Office for Bombing Prevention
Bomb Threat Management
WARNING: Information contained in this course is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). Courses contain information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to FOUO information and is not to be released to the public or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized DHS official.

19:

- Establishes a national policy on the prevention and detection of, protection against, and response to terrorist use of explosives and IEDs

HSPD-19 Report to the President:

- Outlines 36 Recommendations, developed with interagency concurrence, to execute the National Strategy to Combat Terrorist Use of Explosives

HSPD-19 Implementation Plan (IPLAN):

- DHS is lead agency for 22 of the 36 Implementation Tasks
- Executing over 90 individual items subordinate to these tasks
The Threat

- According to an analysis of information received from reported bomb threat incidents over time. What percentage of bomb threats are considered to be real?
  a) 2-5%
  b) 6-8%
  c) 9-12%
  d) 13-15%
Current Events (National) - OCT 2012

- 253 Incidents resulted in bomb squad response
  - 109 bomb threats
  - 69 Suspicious packages
  - Bomb squads rendered safe IEDs, explosive materials, and ordnance on 45 occasions
    - 26 ordnance
    - 6 pipe bombs
  - 14 Emplaced IEDs (3 chemical pressure bombs)
    - 3 injured
  - 59 arrests (16 juveniles)
Current Events - OCT 2012

Bomb threats and suspicious packages:
- 70% 

Actual IED explosions:
- 6%

60% of all bomb threats occurred at schools and commercial facilities

Homeland Security
Office for Bombing Prevention
The Threat

- How do you counter the bomb threat?
  Aggressive preparation
The Threat

Hoax Caller
- Disruption of Operations
- Intimidation
- Amusement
- Activism

Malevolent Individual
- Crime Concealment
- Extortion
- Grievance
- Activism

Terrorist
- Political Impact
- Racial/Ethnic/Religious Hatred
- Retaliation
- Reduction of casualties

- First responder assets associated with response efforts
- Psychological effect associated with facility (decreased patronage)
- Monetary losses associated with decreased patronage
- Furtherance of perpetrators strategic goals
- Decreased morale, lack of confidence in leadership, decreased productivity, attrition
The Threat
BTM Continuum

Receipt of threat

Return to work

Assess

Incident Commander

Evacuation

Search
Receipt of Threat

- Receipt of the threat (message)
  - Telephone
  - Note
  - Internet based platforms:
    - Email or social networking sites
  - Drawing
  - 3rd Party
    - News media
    - Police
    - Person
Receipt of Threat

http://emilms.fema.gov/is906/assets/ocso-bomb_threat_samepage-brochure.pdf
Receipt of Threat

- Characteristics of the caller
  - Age
  - Ethnic grouping
  - Physical and mental condition
- Repeated deliberate message
- Background noises
  - Callers location
- Did the threat indicate a valid target?
  - Specific of knowledge of target
- Is the device described logical and possible?
Receipt of threat

- Receipt of the threat (suspicious item)
  - Determine if item is “suspicious” or “unattended”
  - Answer these questions:
    - Is the Item at or near a potential terrorist target?
    - Have there been any bomb threats or intelligence regarding a bomb threat?
    - Has there been any recent suspicious activity?
    - Was the item hidden or attempted to be hidden?
    - Is it located near a high traffic or queuing area?
    - Is the item unusual for its surroundings?
  - Only if the answers to **ALL** of the above questions are **NO** should you consider the item to be an unattended item.
  - At any point during the examination of the item you become suspicious, treat the item as suspicious.
Receipt of Threat

- Receipt of the threat (suspicious item)
  - Notify security
  - Control access
    - Isolate threat
    - Create standoff (evacuation)
    - Preserve evidence
  - Do not alter environmental conditions
  - Review CCTV footage or witnesses
  - Reduce risk exposure
    - Do not touch, move, or cover the object
    - Do not confront persons that appear to be dangerous
    - Limit cellular or radio communications around device
  - Attempt to gain enough information for:
    - Suspicious object/circumstances report
    - Emergency responder inquiry
  - Be aware of secondary devices
Assess

- Threat Evaluation
  - Current events
    - Current political climate
    - Current terrorist events
    - Current foreign policy
  - National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Alerts
  - Threat information sharing groups
  - Organization’s image
## Threat Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Risk</th>
<th>Medium Risk</th>
<th>High Risk</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lacks Realism</td>
<td>Threat is feasible</td>
<td>Specificity to the degree of naming individuals as possible victims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How threat was received:</td>
<td>Sufficient detail</td>
<td>The caller identifies themselves or affiliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect/vague</td>
<td>More credible than low risk</td>
<td>Detailed knowledge of device &amp;/or facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of threat:</td>
<td>Increased specificity inherent in threat</td>
<td>Specifies the location and time of detonation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Note discovered</td>
<td>Time and place</td>
<td>Threat is relative to current events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written on wall</td>
<td>Indication of device size</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of caller</td>
<td>Indication of details regarding availability of components used to build device</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification and frequency of threat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to carry out threat is questionable</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Response Options

