Bombing Prevention Programs and Resources for K-12 Schools

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

SchoolSafety.gov

CISA · CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY

Webinar Agenda

- **Webinar Objectives**
- **Speaker Introductions**
- **Bombing Prevention Information**
  - **Threat Environment**
    - **Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)**
    - **Notable Incidents**
  - **Office for Bombing Prevention Overview**
    - **Available Programs, Resources, and Trainings**
    - **Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program**
- **SchoolSafety.gov Resources**
- **Q & A**

Webinar Objectives

1. Provide an overview of the threats schools face when it comes to Improvised Explosive Devices, strategies and actions to prevent and address these threats, and trainings, programs, and resources available to support school communities in these efforts.

2. Prepare school personnel and parents on how to recognize bomb-making activities and how to respond appropriately, as well as the actions schools should take if they receive a bomb threat.

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Featured Speakers

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THREAT ENVIRONMENT

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Identifying Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs)

What is an IED?

"Any device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract".

Identifying the components of an IED

One way to understand and remember the components of an IED is with the acronym SIMP-CE.

Switch | **I**nitiator | **M**ain Charge | **P**ower Source | **C**ontainer | **E**nhancement

IED Incidents in Schools: 2016-2020

What is an IED?

IEDs pose a threat to schools. There were 3,111 bomb incidents during a recent four-year period at schools.

- Most bomb threats were perpetrated by students without malicious intent to harm others, but they caused significant operational and financial disruptions.

- Despite the high rate of bomb threats compared to actual bombing events, every threat needs to be taken seriously and responded to effectively.

- OBP resources are available to help schools manage risks effectively.

IED Incidents at Schools
March 2016 - February 2020

Bomb Threat
89%

Device Related
3%

Suspicious Package
8%

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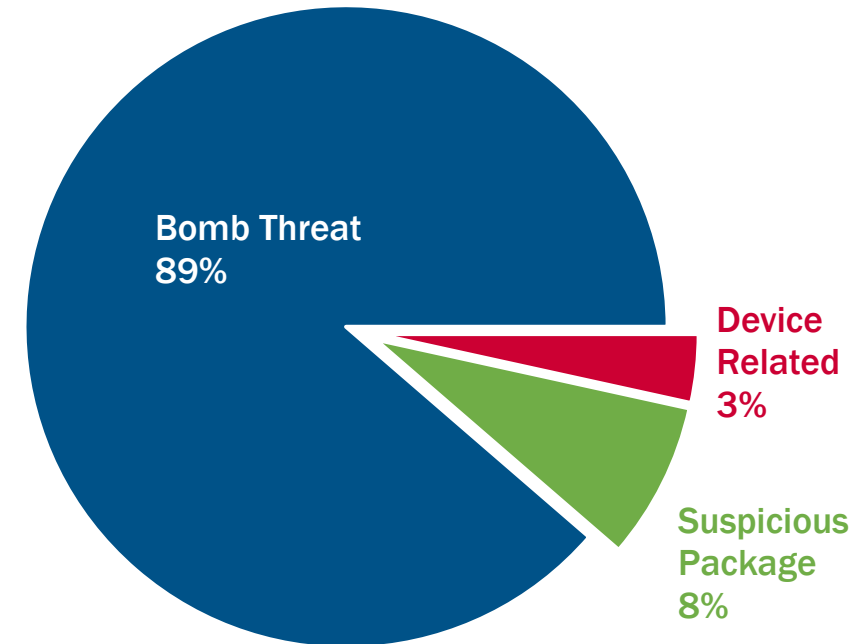
Device Types Used in Attacks

Of the 29 incidents where a device functioned, a total of 14 people were injured, and 1 person killed when a device functioned. A mix of IEDs, pyrotechnic devices, incendiary devices, and chemical pressure bombs were used.

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Cost of Bomb Threats

Apart from the significant loss of life and destruction of critical infrastructure from bomb attacks, <u>bomb threats</u> can impose major financial costs.

