

# OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION



## Protecting Your Critical Infrastructure from Improvised Explosive Device Threats

2022 Critical Infrastructure Protection & Resilience North America Conference



# Table of Contents

Section	
Introduction	1
Threat Landscape	3
Identifying and Responding to Potential Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)	6
Programs and Resources	12
Awareness Products	15
Closing	18



# Threat Landscape



# December 2020 Nashville Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) Attack

The 2020 Nashville bombing was the highest profile VBIED attack in the Homeland since Oklahoma City. The incident highlights how cascading impacts of an attack like this can have far-reaching consequences. In this case, it highlighted additional vulnerabilities in the Communications Sector infrastructure.

- BLUF: A VBIED attack early Christmas morning in Nashville killed only the bomber, thanks to quick action by local police. The bomber's intent seems to have been to cause destruction rather than mass casualties.
- Impact: The damage to the data center caused significant telecommunications disruptions throughout the broader region.
- It affected customers in Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky, including numerous 9-1-1 dispatch centers and the Nashville International Airport. Because of these disruptions, the FAA temporarily halted outgoing flights through the early evening of 25 December.
- The incident affected several critical infrastructure sectors.



Blast site (Source: FBI Memphis)



# Recent Events

2022 has seen a wave of bomb threats targeting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

- There are a total of **101 HBCUs**.
- Of the 101 HBCUs, **more than 30 have received bomb threats**.
- In January and February 2022, **a total of 67 bomb threats were reported against HBCUs nationwide**.
- Bomb **threats have major effects** on communities.



# Identifying and Responding to Potential Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)





# Identifying Improvised Explosive Devices

## What is an IED?

An IED is “Any device **placed or fabricated** in an **improvised manner** incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract.”



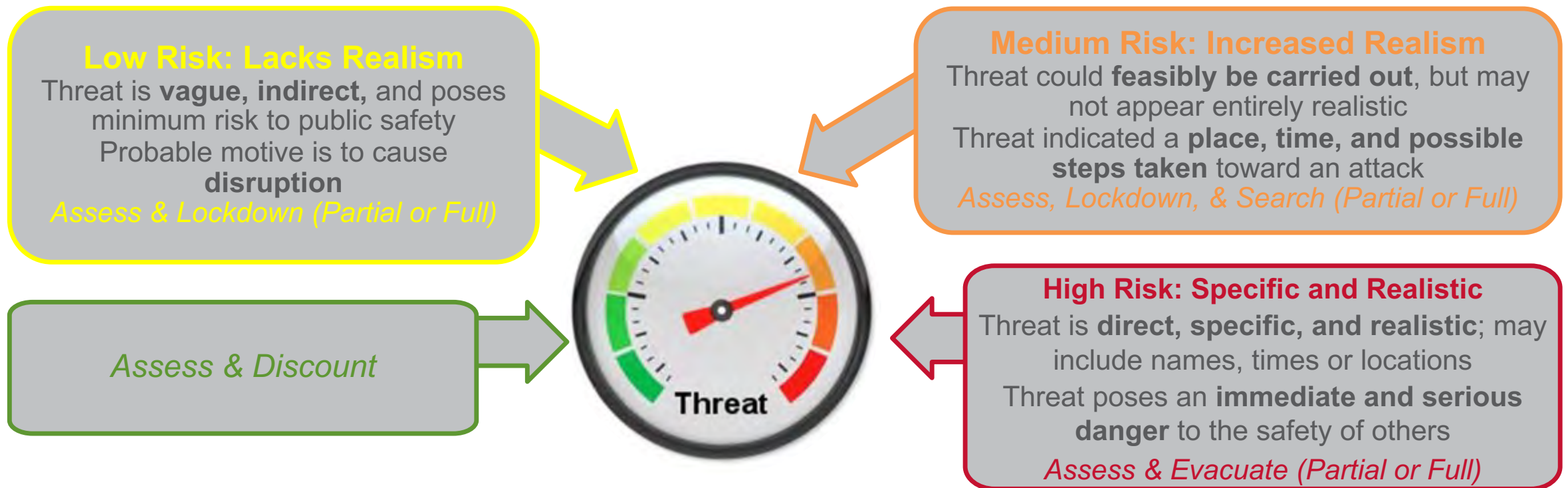
## Identifying the components of an IED

Use the acronym **SIMP-CE** to help remember the components of an IED:



# Assess & Respond to 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. Different threat levels correspond to different courses of action.



Site Decision Maker or appropriate on-site supervisor ultimately determines what action to take, regardless of the assessment





# Locating a Suspicious Item

Criminals or terrorists sometimes conceal IEDs in backpacks, suitcases, or common items. To determine if an item is suspicious or unattended, ask “Is the item HOT?”

Is it **H O T** ?