- Courses of Action:
  - Continue to assess/monitor the situation
  - Shelter-in-place
  - Initiate evacuation
  - Initiate search
  - Initiate a combination of search and evacuation procedures
Response

- Possible Courses of Action:
  - Continue to assess/monitor the situation
  - Shelter-in-place
  - Initiate search procedures
    - Evacuation route search
    - Comprehensive search
    - Affected area search
    - Search before evacuation
    - Search after evacuation
    - Emergency responder staging area search
    - Police assisted search
  - Initiate evacuation procedures
    - Total evacuation
    - Partial evacuation
      - Affected area evacuation
    - Phased evacuation
  - Initiate a combination of search and evacuation procedures
Pre-Incident Planning

• Facility Management Responsibilities:
  • Utilize risk management process to:
    • Establish a Risk Management Team
      • Other teams: Security Team, Security Working Group, BTM Response Team, BTM Planning Team, etc.
    • Identify risk
    • Conduct risk/vulnerability assessment
    • Develop a comprehensive security/emergency management plan
      • Develop Bomb Threat Management Plan
      • Identify and train a BTM Response Team
    • Implement protective measures
    • Evaluate and assess security measures
    • Exercise BTM plan
  • Evaluate threats, monitor situation, conduct search, evacuate facility
  • Communicate to all persons affected by threat
Pre-Incident Planning

- Facility Management Responsibilities (cont.):
  - Ensure accounting of ALL personnel (recall roster)
  - Coordination with first responders
  - Reoccupation of facility (all clear)
  - Establish a security working group
    - Consult local first responders and specialized units
    - Include tenant agencies/businesses and facilities
    - Intel sharing agencies (fusion centers)
    - Link with info-sharing entities (and like facilities)
  - Establish a BTM Planning Team
    - Designate individuals to specialize in efficient bomb threat management
    - Include local responders or emergency management personnel
    - Document resources used for the final plan
Pre-Incident Planning

- Conduct a facility vulnerability assessment
  - Identification of critical assets
  - Estimation of potential for attack
  - Identification of vulnerabilities that can be exploited by an aggressor
  - Identification of functions and systems that lack redundancy
  - Determination of the criticality and protection
Pre-Incident Planning

- Facility Management Responsibilities:
  - Utilize risk management process to:
    - Establish a Risk Management Team
      - Other teams: Security Team, Security Working Group, BTM Response Team, BTM Planning Team, etc.
    - Identify risk
    - Conduct risk/vulnerability assessment
    - Develop a comprehensive security/emergency management plan
      - Develop Bomb Threat Management Plan
      - Identify and train a BTM Response Team
    - Implement protective measures
    - Evaluate and assess security measures
    - Exercise BTM plan
  - Evaluate threats, monitor situation, conduct search, evacuate facility
  - Communicate to all persons affected by threat
Pre-Incident Planning

- Create the BTM plan
  - Define terminology
  - Incident Command System procedures
  - Identify key personnel (BTM Response Team)
    - Clarify roles and responsibilities
  - Identify primary/alternate command (IC) and assembly locations
  - Safety items-communication restrictions, evacuation distances
  - Provide training
  - Explosion protocol
  - Steps for receiving a threat
  - Threat evaluation process
  - Search, evacuation, and procedures
  - Exercise development
  - Review and revise

Prattville Widget Factory

Security / Emergency Action Plan
April, 11, 2012
BTM Response Team

- BTM Response Team
  - Create an organization chart with clearly defined roles
  - Specific to the organization
  - Utilize modified Incident Command System (ICS)

Diagram:

- Incident Commander
  - Search Team Leader
  - Evacuation Team Leader
  - Runner
  - Runner
  - Search Team
  - Evacuation Team

- Media Relations
- Police Liaison
- Receiving Party
BTM Plan

- Threat Evaluation Section
  - This section should be used to decide the response.
  - The following items may be considered:
    - Exact wording of the threat
    - Prior acts against this or similar facilities
    - Current events regarding this or similar facilities
    - Individuals or actions at the site
    - Accessibility of the site
    - Occupants of the site
    - Danger in evacuation areas
    - Advice of local law enforcement

---

Office for Bombing Prevention

www.dhs.gov/files/programs/ntas.shtm
BTM Plan

- Search Section
  - This section should ensure the search is safe and effective
    - Roles and tasks to complete during search
    - Floor plans, outside area layout
    - Critical or vulnerable areas to search
    - Areas to search if evacuation is called for
    - Basic procedure for a systematic and thorough search
    - Tools and equipment needed for searchers
    - Items to use for marking or securing cleared areas
    - Procedure to use if suspicious item is found
    - Additional search resources that may be available offsite
      - Explosive detection K9 teams
      - Law enforcement, military, private security personnel
BTM plan

