VX in the air conditioning system of his car.	VX: injected with a needle-less syringe into the ventilation system of victim's car	Tokyo	Saturo Hashimoto; Yoshihiro Inoue; Tomomitsu Niimi	Ryuhō Okawa, leader of the Institute for Research into Human Happiness	attempt failed: reason unknown	To retaliate against the victim's rival religious organization, for speaking out against Aum and abusing Buddhism.

## CHRONOLOGY OF AUM SHINRIKYO (Continued)

	Date	Aum Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive
T	2 Mar 1995	suspected Aum	The perpetrator illegally purchased gas masks and other military equipment from a U.S. based military surplus company.	chemical warfare gear: no dissemination	Tokyo	T. Maki	NA	Aum received the illegal shipment(s) and possibly used the goods to help carry out their attacks	Aum probably purchased the gas masks to assist its members in the 20 March 1995 subway attack.
U	5 Mar 1995	suspected Aum	Passengers on board a subway train in Yokohama complained of headaches and sore throats caused by unidentified foul-smelling fumes.	unknown	Yokohama (Keihin Express Subway Line)	Aum members	subway commuters	19 victims, 11 of whom were treated at a hospital; symptoms included eye and throat irritation	Unknown.
V	15 Mar 1995	confirmed Aum	The perpetrators placed three briefcases, equipped and intended to spray botulinum toxin, near the ticket barriers in the Kasumigaseki, Tokyo, subway station. However, one of Aum members in charge of placing the brief cases replaced the toxin with water.	botulinum toxin: briefcases equipped with custom spraying device	Tokyo (Kasumigas eki subway station)	Hideo Murai (ordered the dissemination device); Kazumi Watanabe (designed the device); Yoshihiro Inoue (involved in attack)	subway commuters	attempt failed: alleged toxin was replaced with a non-toxic substance (possibly water) by a dissident Aum member; in any case Aum failed to acquire the necessary strain of Clostridium botulinum (from which botulinum toxin is derived)	To cause mass panic and aid in the fulfillment of Aum's prophecy.
W	20 Mar 1995	confirmed Aum	Five Aum members carried a total of eleven sarin-filled plastic bags onto five different subway trains in Tokyo. Upon boarding the trains the perpetrators punctured the bags with umbrellas and fled the scene. The bags that had begun to leak sarin liquid agent remained on the crowded trains as they traveled toward the city center. Eight of the eleven bags were successfully punctured and approx 159 ounces of sarin were released.	sarin: ruptured plastic bags	Tokyo (5 subway trains: 2 on Hibaya Line, 2 on Marunouchi Line and 1 on Chioda Line)	Shoko Asahara (ordered the attack); Masato Yokoyama (released sarin), sentenced to death by hanging; Yoshiro Inoue (coordinated the attack), sentenced to life in prison; Yosuo Hayashi, sentenced to death by hanging; Koichi Kitamura (provided transportation), sentenced to life in prison; Kiyotaka Tonzaki (provided transportation), sentenced to life in prison; Turu Toyoda, sentenced to death by hanging; Kenichi Hirose, sentenced to	subway commuters	12 fatalities, 1039 injuries, and approx 4460 victims went to hospital reporting symptoms. Of these approx 5,511 victims 688 were transported to hospitals by ambulance while over 4,000 arrived by foot, taxi, private vehicles, etc. Upon arrival, 17 people were deemed critical (12 of which died), 37 severe, and 984 moderately ill. The rest were classified as psychogenic patients without any real physical symptoms	To aid in the fulfillment of Aum's prophecy of an Armageddon-type battle between the United States and Japan. To delay police investigations into the cult.
X	4 Apr 1995	suspected Aum	Reports were issued regarding an unidentified odor emanating from a suspected Aum hideout.	unknown	Tokyo (Shinjuku ward)	Aum members	unknown	none reported	Unknown.
Y	11 Apr 1995	suspected Aum	20 people on a subway line in Yokohama reported smelling a "foul odor" and experiencing a sore throat.	unknown	Yokohama (Keihin Kyuko line)	Aum members	subway commuters	20 injuries consisting of throat irritation	Unknown.
Z	5 May 1995	confirmed Aum	Two transparent vinyl bags, one of which was on fire, were found in the men's restroom of the Shinjuku, Tokyo, subway station. One bag contained sulfuric acid and the other contained sodium cyanide, which together produce the lethal gas hydrogen cyanide.	hydrogen cyanide: reaction device	Tokyo (Shinjuku subway station)	Toru Toyoda (worked on device); Yoshihiro Inoue; Tomonasa Nakagawa (transported and assembled equipment); Keiji Terashima (planted device); Satoshi Matsushita; Yasuo Hayashi; Mikoto Hirata	subway commuters	4 injuries consisting of throat irritation and respiratory problems	To aid in the fulfillment of Aum's prophecy of an Armageddon-type battle between the United States and Japan. To delay police investigations into the cult.
AA	15 May 1995	suspected Aum	Several people in a Yokohama subway station were affected by unidentified foul-smelling fumes.	unknown	Yokohama (Shin-Yokohama subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	10-20 victims, 11 of whom complained of uncontrollable coughing and 3 of whom were treated at a hospital	Unknown; the incident took place hours after warrants were issued for the arrest of Shoko Asahara and other Aum members.
AB	2 July 1995	suspected Aum	Several people were made ill by noxious fumes that produced a foul odor in the Kamioka, Yokohama subway station.	unknown	Yokohama (Kamioka subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	36 injuries consisting of eye and skin irritation	Unknown.