"Michael H. Tapp, a deputy director of Orange County Emergency Services and the county fire marshal, estimates that each bomb scare costs his office, the fire department, and the sheriff at least $2,000 in salary, benefits, and other costs. The school district concurs with his estimates. It informed parents that each threat costs the district and community at least $1,500 to $2,000."
Source: edweek.org

A Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) closure received significant attention when, upon receiving an electronic bomb threat, it closed more than 900 campuses and 187 public charter schools. According to officials, the decision made by the nation's second-largest school district kept approximately 640,000 students out of school, costing the district at least $29 million.
Source: Cnbc.com

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Bomb Threats and Suspicious Packages

Criminals sometimes use bomb threats and suspicious packages against educational facilities as a tactic to distract law enforcement.

North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania Incident

In 2019, a 35-year-old male suspect, disguised in a mask, left a note at a restaurant saying there were multiple bomb threats at two schools. The suspect intended to rob a local bank while law enforcement was distracted.

Images: The arrested suspect (L) and the mask he wore when leaving the bomb threats (R)
Source: 7 KLTV

Castor, Louisiana Incident

Also in 2019, a male suspect emplaced a hoax device at Lakeview High School to divert law enforcement while he and two co-conspirators robbed a local area bank.

Images: The three suspects
Source: Fox 8 Live

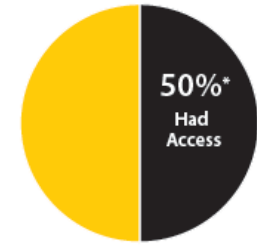# USSS Targeted School Violence Analysis

According to the Secret Service's 2021 Averting Targeted School Violence Analysis, over 34% of school plots included plans for explosive devices and over half of the perpetrators had access to explosive material.
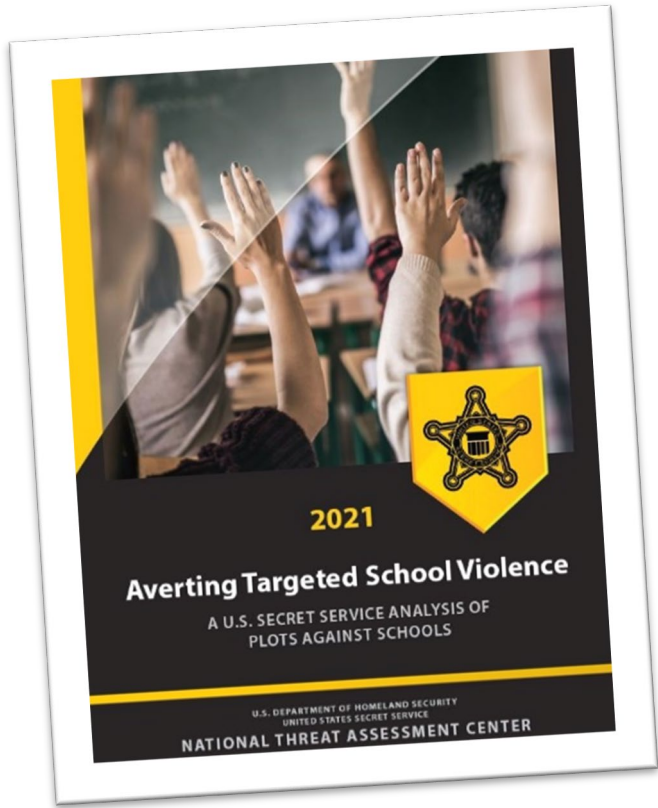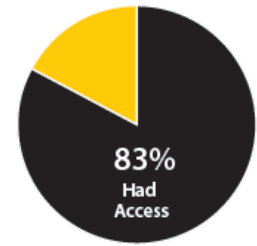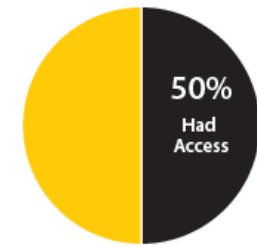

64 Selected Firearms — Had Access, 67% Unimpeded Access
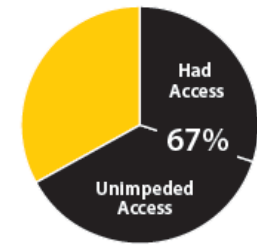
34 Selected Explosives — 50%* Had Access

12 Selected Incendiary — 83% Had Access

8 Selected Bladed — 50% Had Access

*Includes 11 cases with completed explosives, and 6 with bomb-making materials only.

