Office for Bombing Prevention
**Terrorism:**
The use of violence or threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.

- Webster’s New International Dictionary
  (Numerous other definitions that include intimidation of a government or society or populations.)

**Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract. It may incorporate military stores, but is normally devised from nonmilitary components.

  (Unclassified//For Official Use Only)

**Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED):**
An IED delivered by or concealed in a ground-based vehicle.
VBIED Tactics
Methods of Initiation

**COMMAND**
Someone is initiating the device at his/her chosen time.

**TIMER**
VBIED is preset to detonate at a certain time. Driver may or may not be aware of this.

**VICTIM OPERATED**
Booby trap designed to explode when the target is at the vehicle. Could be rigged to ignition, transmission, door light or any switch in the vehicle.

**Combination**
Most common is suicide with a remote as back-up. Could also be command with a timer; in case vehicle gets out of range.

Historically VBIED’s span many decades in the United States
A power source is a device that either stores or releases electrical, mechanical or chemical energy to initiate an IED.

An initiator is the first explosive in the explosive train of an IED. Once energy is put into the system, an initiator is required to start the actual explosive event. An initiator is usually made out of a small quantity of sensitive explosives. This provides a strong, but small explosion that in turn causes a larger quantity of explosives, the main charge, to react and explode.

The explosive or the main charge consists of either explosive or combustible material.

Switches are used for the arming and firing sequences of the IED. There can be multiple switches that act as either the arming or firing circuit in the IED. This is done to create safeguards for the bomber.

IED Containers.

In an IED, the container or containers may be used to:

- Camouflage the IED,
- Provide a method of transport or placement,
- Increase the damage caused by the device (for example, through fragmentation), or
- Any combination thereof.
EXPLOSIVE EFFECTS

An explosion of an IED results in the release of tremendous energy in a short space of time. Three effects are created:

**Blast:** Broken, crushed, or deformed items

**Thermal:** Burned, charred, or deformed items

**Fragmentation:** Shrapnel from bomb parts or debris

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**Response Considerations**

Response Teams and personnel should be aware of the additional threats posed by secondary devices and multiple simultaneous devices.

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**Evacuation Considerations**

Communicate the need for evacuation to those in the immediate area of the suspected IED

Determine the approximate “evacuation distance.” Refer to the **Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card**

Conduct evacuation away from the threat. Evacuation should always take place in a direction consistently away from the threat

Prevent others from approaching

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**BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CARD**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Threat Description</th>
<th>Explosives Capacity</th>
<th>Mandatory Evacuation Distance</th>
<th>Shelter-in-Place Zone</th>
<th>Preferred Evacuation Distance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Bomb</td>
<td>5 lbs</td>
<td>70 ft</td>
<td>71-1199 ft</td>
<td>+1200 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suicide Bomber</td>
<td>20 lbs</td>
<td>110 ft</td>
<td>111-1899 ft</td>
<td>+1700 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefcase/Suitcase</td>
<td>50 lbs</td>
<td>150 ft</td>
<td>151-1849 ft</td>
<td>+1850 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td>500 lbs</td>
<td>320 ft</td>
<td>321-1899 ft</td>
<td>+1900 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUV/Van</td>
<td>1,000 lbs</td>
<td>400 ft</td>
<td>401-2399 ft</td>
<td>+2400 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Delivery Truck</td>
<td>4,000 lbs</td>
<td>640 ft</td>
<td>641-3799 ft</td>
<td>+3000 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Container/Water Truck</td>
<td>10,000 lbs</td>
<td>860 ft</td>
<td>861-5099 ft</td>
<td>+5100 ft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Trailer</td>
<td>60,000 lbs</td>
<td>1570 ft</td>
<td>1571-9299 ft</td>
<td>+9300 ft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Safety First

Turn engine off
Do not wear loose or dangling jewelry
Wear brightly colored vests to be seen easily
Position yourself so that you are visible to traffic
Always establish eye contact with driver before approaching the vehicle
Ensure the engine is off and the brake is set prior to inspecting a vehicle
Use caution when inspecting engines, exhausts, radiators, and other components. They may be hot.
Wear gloves for extra protection
Do not reach through fan blades. Fans may turn on even though the engine is not running
Do not smoke while inspecting

Be Professional
Be assertive while questioning an individual and inspecting vehicles
Be aware of all current situations:
  - Threats to your company
  - National Terror Advisories
  - Available local support
Maintain cultural awareness
Establish a thorough inspection technique to ensure no areas are missed or duplicated

Do Not let your guard down
Do Not allow yourself to become vulnerable with respect to other vehicle occupants.
Do Not inspect a vehicle with the engine running
Do Not perform a search that exceeds the scope of your authority.
Do Not touch or move objects of concern
S. I. N.

**S**ecure the vehicle with appropriate perimeter. Using the stand-off card as a guide.

**I**solate the vehicle and deny entry.

**N**otify chain of command and response team.

The vehicle inspection has two critical elements: the interview of the driver and the inspection of the vehicle.

**Typical Q & A**

There are four types of questions

**Relaxant** - Relate to direct involvement from the subject and designed to elicit a psychological reaction from the guilty: What's the purpose of your visit? What are you carrying?

**Control** – Designed to evoke a known lie, a probable lie, or an emotional response and used as a gauge to determine truth or deception: Have you ever smuggled anything? Have you ever had explosive or any other illegal devices in your possession?

**Symptomatic** – Used to determine whether an outside influence is bothering the subject: Is something wrong? Are you worried that your vehicle will be inspected?

**Neutral** – Should not cause the subject any concern and are designed to give some indication of the individual’s physiological norm: What is your name? Where do you live? How long has your trip been?

