National Protection and Programs Directorate

Office for Bombing Prevention

Introduction to Bomb Threat Management

Briefing for the Secure Community Network
Overview of Bombings: Domestic IED Threat

**Frequency**
There were over 400 bombings and 1,670 bomb threat incidents reported in the U.S. in 2015.*

**Targets**
Commercial and religious facilities are attractive targets because they are easily accessible and heavily populated.

**Perpetrators**
Bombs are most commonly used by criminals and religiously-radicalized terrorists to inflict mass casualties.

**Bombs in the United States**
Bomber tactics are always changing. Awareness and preparedness greatly reduce the risk at commercial facilities posed by bombers.

**Bombs**
Pipe bombs and overpressure devices, such as bottles filled with volatile chemicals, are the most commonly encountered devices.6
Impacts of Bombings and Threats

- Loss of life
- Injury
- Damage to infrastructure
- Costly repairs
- Disruption to normal operations
- Public fear & distrust
- Others
Goals of Bomb Threat Management

1. Make informed decisions during bomb threat analysis
2. Minimize the consequences of a potential attack or threat on personnel and structures
3. Deter potential perpetrators of bombing attacks
4. Mitigate vulnerabilities to bombing attacks
Bomb Threat Planning Process

1. Gather the Team
   - Identify Core Planning Team
   - Engage the Whole Community in Planning

2. Understand Situation
   - Identify Threats and Hazards
   - Assess Risk

3. Determine Goals and Objectives
   - Determine Operational Priorities
   - Set Goals and Objectives

4. Plan Development
   - Develop and Analyse Course of Action
   - Identify Resources
     - Identify Information Needs

5. Prepare, Review and Approve
   - Write the Plan
   - Review the Plan
   - Approve and Disseminate the Plan

6. Implement and Maintain
   - Exercise the Plan
   - Review, Revise, and Maintain Plan

“A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow”
General George S. Patton
Elements of a Bomb Threat Plan

- Designate team member responsibilities
- Procedure for evaluating threat level
- Procedure for handling a threat
- Locations of primary and secondary command posts
- A search and evacuation plan
- Restoring operations
Receiving a Bomb Threat

What to Do in a Bomb Threat

What to Do in a Bomb Threat

https://www.dhs.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po7vlTBclWq

Bomb Threat Procedures & Checklist


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Assessing a Bomb Threat

Determine whether the threat represents a Low, Medium, or High Risk, based on the Realism, Plausibility, Directness, and Immediacy/Eminence of the threat.

**Low Risk: Lacks Realism**
Threat poses minimum risk to victim and public safety. Probable motive is disruption.
- Threat is vague and indirect, and information is inconsistent, implausible, or lacks detail
- Threat was indirect (located on wall; in email)
- Caller makes frequent contract or is known

**Medium Risk: Increased Realism**
Threat could be carried out, but may not appear entirely realistic.
- Threat is direct and feasible; wording suggests thought as to how act will be carried out
- Indication of place and time; possible reference to steps taken
- Perpetrator familiar with bomb components and there is increased specificity of threat

**High Risk: Specific and Realistic**
Threat poses an immediate and serious danger to the safety of others.
- Threat is direct, specific, and realistic; may include names, time, and/or location of device
- Perpetrator provides his/her identity and threat suggests concrete steps taken
- Perpetrator indicates practice with a weapon or surveillance of intended victim(s)

Prepare to execute a corresponding course of action based on assessed risk level per the facility’s plan.
Response Options

- Assess & Discount
- Assess & Lockdown (partial or full)
- Assess, Lockdown & Search (partial or full)
- Assess & Evacuate (partial or full)

Site Decision Maker ultimately determines what action to take, regardless of the assessment
Locating Something

Is it **HOT**?

_Hidden, Obviously Suspicious, or not-Typical for the environment?_

**UNATTENDED ITEM**

An unattended Item is anything (e.g., bag, package, vehicle) that:

- Is not in someone’s possession
- Has no obvious signs of being suspicious
- Doesn’t correlate to a received threat

**SUSPICIOUS ITEM**

A suspicious item is anything (e.g., package, vehicle):

- Reasonably believed to contain explosives, an IED, or other hazardous material
- Requires a bomb technician for further evaluation
- Includes suspicious placement or proximity to people or valuable assets; relates to specific threat
- Examples of suspicious items:
  - Unexplainable wires or electronics,
  - other visible bomb-like components,
  - unusual sounds, vapors, mists, or odors.
Recognize the Indicators of a Suspected Explosive Device
Indicators can be related to the characteristics, events, location, or time associated with an item, including whether the item is Hidden, Obviously Suspicious, or not Typical (HOT).

Avoid the Area
Don’t touch the suspected explosive device. Instead, immediately move and direct others to move at least 300 feet from the item.

Isolate the Suspected Device
Establish a perimeter to secure the area, and continue to direct people away. Use frontal and overhead cover and wear personal protective equipment in case of sudden detonation.

Notify Appropriate Emergency Services
Describe the Suspicious items and persons, the person's Actions, the Location of the item, the Time of placement and discovery, and Your actions to mitigate risk (SALTY).
## Protective Measures

### Individual
- Maintain heightened awareness
- Avoid routine
- Report suspicious behavior
- Personal defense device (pepper spray, etc.)

### General
- Integrate emergency plan with local law enforcement
- Test equipment with emergency responders
- Evacuation procedures
- Train all personnel on suspicious behavior, reporting, and VBIED and IED recognition

### VBIED
- Provide VBIED indications to security staff
- Install vehicle barriers to block access to facility
- Search suspicious vehicles
- Tow unknown, illegally parked or suspicious vehicles

### PBIED
- Control access to your facility
- Establish personnel and baggage inspections
- Question bulky, loose-fitting or unseasonable attire
- Remove objects that could conceal an IED
- Consider all suspicious items
Additional Office for Bombing Prevention Resources

- Awareness **products/posters**
- Venue protection guides
- Bomb threat planning and response **resources**
- Access to incident data, news, and additional resources (**TRIPwire**)
- Training **Courses**
- What to do in a Bomb Threat **Video**
Additional Learning

Additional Recommended Trainings:

- Protective Measures Course PER-336 IED Search
- Procedures Course PER-339
- Bomb Threat Management Planning Course MGT-451 Bomb Prevention
- Awareness Course AWR-348 Explosive Effects and Mitigation AWR-337
- Protective Measures Awareness AWR-340
- Response to Suspicious Behaviors & Items AWR-335

For a full list of OBP trainings, please visit:
https://www.dhs.gov/bombing-prevention-training

To register and participate in Virtual Instructor-Led Trainings, please visit OBP’s training and registration site at: https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp
Questions?

For more information, please visit:
www.dhs.gov/OBP
or email: obp@hq.dhs.gov

For additional bomb threat management resources:
https://www.dhs.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat
Closing Remarks:

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