

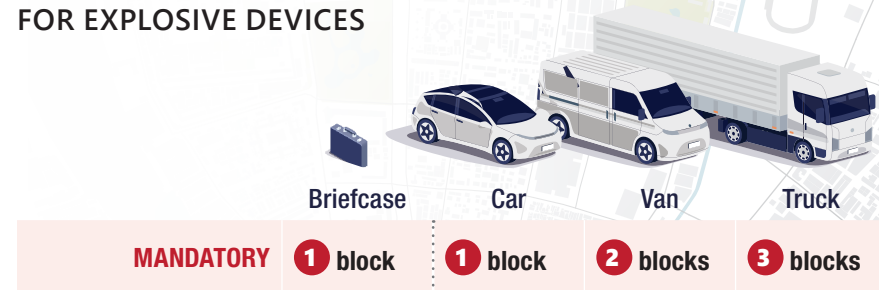
Considerations for Responding to an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Attack

These key elements are recommendations that may help establish an efficient and integrated response plan in the event of an IED attack.

EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION

- First responders should immediately assess and report the type of explosion to the lead agency. *e.g., scale of explosion, vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), person-borne explosive, pipe bomb*
- Public safety personnel should remain aware of potential secondary attacks and devices when responding or conducting post-incident investigations.
- IEDs may be found in various configurations, including seemingly innocuous vehicles or items, emphasizing the necessity to secure the scene. *e.g., sweeping and clearing areas around emergency response vehicles; inspecting command posts, triage, treatment, and transportation areas including evacuation routes*

MANDATORY EVACUATION DISTANCES FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES



The number of blocks for mandatory evacuation distances depicted in the graphic is based on an average of 400 feet per city block. Block size can vary by jurisdiction, and the destructive blast range will vary according to construction, environmental, and terrain conditions. First responders should always follow departmental policies and procedures if an explosive is suspected.

PRE-BLAST
Refer to the Mandatory Evacuation Distances for Explosive Devices (left).

POST-BLAST
Perimeter should be based on the farthest distance of collected explosive debris.



SCOPE: This product offers broad recommendations to enhance public safety, mitigate and secure an incident scene, and collect evidence in the event of an IED attack. Agencies are encouraged to use this product as a guide and modify as applicable, recognizing each jurisdiction and critical incident requires individual response.

RESOURCES

- DHS** Office for Bombing Prevention
<https://www.dhs.gov/bombing-prevention-training>
Bombmaking Materials Awareness Program (BMAP)
<https://www.cisa.gov/bmap>
Technical Resource for Incident Prevention (TRIPWIRE)
<https://tripwire.dhs.gov>
- FBI** Terrorist Explosive Device Analytic Center (TEDAC)
<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism/tedac>
Counter-Improvised Threat Collaboration Center (C3), hosted and supported by TEDAC, comprises multiple organizations yet operates as a single entity to provide global visibility to detect and deter improvised threats by sharing information and intelligence products to global partners. Contact the C3 Facilitator Cell:
C3_Facilitator_Cell@fbi.gov
The FBI offers multiple federally sponsored post-blast courses. Contact the Special Agent Bomb Technician Coordinator in the nearest FBI field office for more information about federally sponsored post-blast courses. Find your local FBI field office:
<https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/field>
- ATF** Basic Post-Blast Investigative Techniques
<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/basic-post-blast-investigative-techniques>
Explosives Recognition and IED Exploitation Course
<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/explosives-recognition-ied-exploitation-erie-intelligence-analysts-course-ied-expl-cs-0028>

911 DISPATCH	ON-SCENE RESPONSE	UNIFIED COMMAND POST	MEDICAL & FIRE RESPONSE	CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION	COMMUNICATION	PLANNING & EXERCISES
Determine how to prioritize, gather, process, and relay information for first responders' situational awareness when arriving on scene.	Determine the lead agency at the onset through establishment of a unified command and maintain consistency throughout the operational response. The lead agency should immediately connect with the nearest available bomb squad, including canine explosive detection resources.	Establish contact with unified command to determine reporting location and chain of command. First responders are encouraged not to self-dispatch as emergency resources are likely required to respond to routine 911 calls throughout the critical incident. When responding, wear uniform or official identifying clothing and badges for officer safety.	Establish a unit to determine casualty status. Work with community resources such as hospitals and faith-based partners to assist with victim response.	Ensure coordination for an efficient transition from incident mitigation and life-saving actions to the investigation phase, including preservation of evidence and restriction of incident scene access. Form a secured perimeter by visually identifying blast and fragmentation around the blast zone/seat of explosion.	Determine an offsite unified location for the command post to assemble—such as a convention center, hotel conference space, or other secondary site with adequate facility and utility footprint—in the event communications are interrupted or lost.	Maintain established plans for a unified response to an IED attack between first responders and critical infrastructure partners. Plans should be established and maintained through interagency planning and coordination, joint training and exercises, and enhancing nontraditional partnerships.



NOTICE: This is a Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) product. JCAT is a collaboration by NCTC, DHS, the FBI, and state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. The product promotes coordination among intergovernmental authorities and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and responding to terrorist activities. Consider the enclosed information within the context of existing laws, regulations, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information, contact us at JCAT@NCTC.GOV.

911 DISPATCH

- Plays a vital role in determining how to prioritize, gather, process, and relay information for first responders' situational awareness when arriving on scene. Being familiar with mobilization indicators and terms that terrorists have historically used may better position 911 operators and dispatchers to identify luring tactics, recognize a potential terrorist, and provide intelligence and warning to first responders.
- Remain aware that regional, national, or even global events occurring geographically separate from local events may have an impact on local or regional response or operations and may require increased security measures.
- Utilize scenario training, which can enrich critical thinking skills during critical incidents and reduce barriers that may restrict 911 operators' or dispatchers' abilities to capture or preserve critical evidence needed for investigative purposes.