## CHRONOLOGY OF AUM SHINRIKYO (Continued)

	Aum Date Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive	
AC	4 July 1995	suspected Aum	Two pink transparent bags, along with a timer and reaction device, were found in the women's restroom of the Kayabacho, Tokyo subway station. One bag contained sulfuric acid and the other contained sodium cyanide, which when mixed together produce the lethal gas hydrogen cyanide.	sodium cyanide / sulfuric acid: reaction device consisting of a travel clock timer connected to a motor powered by two "AA" batteries and equipped with rotating blades designed to pierce the bags and thus release the poisonous fumes	Tokyo (Kayabacho subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	attempt failed: the sulfuric acid did not mix with the sodium cyanide.	Possibly to distract authorities from earlier activities.
AD	5 July 1995	suspected Aum	Three men were made ill by unidentified fumes in a restroom of the Tokyo subway station.	caustic fumes: unknown dissemination method	Tokyo (Tokyo subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	3 injuries consisting of headache, throat and eye irritation	Unknown.
AE	5 July 1995	suspected Aum	A cyanide producing device was found in the bathroom of the Shinjuku, Tokyo railway station.	sodium cyanide / sulfuric acid: reaction device	Tokyo (Shinjuku subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	1 injury consisting of difficulty breathing	Possibly to distract authorities from earlier activities.
AF	5 July 1995	suspected Aum	A passenger in the men's room of the Ginza, Tokyo subway station complained of unidentified fumes coming from a broken bottle.	chemical agent: broken bottle found	Tokyo (Ginza subway station)	Aum members	subway commuters	attempt failed: reason unknown	Unknown.
AG	18 July 1995	confirmed Aum	The perpetrator confessed to having helped produce hundreds of kilograms of mustard gas, VX gas, sarin, soman, tabun, and sodium cyanide at the cult's compound in Kamikuishiki.	mustard gas, tabun, soman, VX, sarin, and sodium cyanide: no dissemination	Kamikuishiki (Yamanashi Prefecture)	Masami Tsuchiya	none	possibly used to carry out attacks	Possession of agent for possible use in future attack.
AH	28 Sep 1995	confirmed Aum	Police found two bottles of sodium cyanide at a campsite where they suspected an Aum member was residing.	sodium cyanide: no dissemination	Kuriyama (Tochigi prefecture)	Satoru Hirata	none	none reported	8.5 kg of sodium cyanide found, possibly for future use.
AI	11 Dec 1996	confirmed Aum	On a tip from a former Aum member, police unearthed a bottle of liquified VX nerve agent from the bank of the Tamagawa Jyosui canal.	VX: no dissemination	Tamagawa Jyosui canal in Kodaira	Yasuo Hayashi	none	none reported	30-40 ml of VX found, possibly for future use.
AJ	14 May 1998	confirmed Aum	Police discovered eight cylinders containing 160 kilograms of hydrogen fluoride--which can be used to make nerve gas--buried in Nikko by Aum members.	hydrogen fluoride: no dissemination	Nikko (Tochigi Prefecture)	NA	none	none reported	160 kg of hydrogen fluoride found, possibly for future use.
AK	Apr 2000	confirmed Aum	Police confiscated Aum notebooks that contained information about the nature of sarin and its production.	sarin: no dissemination	Tokyo	female Aum member	unknown	none reported	Perpetrator possessed recipes and other information regarding sarin production, possibly to produce and use.

## Suspected Copycat Incidents

	Aum Date Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive	
B1	19 Apr 1995	possible copycat	The perpetrator walked from a ground-level department store to the Yokohama subway station and into a train, all the while releasing an unknown gas from an aerosol container that affected up to 700 people.	tear gas: aerosol canister	Yokohama (Sotetsu Joinus Department Store, Yokohama subway station, Keihin-Tokoku train and Kannai subway station)	Koji Hara	department store shoppers and subway commuters	272-700 victims were reported to have been treated in 33-36 hospitals, of whom 19-22 stayed in hospital for a short time; symptoms included eye and throat irritation, coughing, nausea, loss of hearing, and dizziness	Initially Hara claimed he released the gas as a joke on a friend, later he claimed he did it out of frustration from personal problems, and changed his story again to say that he was instructed to do so by a crime syndicate; Hara was reported to be a former member of the Inagawa-kumi or Inagawa-kai syndicate.

