



BACKGROUND

Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs) pose complex security challenges for all sectors. To reduce vulnerabilities from a VBIED, 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 are to complicate attack planning and surveillance, protect potential targets, and mitigate the risk of attack. An effective approach should consider using a phased procedure:

PHASE 1 Pre-Event Planning
PHASE 2 Site Assessment
PHASE 3 Immediate Action Response
PHASE 4 Post-Event/Analysis

General Protective Measures

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

Pre-Event Planning

- Establish a public awareness campaign to re-enforces public awareness of a looming threat
- Ensure a consistent mechanism is in place for reporting suspicious activities
- Consult Bomb Squad /SME to assess existing security measures
- Maintain police presence at strategic locations, specifically entrances and traffic choke points
- Review organization's surveillance detection and counter-surveillance protocols
- Include surveillance detection considerations with crowd control protocols
- Establish evacuation protocols for VBIED threats (e.g. fire drill, code word)
- Identify pre-designated primary and secondary evacuation sites



- Identify pre-designated vehicle screening points or marshaling areas
- Check identification and manifests of approaching service vehicles;
- Create serpentine vehicle access and choke points to impede the approach of a VBIED
- Emplace vehicle barriers/bollards where necessary/appropriate
- Develop multiple layers of security to protect against additional follow on attacks/breaching
- Establish capability to identify precursors and components for bomb-making materials
- Establish awareness programs to inform point of sale proprietors
- Make alert notifications of any shipments or thefts of explosives or bomb making materials
- Identify potential locations of assembly sites for VBIED and explosive materials;
- Advise service industry, and hotel employees of attack planning indicators
- Make note of person(s) sketching maps, taking photographs and videos or pace counting
- Be cognizant of areas where explosive testing or attack rehearsals may have occurred
- Query medical facilities for injuries involving chemical burns or injuries for blast effects, to include missing appendages

Site Assessment

- Conduct random explosive detection canine searches to avoid taxing valuable resources
- Stagger search times and patterns to impede the adversary's surveillance efforts
- Prevent access to suspected VBIED incident site until the site is cleared or neutralized
- Employ applicable Rules of Engagement (ROE) to challenge potential suicide/VBIED bomber
- Determine if driver is a proxy bomber (e.g. being held hostage, can negotiations be attempted?)
- Make approaches and negotiations by remote means
- Canvas area for information or witnesses to assess status of unattended vehicle left at site
- Determine status of an abandoned vehicle prior to notifying the bomb squad

Immediate Action/Response

- Evacuate the area surrounding a threat vehicle a minimum of 300ft
- Institute restriction for airspace at the incident site's location
- Responders should direct all questions to the Public Affairs Office.
- Select an evacuation site a considerable distance away to avoid blast and fragmentation
- Ensure pre-designated evacuation sites are swept and are clear of secondary devices
- Do not move threat vehicles until cleared by bomb squad personnel
- Visually sweep 360° for the potential of the adversary's handler, or a sniper being present
- Establish ingress/egress routes for emergency response apparatus
- Maintain vigilance for a secondary device which may also be a vehicle in a parking lot
- Be alert for secondary devices targeting responders command posts
- Maintain awareness for possible remote initiation of a suicide VBIED

- Be conscious that a failed suicide bomber /VBIED may have a timer back-up
- Remain attentive that a failed attack may have a C² back-up with the adversary's handler
- Precautions should be taken to wear the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment
- Implement security 360° of incident site perimeter

Post-Event

- Maintain security posture for the possibility of follow-on attacks
- Sweep the site and safe areas for possible secondary and tertiary devices
- Preserve integrity of the blast site for evidence collection and post-blast investigation(s)
- Establish other access points to the facility
- Continue personnel and vehicular searches at various check points for continued operations
- Coordinate with facility engineer to assess the building's structural integrity
- Conduct full After Actions Report
- Implement lessons learned
- Provide safety assurances for the workforce regarding site security for continued operations