



# Mass Bomb Threats

CISA OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION

Increasingly, bad actors are conducting strategic campaigns where multiple bomb threats sometimes simultaneously target infrastructure. Whether these mass bomb threats are made at multiple locations, or to one location over a length of time, **mass bomb threat campaigns can have significant impacts.**

## INDICATORS

- Threats lack specificity and realism
- Often delivered via email, phone, or social media
- Phone threats are likely to have automated voices
- Media reports indicate similar and simultaneous threats



## Cascading consequences and enhanced impact

Mass bomb threat campaigns target specific types of infrastructure on a national level such as:



Election Polling Locations



Medical Facilities



Institutions of Higher Education



Faith-Based Organizations



## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

May halt activities, harm commerce, and drain resources



## PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

May disrupt lives, create fear, uncertainty, and panic

# Each affected organization or facility should carefully evaluate the bomb threat

Consider the **facts, context, and totality of the circumstances**, then determine a response option.

Exact wording  
of the threat

Prior threats against  
this or similar facilities

Current events regarding  
this or similar facilities

Accessibility  
of the site

Occupants  
of the site

## RISK LEVELS

### Low

A **vague** and **indirect** threat that poses a minimum risk to the victim or public safety.

### Medium

A threat that is **direct** and **feasible** and could be carried out, although it may not appear entirely realistic.

### High

A threat that is **direct, specific, realistic**, and poses an immediate and serious danger to the safety of others.



## THREAT RESPONSE OPTIONS

- Assess & Discount:  
continue to monitor
- Assess & Lockdown:  
partial or full
- Assess, Lockdown, & Search:  
partial or full
- Assess & Evacuate:  
partial or full, includes priority searches

Every bomb threat requires professional judgment and should be handled in accordance with the facility's needs.

Decision Maker(s) and administrators should periodically review Federal guidance and work with local first responders to establish a Bomb Threat Response Plan that addresses each risk level appropriately and is optimal for their building(s) and personnel.

For a full list of related CISA Office for Bombing Prevention trainings and resources, please visit: [cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat](https://www.cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat)

**DEFEND TODAY, SECURE TOMORROW**

