IED AWARENESS AND RESPONSE

**GOAL:** By the end of this section, you will know about IEDs and related patrol awareness relative to them.

**TOPICS:**

1. What in an IED?
2. Awareness and Patrolling
3. What Should I Do?

**1 – WHAT IS AN IED?**

An improvised explosive device (IED) is a homemade bomb. An IED typically consists of an explosive charge (potentially assisted by a booster charge), a detonator, and an initiation system, which is a mechanism that initiates the electrical charge that sets off the device. IEDs are extremely diverse in design, and may contain many types of initiators, detonators, penetrators, and explosive loads.

A vehicle borne IED, or VBIED, is a term for a car bomb or truck bomb. These are typically employed by suicide bombers, and can carry a relatively large payload. They can also be detonated from a remote location.

IEDs constitute a grave threat for any facility where the public gathers.

Remember: Any object can be made into an IED; the only limitation is the imagination.

**2 – AWARENESS AND PATROLLING**

Because an IED can be nearly any shape or size, can be difficult to recognize and is easily concealed, the constant application of awareness is vitally important for security professionals tasked to watch any suspicious object that could be an IED.

When patrolling the property, security professionals must be aware of their surroundings at all times. This alert condition is described as the “Yellow Zone.” Security Professionals patrolling alertly, in the Yellow Zone, have a much better chance of noticing a suspicious person or object and, therefore, a much greater advantage of recognizing a situation involving an IED. When a crowd classified as expressive, aggressive or a mob is detected, Security Supervisors shall respond immediately to the scene and assume command of the incident response until the police arrive.
It’s easy to lapse into unawareness – daydreaming or walking about on auto-pilot. In awareness training, this condition of being mentally disconnected from your surroundings is called the “White Zone.” Especially when considering such difficult to recognize threats as IEDs, all security professionals must avoid patrolling in the White Zone.

In addition to using awareness, security professionals must focus their patrolling on likely locations for an IED and on detecting suspicious persons, objects and situations.

**Where to Look for IEDs**

A criminal will tend to place an IED in a location where it will cause maximum injury. Likely locations for placement of an IED may include:

- Large gathering places for customers, such as food courts or special events.
- Hallways adjacent to food courts.
- Service hallways or stairwells.
- Roof areas.
- Children’s play areas.
- Public restrooms.
- Inside or next to trashcans.
- Inside or next to interior landscaping (e.g., plant beds).
- Pedestrian entrances to the building.
- Near gas lines/meters or propane tanks.
- Loading docks.
- Parking decks.
- Vehicles unattended and parked at customer entrances to the building.

**Recognizing Suspicious Behavior**

A criminal planning to use an IED or planting an IED might display suspicious behavior for an alert security professional to detect. Suspicious behavior is greatly varied. Any action a criminal performs to plan or carry out a crime might seem suspicious because the criminal is performing actions with a different purpose than everyone else at the facility and is attempting to conceal these actions and go undetected.

When you notice suspicious behavior, you might not identify what the suspicious person is doing but might only realize that it doesn’t look right. That phrase – *Doesn’t Look Right* – is important to keep in mind. Here is a rule about behavior that Doesn’t Look Right:

- If it Doesn’t Look Right, pay attention to it, assess and report it!
- Continuously inspect common areas and back hallways while patrolling.
- Keep fire lanes clear.
- Appropriately investigate persons who are loitering, appear out of place, show unusual interest toward facilities systems or security procedures, or are in restricted areas.
- Contact the police when appropriate.
Restricted areas must be appropriately marked and comply with State and local laws so that trespassers can be detained and arrested when appropriate.

Criminals planning and carrying out crimes can be detected during several phases of their actions. These include:

- **Picking** - Criminals spend time picking their target. Sometimes this involves visiting and lingering at a facility, taking photos, making notes, watching foot traffic, security and other workers and potential victims.
- **Planning** - In addition to making observations, criminals might ask you questions about staffing or work patterns, criminals might attempt entry to restricted areas and analyze security measures.
- **Practicing** - Sometimes, especially for well-planned major crimes, criminals will perform a “walk-through” practice. Sometimes, this includes testing reactions by security and other personnel.
- **Performing** - If you notice something that “Doesn’t Look Right, Report It Quickly.” Even at the last moments, criminal plans can be disrupted and lives can be saved.

Although you should watch for any behavior that Doesn’t Look Right, here are some key behaviors to look for:

- Individual(s) in an unauthorized place
- Individual(s) asking unusual questions
- Individual(s) with unseasonal bulky attire
- Individual(s) who doing something that is not typical or consistent with normal business activity
- Individual(s) trying not to be noticed
- Any concealed object being carried by someone that could be a weapon or crime tool
- Efforts to map out or “case” the facility (e.g., taking pictures, making videos, or drawing diagrams of the location)

**Recognizing Suspicious Objects**

As noted above, IEDs can vary greatly in appearance and can be concealed easily. Also – very important point – an IED might look like a perfectly normal object. So when discussing what to look for when being alert for IEDs, the Doesn’t Look Right rule is extremely important: if an object seems odd, suspicious or out of place, pay attention to it immediately, don’t ignore it by saying, “It’s probably nothing,” and be sure to report it.