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Notable Incidents

September 2021: Students charged with conspiring attack on 25th anniversary of Columbine shootings

Image: The high school where the incident was to occur.
Source: www.pahomepage.com

"Court papers say the student's plans were to use bombs first and then shoot the guns."

"A search warrant was executed at (subject's) home where police say they recovered explosive devices, BB pellets, CO2 cartridges, notebooks explaining how to make a bomb"

Notable Incidents

2017-2018: Active Shooter incidents and disrupted plots included explosive devices as a component.

May 2018: Santa Fe, Texas

Image: The high school where the shooting and explosives incident occurred.
Source: CBS 58

March 2017: Frederick, Maryland

Image: Explosive devices, BMM, and other materials removed from the suspect's residence.
Source: WTOP News

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Notable Incidents

2017: Jewish Community Bomb Threats

Impacts:
- Disruption of classes and operations
- Fear and loss of public trust
- Strained response resources

Bomb Threats to the Jewish Community

Location: Dozens of Jewish Community Centers and schools across the U.S. and Canada
Suspect/Attacker: Israeli teenager Michael Kadar arrested as prime suspect; additional arrest made for 8 threats; suspected "copycats" still unidentified
Threat/Device: 245 telephoned and emailed bomb threats between January 4 and March 7, 2017*
Motive: Instill fear; Disruption; Anti-Semitism

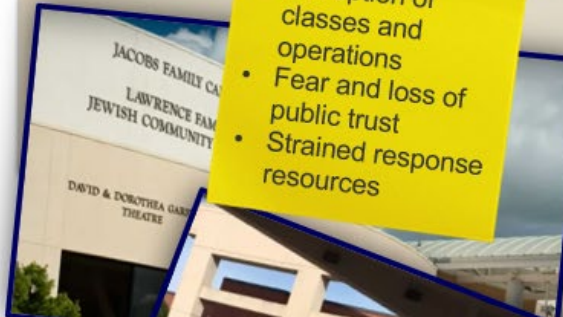Bomb threats against Jewish centers and schools in 2017

*Threat tally according to the DOJ Criminal Complaint against Michael Kadar – does not include additional copycat threats against JCCs, etc.

