

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Protective Security Coordination Division
Office of Infrastructure Protection



Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Awareness Guidelines and Protective Measures for Mass Gatherings

Background

These protective measures provide State, regional, local, private sector, and event officials with recommended measures for establishing secure environments at planned mass gathering events. In cases involving mass gatherings, a multitude of attack possibilities exist with regard to various terrorist tactics, techniques, and procedures. To effectively bolster security at these events, appropriate protective measures for mitigating the use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) is essential.

Scope

This document serves as guidance for implementing recommended protective measures for planned mass gathering events (e.g., parades, protest, campaign events, races, etc.).

Pre-Event

Often the best opportunity to thwart a terrorist attack is prior to the event. Vigilance must be at the forefront of planning. The following measures are recommended:

- Establish a comprehensive security plan and emergency response plan for the event that includes interaction and integration with local law enforcement and public safety agencies
- Prepare response procedures and contingency plans that incorporate response to multiple IED attacks
- Share emergency response plans and contact lists between event security and appropriate agencies
- Provide critical information of the event (e.g., site plans, location of emergency equipment, planned routes, etc.) to local law enforcement and emergency responders
- Test communications equipment with emergency responders, including primary and backup systems
- Conduct threat, vulnerability and risk assessments
- Conduct consequence analysis and security audits prior to the event to include assessments of other activities and operations in the vicinity (e.g., airports, chemical plants, government buildings, pipelines, rail lines, etc.) that may impact the event
- Provide vehicle borne IED (VBIED) indicators (e.g., vehicle sagging, illegally parked, etc.) and reporting procedures to event staff
- Install vehicle barriers and vehicle marshaling locations to ensure adequate standoff distances from VBIEDs
- Identify locations for conducting vehicle searches and provide vehicle inspection procedures to event security
- Establish personnel screening checkpoints for access control into the event
- Identify procedures for conducting searches of people with special needs (e.g., physical disabilities)
- Conduct background checks on event support personnel as appropriate
- Ensure employees receive proper identification and credentials for the event
- Ensure personnel receive training on IED and threat awareness, emergency communication, response actions, and reporting of suspicious activity
- Develop and conduct a public security awareness campaign for the event
- Identify criteria to terminate the event
- Establish procedures for mitigating hoaxes and false alarms
- Develop mass evacuation procedures in response to a threat
- Identify and designate egress and ingress routes for emergency vehicles
- Institute strategies for detecting and reporting preoperational surveillance and other suspicious activity
- Identify potential staging areas, and sites which could be used for triage of victims or that can be used for a medevac landing zone
- Ensure regional trauma centers and medical facilities are prepared for a mass casualty incident involving blast and fragmentation trauma
- Consider video surveillance systems for monitoring the event
- Designate a Public Affairs and Joint Information Center to coordinate event media and emergency messaging

Day of Event

During the day of the event, be prepared for immediate actions following an IED attack/incident. Consideration should be given to implementing the following measures:

- Use remote parking and shuttle service to keep vehicles away from critical assets or mass gatherings
- Tow illegally parked vehicles
- Remove objects from the event which could conceal IEDs (e.g., trash containers, crates, etc.)
- Ensure proper identification and credentials of event staff
- Ensure all bags and packages entering the event have been processed through a screening checkpoint
- Conduct explosive detection canine team searches of vehicles requiring entrance into a secure zone
- Conduct additional sweeps of the event area using roving patrols and explosive detection canine teams
- Be vigilant of secondary devices; specifically at anticipated evacuation routes
- Implement a public awareness and vigilance campaign that provides information for reporting and responding to potential IED activity (e.g., PA system announcements, television ads, social media, etc.)

Direct comments or questions to the DHS Office Bombing Prevention at OBP@dhs.gov.