



Protective Measures for Homicide/Suicide Bombers

Background

Homicide/suicide (H/S) bombers pose complex security challenges for all sectors. To reduce vulnerabilities from a suicide/homicide bombing attack, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) recommends the protective measures listed below.

Scope

The principle objectives for implementing protective measures against a H/S bomber are to create challenges for attack planning and surveillance, protect potential targets, and mitigate the risk of an attack. The following capabilities are recommended for implementation as an outline for specific protective measures:

- 1 Prevention
- 2 Protection
- 3 Response
- 4 Recovery

General Protective Measures

For general protective measures regarding facilities in the critical infrastructure sectors, please consult the Critical Infrastructure Report Series.

Prevention

- Establish an awareness campaign with public and private sector specific to the H/S bomber threat
- Encourage personnel to report anything that appears to be odd or suspicious such as monitoring of shift changes; (see: "If You See Something, Say Something" Campaign)
- Install and regularly test alarms and intrusion detection systems in critical areas
- Establish comprehensive security plan and protocols for a potential H/S bomber attack
- Establish emergency ingress/egress routes and identify primary and secondary evacuation routes and assembly areas
- Establish a credentialing process for venue access to include vendors and contractors
- Ensure all personnel and the public understand blast distances, fragmentation capabilities, and



basic safety procedures; (see: DHS/DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-Off Card for information on explosives capacity and mandatory evacuation distances)

- Maintain visible police and security presence at access control points and perimeters and establish random security patrols
- Screen personnel entering facility using available technologies, e.g., metal detectors, millimeter wave body-scanning technology
- Incorporate screening of baggage, packages and parcels that enter potential targets
- Identify potential sources of bomb-making materials and incorporate precursor awareness programs, e.g., DHS Bomb-making Materials and Awareness Program (BMAP)
- Identify areas than can be used for staging, assembling, or deploying sites of IEDs and explosive materials
- Install and monitor CCTV cameras at venue(s) which cover multiple angles and access points
- Be cognizant of special events or dignitary visits in and around your facility
- Join local/state fusion center to gather intelligence about potential threats
- Conduct mass evacuation exercises for multiple contingencies

Protection

- Establish outer perimeter at target site(s) to create buffer zone and deny access or to intercept potential assailants

- Employ automatic lock down protocols
- Ensure facility has adequate emergency and backup resource capability
- Utilize random explosives detection canine searches to avoid taxing valuable resources
- Alternate search times and patterns to impede the adversary's surveillance efforts
- Install equipment for and regularly test a mass notification system that employs multiple methods, e.g., text, email, web, phone, PA
- Identify local use-of-force policies that can be applied to challenge a potential H/S bomber
- Create physical stand-off area at a safe distance from the potential target

Response

- Alert security and response force of incident and coordinate response
- Evacuate the area, ensuring that the evacuation zone is at a safe distance and proper personnel accountability procedures are conducted
- Be aware of potential blast and fragmentation effects from surrounding materials or buildings
- Remain aware of the possibility of secondary devices within the immediate vicinity

- Be aware of possible remote initiation of a H/S device, or a back-up timer if device fails
- Establish a casualty triage area and designate a medical evacuation site for emergency extraction
- Survey Responders Command Post to ensure it is secure of any threats or hazards

Recovery

- Maintain a high security posture for potential follow on attacks following the crisis targeting evacuation or emergency response
- Maintain vigilance for a secondary bomber, handler, or device among the victims
- Conduct perimeter and facility surveys to ensure IEDs were not planted prior to the attack
- Reconstitute personnel and resource(s) used or lost in the attack
- Conduct damage and consequence assessment of the facility
- Institute Critical Incident Stress Management for responders, attack victims and family members
- Conduct detailed After Actions Report
- Implement lessons learned and provide assurance to facility workforce that site is secure

For additional information please contact OBP@dhs.gov