

Armageddon at a City Near You

The nuclear bomb simulator that lets users nuke their home cities in 3D

By [Global Research News](#)

Global Research, July 25, 2013

[Secrets of the Fed](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

A new interactive map lets users nuke any location in the world with a nuclear bomb of their choosing.

The Nukemap 3D uses Google Earth images to simulate the nuclear attack and bases the animations on how mushroom clouds have behaved using information from various nuclear tests since the 1940s.

Users can select a location, choose their weapon and their viewing location, and see the bomb drop and the cloud develop. The altitude of the cloud, how far it spreads and the number of casualties is also shown.

Click the map below to nuke a city

How does nukemap 3D work?

The Nukemap 3D uses Google Earth images to simulate the nuclear attack and bases the animations on how mushroom clouds have behaved during various tests since the 1940s.

Users can select a location, choose their weapon and their viewing location, and see the bomb drop and the cloud develop real-time.

The altitude of the cloud, how far it spreads and the number of casualties is also shown.

Casualty numbers are based on how many people live in that region and their various distances from ground zero.

Nukemap 3D is the third in a series of nuclear bombing simulators created by historian Alex Wellerstein from the American Institute of Physics in Maryland.

According to Wellerstein, the map was designed to provide a visual and accurate simulation of what would happen if a nuclear bomb was dropped on any city in the world.

It was also created to give people a better understanding of how it would affect their hometowns or places they are familiar with.

And the map can highlight the varying levels of nuclear bombs and their respective threat.

Wellerstein said on his [blog](#): 'We live in a world where nuclear weapons issues are on the front pages of our newspapers on a regular basis, yet most people still have a very bad sense of what an exploding nuclear weapon can actually do.'

Casualty numbers quoted on Nukemap are based on how many people live in that region and their various distances from ground zero.



This image shows the cloud from a 10 kiloton blast on Manhattan, as seen from New York harbour. The Nukemap 3D lets you change location, the size of the bomb and the viewing location

This population information was bought by the Centre for History of Physics at the American Institute of Physics.

The behaviour of the clouds is based on equations by E. Royce Fletcher, Ray W. Albright, Robert F.D. Perret, Mary E. Franklin, I. Gerald Bowen, and Clayton S. White, as well as U.S. Atomic Energy Commission Civil Effects Test Operations, written in February 1953, and Samuel Glasstone and Philip J. Dolan's The Effects of Nuclear Weapons, 1964 edition.

The bombs Nukemap users can choose from include a North Korean bomb tested in October 2006 as well as the 'Little Boy' Hiroshima bomb and the 'Ivy King' – the largest known pure fission weapon ever tested.



If a 20kt nuclear bomb was dropped on Oxford, pictured, the cloud altitude could reach 7,210m. It could cause 11,950 deaths and 42,750 injuries

Each bomb is shown with its relative yield in tonnes or kilotonnes, which determines the size and impact of the nuke.

Wellerstein adds that all of the information used to create the Nukemap 3D is publicly available and doesn't provide any secret data.

He defends the map against critics who claim the site could be used by terrorists by saying: 'If we get to the point where a terrorist group is asking, 'where should I set off my nuclear weapon that I have?' then we've already gone past the point of no return. There's no way to avert a catastrophe at that point.'

Because the Nukemap 3D uses Google Earth images, users must have the Google Earth plug-in installed on their browser to use the map.

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