



Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices

An improvised explosive device (IED) attack is “the use of a ‘homemade’ bomb and/or destructive device to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract. IEDs are used by criminals, vandals, terrorists, suicide bombers, and insurgents. Because they are improvised, IEDs can come in many forms, ranging from a small pipe bomb to a sophisticated device capable of causing massive damage and loss of life. IEDs can be carried or delivered in a vehicle, or a VBIED.”¹

Potential Indicators

- Vehicles parked in unusual locations
- Headlights and taillights that do not work
- Exposed wires
- Overloaded vehicles
- Unusually clean areas
- Cargo concealed by tarp or blanket
- Overly cautious drivers

Report Suspicious Behavior

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- If something feels wrong, do not ignore it.
- Report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement.
- Do not assume someone has already reported suspicious activity.
- Do not approach or tamper with a suspicious item.
- If the threat appears imminent, call 911.
- When making a report, provide your name, location, description of suspicious item, and the time it was observed.

BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CARD					
Threat Description	Explosives Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Zone	Preferred Evacuation Distance	
Pipe Bomb	5 lbs	70 ft	71-1199 ft	+1200 ft	
Suicide Bomber	20 lbs	110 ft	111-1699 ft	+1700 ft	
Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs	150 ft	151-1849 ft	+1850 ft	
Car	500 lbs	320 ft	321-1899 ft	+1900 ft	
SUV/Van	1,000 lbs	400 ft	401-2399 ft	+2400 ft	
Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs	640 ft	641-3799 ft	+3800 ft	
Container/Water Truck	10,000 lbs	860 ft	861-5099 ft	+5100 ft	
Semi-Trailer	60,000 lbs	1570 ft	1571-9299 ft	+9300 ft	

CAUTION!

- Do not touch suspicious item
- Notify proper Authorities - Call 911
- Ensure all witnesses are available to brief 1st responders
- Recommended stand-off data should be used in conjunction with your emergency evacuation plan

Sources: Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention, Arlington, VA
FBI, Bomb Data Center, Quantico, VA
Technical Support Working Group, Arlington, VA



State of Illinois
Illinois Terrorism Task Force

¹ Department of Homeland Security IED Fact Sheet