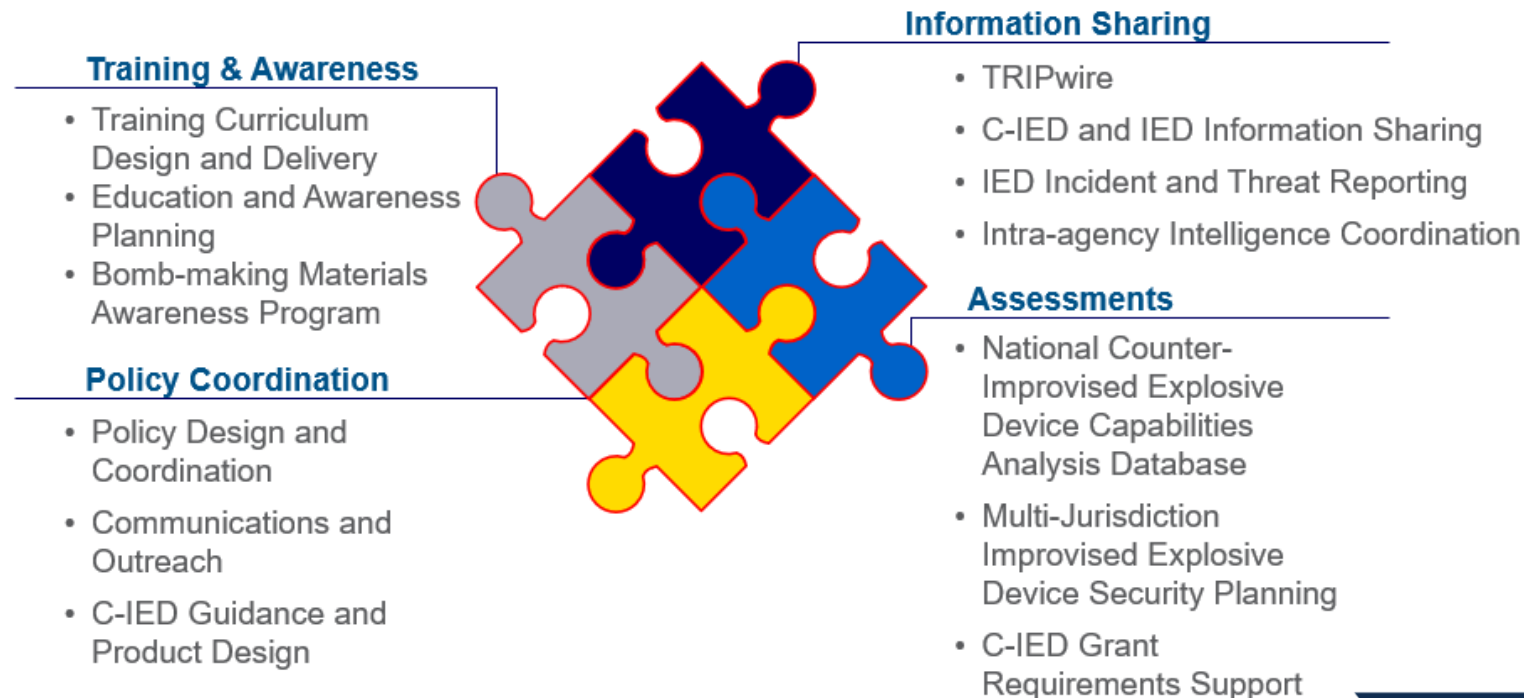# OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION (OBP) OVERVIEW

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OBP Mission and Program Areas

OBP accomplishes its mission through a portfolio of complementary counter-IED services.

The Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) leads the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) efforts to implement National Counter-IED (C-IED) policy and enhance the Nation's ability to prevent, protect against, respond to, and mitigate the use of explosives against critical infrastructure; the private sector; and federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial entities.

Training & Awareness
- Training Curriculum Design and Delivery
- Education and Awareness Planning
- Bomb-making Materials Awareness Program

Policy Coordination
- Policy Design and Coordination
- Communications and Outreach
- C-IED Guidance and Product Design

Information Sharing
- TRIPwire
- C-IED and IED Information Sharing
- IED Incident and Threat Reporting
- Intra-agency Intelligence Coordination

Assessments
- National Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Capabilities Analysis Database
- Multi-Jurisdiction Improvised Explosive Device Security Planning
- C-IED Grant Requirements Support

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OBP Trainings and Resources

Counter-IED & Risk Mitigation Training

To reduce risk to the nation's critical infrastructure, OBP develops and delivers a diverse curriculum of training and awareness products.

Program Overview

- Develops and delivers training and awareness products to build nationwide C-IED capabilities across the preparedness spectrum

- Accredited training provider through the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training (IACET)

- Meets American National Standards Institute (ANSI) requirements for excellence in instructional practices

- OBP's Train-the-Trainer program has Block Designation from the Department of Homeland Security's Office of SAFETY Act Implementation

- Training Modalities - In-Person, Virtual Instructor Led, and online Independent Study Trainings

- All training is provided free-of-charge

P.O.S.T Certification

Peace Officer Standards and Training

C-IED Training Courses

OBP offers training to build C-IED capabilities through a variety of modalities to meet different stakeholders' needs.