<b>H</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>T</b>
<b><u>H</u>idden</b>	<b><u>O</u>bviously suspicious</b>	<b>not <u>T</u>ypical</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Placed out of sight</li><li>• Appears purposely concealed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unexplainable wires or electronics</li><li>• Bomb-like components</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Out of place for the location</li><li>• Potentially related to a threat</li></ul>





• Use R. A. I. N. (Continue to other side)

<b>YES</b> (Suspicious)	<b>NO</b> (Unattended)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Treat with caution</li><li>• Try to determine the owner</li><li>• Report to an authority</li></ul>



# Best Practices with Suspicious Packages

When encountering a suspicious item, remember to R.A.I.N:

	<b>R</b>	<b>Recognize the Indicators of a Suspected Explosive Device</b> Indicators can be related to the characteristics, events, location, or time, including whether the item is Hidden, Obviously suspicious, or not Typical (HOT).
	<b>A</b>	<b>Avoid the Area</b> Don't touch the suspected item. Instead, immediately move and direct others to move away immediately.
	<b>I</b>	<b>Isolate the Suspected Item</b> Establish a perimeter to secure the area and continue to direct people away. Use frontal and overhead cover and if available wear personal protective equipment.
	<b>N</b>	<b>Notify Appropriate Emergency Services</b> Describe the <b>S</b> uspicious items and persons, the person's <b>A</b> ctions, the <b>L</b> ocation of the item, the <b>T</b> ime of placement and discovery, and <b>Y</b> our actions to mitigate risk (SALTY).

If you **see** something, **say** something®  
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ITEMS. Contact **local law enforcement** or **9-1-1** in case of emergency





# CISA Bomb Threat Products

## DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Guidance

**BOMB THREAT GUIDANCE**

These guidelines help Site Decision Makers react to a bomb threat in an orderly and controlled manner.

For more information contact the Office for Bombing Prevention at: [OBP@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:OBP@cisa.dhs.gov)

## Bomb Threat Procedures & Checklist

**BOMB THREAT PROCEDURES**

This guide reference checklist is designed to help employees and business leaders of commercial facilities, schools, etc. respond to a bomb threat in an orderly and controlled manner with the first responders and other stakeholders. Most bomb threats are received by phone. Bomb threats are serious and prompt attention. Act quickly but remain calm and obtain information with the checklist on the reverse of this card.

**BOMB THREAT CHECKLIST**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TIME CALLER RINGING UP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NUMBER WHERE CALL RECEIVED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ask Caller:**

- Where is the bomb located? (Building, floor, room, etc.)
- What will make it go off?
- What does it look like?
- What kind of bomb is it?
- What will make it explode?
- Did you place the bomb? Yes/No
- Why?
- What is your name?

**Exact Words of Threat:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Information About Caller:**

- Where is the caller located? (Subsequent address if known)
- Estimated age:
- Is voice female? If so, what does it sound like?
- Other points:

Caller Name	Emergency Contact	Threat Language
<input type="checkbox"/> Female	<input type="checkbox"/> Home address	<input type="checkbox"/> Accented
<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Home number	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign accent
<input type="checkbox"/> Accuse	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile number	<input type="checkbox"/> Native language
<input type="checkbox"/> Angry	<input type="checkbox"/> Social media	<input type="checkbox"/> Slang
<input type="checkbox"/> Calm	<input type="checkbox"/> Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Profanity
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearly threat	<input type="checkbox"/> No location	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Creeping voice	<input type="checkbox"/> No name	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Crying	<input type="checkbox"/> Office location	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Dazed	<input type="checkbox"/> Office number	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Distressed	<input type="checkbox"/> Holiday schedule	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Excited	<input type="checkbox"/> Location	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Laughing	<input type="checkbox"/> Long distance	<input type="checkbox"/> Threats
<input type="checkbox"/> Like	Other information:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Loud	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Nervous	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Polite	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Quiet	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarcastic	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Slow	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stutter	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sweet	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Threat	_____	

**WHO TO CONTACT (Select One)**

- 911
- Follow your local guidelines

For more information about this form contact the Office for Bombing Prevention at: [OBP@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:OBP@cisa.dhs.gov)

## DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card

**BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CARD**  
OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION

Threat Description	Explosives Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Zone	Preferred Evacuation Distance
Pipe Bomb	5 lbs	70 ft	75-119 ft	+120 ft
Suicide Bomber	20 lbs	110 ft	111-160 ft	+170 ft
Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs	150 ft	151-180 ft	+180 ft
Car	500 lbs	320 ft	321-500 ft	+190 ft
SUV/Van	1,000 lbs	400 ft	401-2300 ft	+240 ft
Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs	640 ft	641-3700 ft	+300 ft
Container/Water Truck	10,000 lbs	880 ft	881-5000 ft	+510 ft
Semi-Trailer	80,000 lbs	1570 ft	1571-9200 ft	+200 ft

**CAUTION!**

- Do not touch suspicious item
- Notify proper Authorities - Call 911
- Ensure all witnesses are available to brief 1st responders
- Recommended stand-off data should be used in conjunction with your emergency evacuation plan

**Shelter-in-Place Zone**  
Move to Preferred Evacuation Distance if unable, keep shelter inside of Mandatory Evacuation Distance if you cannot reach preferred zone.

**Preferred Evacuation Distance**

**Mandatory Evacuation Distance**  
Proceed to Preferred Evacuation Distance

Source: Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention, Arlington, VA  
FBI, Joint Case Center, Quantico, VA  
Technical Support Working Group, Arlington, VA

## Suspicious vs. Unattended Card

**Suspicious or Unattended?**

Criminals or terrorists sometimes conceal improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in backpacks, suitcases, or common items.