- Evacuation Section
  - This section should provide steps for orderly evacuation
    - How evacuation order will be delivered to personnel
    - Identify assembly areas/shelter-in-place locations (internal & external)-Include concerns with neighboring properties
    - Areas to avoid during evacuation
    - Directions for employees regarding items to take with them
    - How evacuees report suspicious items they see while leaving
    - Removal of personnel with special needs
    - Assembly point personnel accountability plan
    - Awareness to threats posed while in assembly point
BTM Response Team

▪ Receiving Party
  ▪ The first employee that becomes aware of:
    ▪ Bomb threat
    ▪ Suspicious object
  ▪ Capture the threat
  ▪ Immediately notify persons responsible for carrying out the bomb threat management response plan
  ▪ Preserve threat material
  ▪ *Remain calm*
BTM Response Team

- Incident Commander (IC):
  - Primarily responsible for determining the outcome and actions taken in response to the threat
  - Assess/evaluate threat
  - Coordination with Emer. Responders
  - Assess threat (w/ management)
  - Establishes IC location(s)
  - Respond to threat
    - Continue to assess/monitor
    - Initiate Search procedures
    - Initiate Evacuation procedures
  - Reoccupation
Search

- Factors favoring a search before evacuation:
  - High incident of hoax telephone threats
  - Effective security arrangements have been established
  - Level of threat activity in region/sector is low
  - Time until detonation is sufficient

- Factors favoring a search after evacuation:
  - Accessibility
  - Precise information/insider knowledge
  - Threat vs. risk
  - Significance of date
  - Current events
  - Level of threat activity in region/sector is high
  - Recent significant incidents
Search

- Search priorities
  - Areas to be used as:
    - Shelter-in-place
    - Evacuation routes
    - Evacuation assembly areas
    - Emergency response staging areas
  - Hazardous Areas:
    - Targeted areas
    - Service areas
    - Mail Room
    - Loading Dock
    - Sensitive areas
    - Secondary disaster zone
Search

- A well defined plan, using a systematic pattern ensuring total coverage
- Interior search
  - Hazardous areas
  - Detailed room search
  - Evacuation routes
- Exterior search
  - Hazardous areas
  - Parking areas
  - Evacuation areas
### Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card

**Threat Description** | Explosives Capacity | Mandatory Evacuation Distance | Shelter-in-Place Zone | Preferred Evacuation Distance
---|---|---|---|---
Pipe Bomb | 5 lbs | 70 ft | 71-1199 ft | +1200 ft
Suicide Bomber | 20 lbs | 110 ft | 111-1699 ft | +1700 ft
Briefcase/Suitcase | 50 lbs | 150 ft | 151-1849 ft | +1850 ft
Car | 500 lbs | 320 ft | 321-1899 ft | +1900 ft
SUV/Van | 1,000 lbs | 400 ft | 401-2399 ft | +2400 ft
Small Delivery Truck | 4,000 lbs | 640 ft | 641-3799 ft | +3800 ft
Container/Water Truck | 10,000 lbs | 860 ft | 861-5099 ft | +5100 ft
Semi-Trailer | 60,000 lbs | 1570 ft | 1571-9299 ft | +9300 ft
Evacuation

- Total evacuation
- Partial area evacuation
  - Affected areas
- Phased evacuation
  - Large or complex facilities
Information Sharing & Awareness

Bombing Prevention Training

**Surveillance Detection (SD) Training:** Provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to detect hostile surveillance conducted against critical infrastructure.

**IED Counterterrorism Workshop:** Provides exposure to key elements of the IED threat, surveillance detection methods, and soft target awareness by illustrating baseline awareness and prevention actions that reduce vulnerabilities to counter the threat along with information sharing resources to improve preparedness.

**Protective Measures Course:** Provides owners and operators with the knowledge to identify the appropriate protective measures for their unique sector by outlining available protective measures and the strategies for determining which can be effectively employed in their sector.

**IED Search Procedures Workshop:** Provides IED awareness, prevention measures, and planning protocols by outlining specific search techniques that reduce vulnerability and mitigate the risk of terrorist IED attacks.

**IED Awareness/Bomb Threat Management Workshop:** Provides an IED overview and focuses on the steps for managing bomb-related threats by outlining specific mitigation and response strategies to deal with explosive incidents and bomb threats.

Since 2003, OBP has delivered 1,183 courses to over 41,000 participants.

Office for Bombing Prevention
Information Sharing & Awareness
Technical Resource for Incident Prevention (TRIPwire)

TRIPwire is an online network for State and local law enforcement officials tasked with bombing prevention to discover and share the tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) of terrorist IED use. Assists both DHS and State and local law enforcement to ensure that IED security capabilities match terrorist and criminal adversaries’ technical capabilities.

TRIPwire has over 13,600 registered users.
If you See Something Say Something!!
Conclusion

- Create a plan
  - Identify key players
  - Create bomb threat aids
  - Maps of facility
  - Liaise with local police units
  - Develop partnerships with local businesses
  - Impose control measures
  - Conduct rehearsals
  - Continually revise and update plan

- Remain Calm
  - Always believe the device is ready to detonate
  - Do not touch, keep your distance and report on observations