## Suspected Copycat Incidents (Continued)

	Date	Aum Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive
B2	21 Apr 1995	possible copycat	An unidentified gas in a Yokohama department store made several people ill.	unknown gas irritant: unknown dissemination method	Yokohama (Vivre 21 department store near Yokohama subway station)	unknown	department store customers	17-25 injuries consisting of eye and throat irritation, headache, nausea, difficulty breathing (news reports indicate 695 victims affected)	Unknown.
B3	25 Apr 1995	possible copycat	The perpetrator poured chloropicrin into the shrubs outside a restaurant in Maebashi affecting several people.	chloropicrin: poured in shrubs outside restaurant	Maebashi	male, about 50	restaurant customers	20 injuries consisting of eye and throat irritation	Unknown.
B4	22 June 1995	possible copycat	The perpetrator hijacked an All Nippon jet threatening passengers with a sharpened screwdriver and a nylon bag that he claimed contained plastic explosives and a bottle of the nerve agent sarin. He claimed to be a member of the Aum cult.	sarin (hoax): bottle	Hokkaido	Fumio Kutsumi, claimed to be a member of Aum	passengers aboard an All Nippon Airways jet	none: the perpetrator did not actually possess sarin (or explosives)	Unknown; Mr. Kutsumi may have suffered emotional problems.
B5	7 Apr 1996	possible copycat	A woman was treated for an unidentified sickness after collapsing in the Aoyama 1-Chome, Tokyo subway station. She noted a "burning rubber" smell at the onset of her sickness.	unknown	Tokyo (Aoyama 1-Chome subway station)	unknown	subway commuters	1 injury consisting of loss of consciousness	Unknown.
B6	7 Apr 1996	possible copycat	About 15 subway passengers at the Shinjuku, Tokyo subway station detected foul-smelling fumes and were later treated for eye irritations and other ailments.	unknown	Tokyo (Shinjuku subway station)	unidentified youths	subway commuters	15 injuries (eye irritation)	Unknown.
B7	11 Oct 1996	possible copycat	Police officials received three threatening phone calls allegedly from Aum members claiming that the cult was prepared to release poison gas on the evening of 15 October 1996 on trains of the Hong Kong subway system.	sarin (hoax): no dissemination	Hong Kong	unknown	subway commuters	none: the perpetrators did not launch an attack, it was a hoax	To retaliate for the incident on 7 October 1996 when activists placed Chinese and Taiwanese flags on contested islands in the East China Sea.
B8	20 Mar 1998	possible copycat	On the third anniversary of the of the Tokyo sarin nerve gas attack, authorities found a chlorine-like, white colored liquid contained in three beer cans in a restroom of the Kasumigaseki, Tokyo subway station.	chlorine: liquid left in three beer cans	Tokyo (Kasumigaseki subway station)	unknown	subway commuters	one man complained of feeling ill	Unknown.

## Radiological Incidents

	Date	Aum Related	Incident Summary	Agent: Method of Dissemination	Location	Perpetrator(s)	Target	Consequences	Apparent Motive
C1	30 Sep 1999	suspected Aum	Aum members allegedly sent a letter to a Japanese magazine threatening to launch an attack on the Takarajima nuclear reprocessing plant.	radiological agent: no dissemination	Tokaimura	Aum members	none	none: no attack was launched	To deter the Japanese government from approving an anti-subversion law.
C2	29 Mar 2000	confirmed Aum	Japanese police reported that Aum had acquired sensitive information concerning nuclear facilities in Russia, Ukraine, Japan, and other countries.	radiological agent: cyber attacks on computerized security systems of nuclear facilities, thus creating "nuclear accidents"	nuclear facilities in Russia, Ukraine (Chernobyl), and Japan	Aum members	civilian population in vicinities surrounding nuclear facilities in Russia, Ukraine, and Japan	none: the information was confiscated before Aum could act	Aum collected data on nuclear facilities possibly to further its ideological objectives; to hasten the inevitable destruction of the world.

Click on a footnote below to return to the respective table row.

## Sources

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## Links

Location of this report:

<http://cns.miis.edu>

The report entitled 'Ataxia' from the Stimson Center, contains a chapter detailing the 20 March Tokyo Subway Attack:

<http://www.stimson.org/cwc/ataxia.htm>

Recent media reports on Aum from the Center for Studies on New Religions:

<http://www.cesnur.org/testi/aum1.htm>