Use the process to quickly determine if an item is suspicious or not suspicious.

**Is it HOT?**

Hidden	Obviously Suspicious	Not Typical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unusually heavy</li> <li>Unusually warm</li> <li>Unusually shaped</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unusually large</li> <li>Unusually small</li> <li>Unusually shaped</li> <li>Unusually heavy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not found in the location</li> <li>Unusually heavy</li> <li>Unusually shaped</li> </ul>

**YES** (Continue to other side) | **NO** (Do not touch, try to determine the owner, report to authority)

**If an item is suspicious you should:**

- R** Recognize the Indicators of a Suspected Explosive Device (If unsure, call the appropriate law enforcement agency for assistance.)
- A** Avoid the Area (Don't touch the suspected item, avoid, surrounding area, do not touch it.)
- I** Isolate the Suspected Item (Establish a perimeter to secure the area and control access to the area.)
- N** Notify Appropriate Emergency Services (Describe the suspicious item and location, the person's name, the location of the item, the time of discovery and discovery, and call 911 to report the item.)

**If you see something, say something!**  
REPORT SUSPICIOUS ITEMS. Contact local law enforcement or 9-1-1 in case of emergency.

DEFEND TODAY. SECURE TOMORROW.

Available at: [www.cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat](http://www.cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat)



# Programs and Resources



# CISA Resources

CISA offers a variety of free online trainings, instructional videos, written guides, and other resources to help prepare and mitigate bombing incidents for HBCUs and others.

- “What to Do: Bomb Threat Resources” [webpage](#) provides a one stop shop for bomb threat guidance and resources.
- [DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Guidance](#) provides decision-makers with guidelines to react to a bomb threat.
- A wide variety of [free online trainings](#) that include:
  - “What to Do” Bomb Threat Micro Training Series of free short videos that provide tips on reacting to bomb threats.
  - “Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response” course is an online independent study utilizing case histories from actual bombings to familiarize participants with the steps necessary to prepare for and respond to a bomb threat.
  - “Introduction to Bomb Threat Management” virtual instruction course is a customizable platform that provides bomb threat management training tailored to the needs of HBCUs, FBOs and others.
- A number of useful products to deal with bomb threats, such as [Bomb Threat Procedures & Checklist](#), [DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card](#), and [Suspicious or Unattended Items](#).
- CISA Tabletop Exercise Package (CTEP) and Bomb Threat Plan template for Universities provide valuable planning tools for preparing for and dealing with bomb threats.



# C-IED Training Courses

OBP offers training to build C-IED capabilities through a variety of modalities to meet different stakeholders' needs.



## In-Person

- Bombing Prevention Awareness
- Bomb Threat Management Planning
- IED Search Procedures
- Protective Measures
- Surveillance Detection
- Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection
- BMAP Community Liaisons



## Virtual Instructor

- IED Construction and Classification
- IED Explosive Effects Mitigation
- Introduction to the Terrorist Attack Cycle
- Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness
- Protective Measures Awareness
- Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items



## Self-paced ISTs

- IED Awareness and Safety Procedures
- Homemade Explosives and Precursor Chemicals Awareness for Public Safety
- Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response
- Bomb-Making Materials Awareness: Your Role
- Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Employee Training





# Awareness Products



# C-IED Awareness Products

OBP offers a wide range of resources to share information and enhance C-IED preparedness such as job aids, checklists, posters, cards, guidance and videos.



## Job Aids and Checklists

Informative quick-reference tools to support decision making in responding to bomb threats, suspicious activity/items, and terrorist/criminal threats.



## Bombing Prevention Guides

Provide a source of counter-IED and risk management information and guidelines to help prevent, protect against, respond to, and mitigate explosive threats and bombing incidents in an orderly and controlled manner.



## Awareness Posters and Cards

A variety of handy quick-reference cards and informative posters that prominently present key bombing prevention information in an easy-to-understand format. These cards and posters cover many counter-IED topics.



## Videos


Instructional videos communicate IED threats, explain counter-IED concepts, and demonstrate bombing prevention procedures by showing audiences how to react to a bombing attack and deal with a variety of explosive threats.



# OBP's Capability Building Framework

The *Security and Resiliency Guide for Countering IEDs* (SRG C-IED) serves as a foundational resource through which OBP assists stakeholders to build C-IED capabilities.

The SRG C-IED provides stakeholders with access to:

-  An overview of IED threats and consequences
-  C-IED concepts and a set of common C-IED goals
-  Links to Federal Government C-IED tools and resources
-  Annexes for high-risk sports venues, public assembly venues, outdoor events, healthcare facilities and lodging facilities.



For more information, please visit  
<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/security-and-resiliency-guide-and-annexes>



For more information:  
[www.cisa.gov/obp](http://www.cisa.gov/obp)

Questions?

[obp@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:obp@cisa.dhs.gov)  
[douglas.delancey@cisa.dhs.gov](mailto:douglas.delancey@cisa.dhs.gov)