*No suspicious object should ever be disregarded by you!* Some specific suspicious object factors to keep in mind follow.
Bomb Indicators

- Item with wires protruding, a battery showing, or a timer/watch attached.
- Container emitting smoke, odor, or a ticking/buzzing noise.
- Any assembly of pipe parts not in a primary use/storage location.
- Any item that appears to be weighted down.
- Compressed gas cylinder with items taped/attached to it.
- Unattended backpack or suitcase that is out of place.
- Item with dead birds, mice, or insects close by (could easily be a poison or radioactive bomb).

Questionable Items

- Objects that appear lost or left – bags, briefcases, backpacks.
- Unusual odors, especially of chemicals or fuels coming from a vehicle or object.
- Abandoned fuel tanks or propane cylinders.
- Unattended briefcases, satchels, or paper/plastic bags.
- Assembled pipe parts.
- Out-of-place computers, disc players, or flashlights.
- A soiled American flag with a note attached.
- Souvenirs from a local icon or country.
- An anti-American poster.
- Discarded shiny or seemingly new items (such as a basketball, weapon, or bicycle without a lock).
- Vehicles such as delivery trucks or vans that are out of place or parked in unusual locations.
- Vehicles that appears overloaded or abandoned.

3 – WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Video Patrol Officer

Video Patrol Officers will continually monitor all visitors entering and leaving the building including delivery personnel, customers, employees, contractors and tenants. Look for unattended items (e.g., packages, briefcases, backpacks, etc.). Detect unusual activity by asking yourself: is this person using the property according to its designated purpose? Prioritize video patrol efforts which result in an effective and accurate collection of observations of the property’s situation.

Security Professional

Security Professional must ensure they conduct a primary survey of their patrol zone, check all doors that access restricted areas (e.g., electrical rooms, roof access, etc.) and monitor the behavior of everyone. Security Professionals should follow the simple rules:
Notice

- Stay Alert – always look around you.
- Stop to watch a person, object or situation that seems odd or out of place.
- Be Safe!

Assess

- Does a person look like he/she is up to something?
- Is something suspicious going on?
- It still doesn’t look right, then...

Report it!

- Report immediately – don’t wait.
- Be accurate! Don’t add anything not actually observed!

Other Important Practices include:

- Meet the delivery drivers and know the delivery companies that frequent your property.
- Review your site’s emergency plan for specific procedures on how to handle incidents involving bomb threats, suspicious packages, explosions or VBIEDs.

If you find a suspicious item:

- Never handle the item.
- Secure the area and notify emergency first responders.
- Remember that if an IED is located or explodes, always presume there is a secondary IED device that is intended to harm emergency first responders responding to the scene.

Security Director

- Brief your entire staff regarding IEDs and their patrol responsibilities.
- Deliver training based on this training bulletin to all your staff.
- Lead your security operation in implementing practices regarding IED awareness and ensure these practices are being performed by all security personnel.
- Meet with local law enforcement and fire department representatives regularly and continue to offer appropriate training opportunities for local authorities to conduct.
- Ensure that Department of Homeland Security terrorism awareness and emergency response plan training is completed in a timely manner for each new security professional.
- Regularly conduct update or refresher training.
Media

All media inquiries shall be directed to the property manager. Under no circumstance should security personnel provide details to or be interviewed by members of the media.

Emergency Response relative to IEDs

Your facility’s Emergency Response Plan (ERP), if available to you, includes information regarding clearing areas, evacuating, working with emergency responders, etc. Review your ERP to refresh your knowledge regarding these procedures.

The following graphics are presented to help you realize the destructive power of explosives, including IEDs. Please look at these charts to help you realize the safety hazards you and public face due to IEDs. Explosive devices can be misleading. They might look small but the power they have to cause damage and injury at significant distances away is important to know.
### 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>
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<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>111-1699 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/Minivan</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>+3800 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>
IED AWARENESS AND RESPONSE – REVIEW QUESTIONS

Can you correctly answer the following questions? Check your answers by looking back at the information in this unit.

1. If you find a suspicious item, what should you do?
2. An improvised explosive device (IED) is usually found in a backpack or briefcase?
3. The phrase “Doesn’t Look Right” means?
4. Criminal planning and carrying out crimes can be detected during several; phases of their actions. These phases are described as?
5. Which areas within the mall should be especially focused upon as appealing locations for an IED placement?
6. All media inquiries shall be directed to?