ON-SCENE RESPONSE

- Ensure life safety measures are the priority and remain aware that these efforts may consume a vast amount of response resources at the onset.
- Establish an immediate temporary command post and conduct a search for suspicious items, which could include secondary IEDs, for initial scene containment and management of incoming resources.
- Cordon off a security perimeter and determine the farthest distance that bomb fragments have traveled. Evacuate all commercial and residential structures within the blast radius. Account for local commercial and business capabilities, including access to supplies and materials, public transportation options for evacuation, evidence collection and preservation, and overall investigative efficiency.
- Consider use of available technology such as light detection and ranging (LiDAR) to navigate unfamiliar structures and track first responders' movements inside buildings. Coordinate with appropriate agencies like the fire department or urban search and rescue to access equipment, if necessary.
- Assess blast damage and whether the blast exposed high voltage lines. Immediately engage local utility companies (electric, water, gas) to ensure utilities are shut off to primary buildings in the blast zone.

- Remain aware of geographic location such as proximity to bodies of water and situational conditions like volatile weather, which may limit response or investigative capabilities. For example, determine if nearby bodies of water contain debris from the explosion.

UNIFIED COMMAND POST

- Follow lead agency protocols and document work conducted in a command post through methods such as tactical information reports, link charts, and timelines.
- Maintain intelligence gathering and sharing. Help deconflict tips or leads and direct information to partners for follow-up or investigative actions, as appropriate.
- Establish a method to manage investigative leads. For example, determine a single intake point to manage incoming leads; institute a documentation process to avoid duplication of efforts; sign out hard copies and track via software spreadsheets; consider a process that does not distribute a new lead until the previous lead has been followed-up or closed, unless specifically related to the previous lead.
- Consider the authorities and duties of incoming personnel to ensure they are authorized to perform intended duties.

MEDICAL & FIRE RESPONSE

- Ensure responding personnel take precautions for their own safety, recognizing that blast fragmentation, shrapnel, and debris can defeat common protective equipment. Maintain awareness of possible airborne contaminants such as smoke, destroyed drywall and insulation, or toxic gasses and take appropriate mitigation steps.
- Establish area for decontamination, if required, based on the type of incident.
- Maintain awareness of the capacity and capabilities of emergency medical response units, hospitals, and trauma centers in the local area to triage emergency response capabilities.
- Screen individuals in proximity to blasts for nonvisible injuries such as soft tissue blast damage and potential traumatic brain injury.
- Determine whether the extent of damage overwhelms local fire and rescue and engage with neighboring fire and rescue, if necessary.

CRIME SCENE PRESERVATION

- Focus on debris field and/or damage from the blast of this evidence-rich area. Seek out evidence that may be in less obvious locations due to the force of an explosion.
- Seek assistance from experts in securing the scene and evidence recovery. FBI Technical Hazards Response Unit can assess debris falling from and within buildings. Embedded bomb technicians on evidence collection teams can provide additional safety and technical expertise.
- Utilize personnel with experience in large-scale crisis response in key positions such as the Incident Commander, Command Staff, and other mission-critical branches.
- Plan for civilians or victims needing access to the crime scene to collect belongings such as IDs, insurance cards, passports, electronic devices, and vehicles.
- Control unauthorized access to buildings within the crime scene to enable repair of critical services such as electricity, gas, water, or telephone.
- Use personal protective equipment to prevent introduction of trace evidence to the scene and movement of trace evidence around the scene. Responding personnel from surrounding jurisdictions should maintain awareness of the possibility of movement of trace evidence if not handled accordingly.
- Ensure solid waste services pause collection of municipal garbage within at least a half mile of the event until cleared by investigators.
- Preserve first responder uniforms and gear to assist with trace evidence collected from the crime scene.
- Consider establishing a reporting mechanism in the event that additional debris or evidence is discovered after the scene has been formally released based on jurisdictional requirements.

COMMUNICATION

- Facilitate information-sharing meetings and calls across agencies to account for shift changes with leadership, investigative, analytic, and public safety personnel.
- Develop alternatives for radio, cellular, Wi-Fi, and other critical communications to rapidly deploy backup devices.
- Establish a lead agency public information officer (PIO) to provide continuity of operations. The PIO should

work closely with the media to determine timing and circumstances for sharing information publicly to avoid unauthorized disclosure, which can damage tactical response and investigative efforts.

- Establish public information release control practices and procedures to limit misinformation and avoid civilian panic. Designate personnel to review social media traffic and anticipate public information challenges.

PLANNING & EXERCISES

- Integrate representatives from local or regional trauma centers into exercise, training, and planning to assist with regular and surge capabilities for mass casualty events.
- Incorporate forensics personnel into incident planning and operational response, including briefings that emphasize evidence and exploitation processes and timelines.
- Incorporate multiple scenarios in interagency exercises and training to account for the complexity of potential terrorist attacks. Include as many stakeholders as possible during tabletop or full-scale exercises.
- Establish mutual aid agreements in advance, including partners with bomb technicians for quick availability during an incident.
- Maintain updated security plans for special events that may affect access, communications, response times, evacuation routes, and significantly alter the landscape even for first responders generally familiar with a particular area or event venue.
- Coordinate with emergency management and local National Guard resources to identify facilities designated as emergency shelters with space for sleeping, feeding, and providing medical care. Depending on the location and time of year (e.g., holidays, special events), many hotels may be fully occupied and unavailable.





PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS.

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?