**Look for obvious signs of stress:**

- Shaking
- Nervousness
- Sweating
- Goose bumps
- Overly Tense
- Shift in attitude

*SIN is an acronym to help you remember what to do in the event a potential threat is discovered*
VEHICLE INSPECTION

Vehicle Approach

- Look for unusual items hanging from:
  - Undercarriage
  - Bumper
  - Grill
- Vehicle is low to ground or sags in trunk area.
  - Could be indication that it is loaded with explosives
- Observe overall shape of vehicle to ensure no irregularities

Interview

- Car off, keys on dash
- Ask for pertinent paperwork (license, bill of lading)
  - Always look for behavioral cues
- Open all interior compartments, including center console and glove compartment.
- Open all doors, trunk, hood and gas cap.
- Guide driver to safe area to stand.
  - Safe for you and for them
- While all of these are occurring, a second security professional can be sweeping the undercarriage.

Undercarriage

- Tool marks
- Misaligned straps
- Unusual wiring
- Fresh paint
- Unusually clean area
- Anything taped/attached to vehicle frame
- New welds
- Gas tank filler tube is connected properly
- Exhaust pipes connected to muffler
VEHICLE INSPECTION

Front of Vehicle

- Check windshield
- Check the headlight wiring
- Look for fresh bodywork
- Inspect the bumper
- Inspect area between front grill and radiator
- Ensure hood fits flush with front quarter panels
- Check weight and operation of hood
  - Search for scuff marks
  - Search for missing paint or hand prints on the hood
  - The driver should know about any repairs made to vehicle

Engine Compartment

- Check battery box for anything unusual
- Look for odd or additional wires from battery
- Feel radiator for cold spots
- Check windshield washer container for false compartment
- Inspect the air cleaner
- Inspect firewall for modifications
  - Look for new welds, shiny bolts
  - Observe a clean engine in dirty car

If Suspicious Item is found:
S.I.N.
VEHICLE INSPECTION

Drivers Front Side

- Driver’s side quarter panel / fenders
- Look inside wheel well
- Search Driver’s Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps

Drivers Side

- Swing door to test weight
- Check rocker panel
- Check interior in a quartered/halved fashion
  - This depends on if the vehicle is a 2 or 4 door
- Check compartments
- Inspect for new welds
- Check ceiling depth
  - Check for taped items
  - Look for anything out of the ordinary

Driver’s Side Interior

- Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- Smell for strange odors
- Feel for unusual lumps or bulges in front and/or rear seat
- Check center console for false compartments
- Check roof lining for bulges, rips or repairs
- Stress cracks in windshield (no stone impact mark)
- Inspect dash for new, damaged or scratched screws
- Look for plugged vents in the dash
- Check for a thick floor
- Ensure no lights are on when vehicle is off
- Check under floor mats for wires and switches
- Check under seat
- REPEAT this for each area that has a door.

If Suspicious Item is found:

S. I. N.
VEHICLE INSPECTION

Drivers Back Side

- Driver’s side quarter panel / fenders
- Look inside wheel well
- Search Driver’s Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps
- As you move to the car rear check the gas cap area

Car Rear Area

- Look for new bodywork
- Look at the back of the bumper
- Check the license plate (hidden comp./registration current)
- Move trunk lid to test weight
- Check the taillight wires
- Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- Smell for strange odors
- Check for an unusually thick floor
- Inspect spare tire compartment

If Suspicious Item is found:

S. I. N.

Passenger’s Rear Side

- Check side quarter panel / fenders
- Look inside wheel well
- Search Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps
- As you move up the car check the gas cap area
VEHICLE INSPECTION

**Passenger’s Side**

- Swing door to test weight
- Check rocker panel
- Check interior in a quartered/halved fashion
  - This depends on if the vehicle is a 2 or 4 door
- Check compartments
- Check ceiling depth
  - Inspect for new welds
  - Check for taped items

**Passenger Side Interior**

- Observe everything within view (packages/devices)
- Smell for strange odors
- Feel for unusual lumps or bulges in front and/or rear seat
- Check glove box for false compartments
- Check roof lining for bulges, rips or repairs
- Stress cracks in windshield (no stone impact mark)
- Inspect dash for new, damaged or scratched screws
- Look for plugged vents in the dash
- Check for a thick floor
- Check under floor mats for wires and switches
- Check under seat

- **REPEAT this for each area that has a door.**

**Passenger’s Front Side**

- Passenger’s side quarter panel / fenders
- Look inside wheel well
- Search Passenger’s Side Tires
  - Tap on tires (should sound hollow)
  - Look for new tires
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty lug nuts
  - Look for unusually clean/dirty hubcaps
Vehicle Inspection Guide
September 2012
Homeland Security
References and Additional Reading


TC 3-90.119 U.S. Army IED Defeat Training; U.S. Army (2009)

The Anarchist Cookbook; W. Powell (2011)

The Poor Man’s James Bond; K. Saxon (1991)


Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice. Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card.


References and Additional Reading

NFPA Labels; National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Gallant (2006)
TC 3-90.119 U.S. Army IED Defeat Training; U.S. Army (2009)
Transportation HAZMAT Placards; US Department of Transportation (DOT)
Vehicle Inspection Guide (VIG), TSWG (2013)

More Info
TRIPwire
http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1184339971040.shtm
National Terrorism Advisory System
http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/ntas.shtm
DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Update via e-mail
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHS/subscriber/new
The Homeland Security Digital Library
https://www.hsdl.org/
Red Cross - Preparing for the Unexpected- Terrorism (To share with concerned citizens)