In-Person

- Bombing Prevention Awareness
- Bomb Threat Management Planning
- IED Search Procedures
- Protective Measures
- Surveillance Detection
- Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection
- BMAP Community Liaisons

Virtual Instructor

- IED Construction and Classification
- IED Explosive Effects Mitigation
- Introduction to the Terrorist Attack Cycle
- Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness
- Protective Measures Awareness
- Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items
- Surveillance Detection Principles

Self-paced ISTs

- IED Awareness and Safety Procedures
- Homemade Explosives and Precursor Chemicals Awareness for Public Safety
- Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response

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In-Person Instructor-Led Training (ILT)

AWR-348: Bombing Prevention Awareness

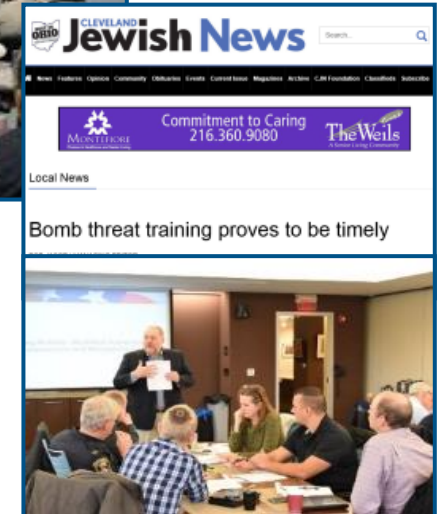**PER-312:** Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection

PER-336: Protective Measures

PER-339: IED Search Procedures

PER-346: Surveillance Detection

MGT-450: Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) Community Liaison Course

MGT-451: Bomb Threat Management

What to know about ILTs:

- Optimum class size is 25 participants – 30 (max)
- Trainings must have a minimum of 15 participants NLT 5 days before event
- Trainings preferred to take place Tues.-Thurs.
- Classroom style seating with tables preferred
- Courses are offered free-of-charge

- POC or representative must be on-site for delivery
- Additional practical exercise requirements may apply
- All participants require a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number

Virtual Instructor-Led Training (VILT)

AWR-333: IED Construction and Classification

AWR-334: Introduction to the Terrorist Attack Cycle

AWR-335: Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items

AWR-337: IED Explosive Effects Mitigation

AWR-338: Homemade Explosives (HME) and Precursor Awareness

AWR-340: Protective Measures Awareness
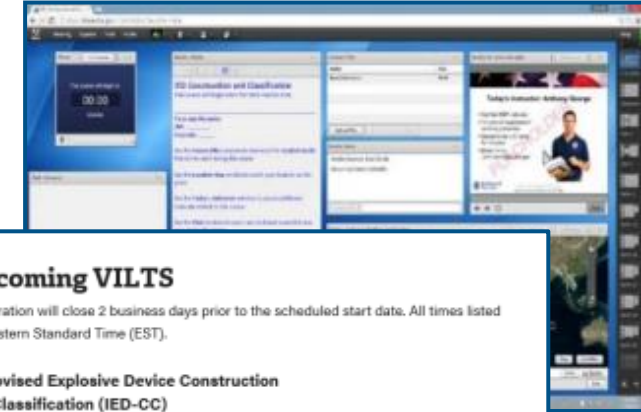
Upcoming VILTS

Registration will close 2 business days prior to the scheduled start date. All times listed are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Improvised Explosive Device Construction and Classification (IED-CC)

Provides foundational knowledge on the construction and classification of IEDs. [75 Min]

All times listed are Eastern Standard Time (EST).

April 5	April 12	April 19
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	11:00 AM – 12:15 PM	11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Apply	Apply	Apply

April 26
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM
Apply

What to know about VILTs:

- Online schedule available 90 days out
- Individual enrollment – not for group viewing
- Maximum class size 50 participants
- Scheduled at various times to accommodate various time zones

- Courses are offered free-of-charge
- Specially scheduled sessions available at stakeholder request
- All participants require a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number

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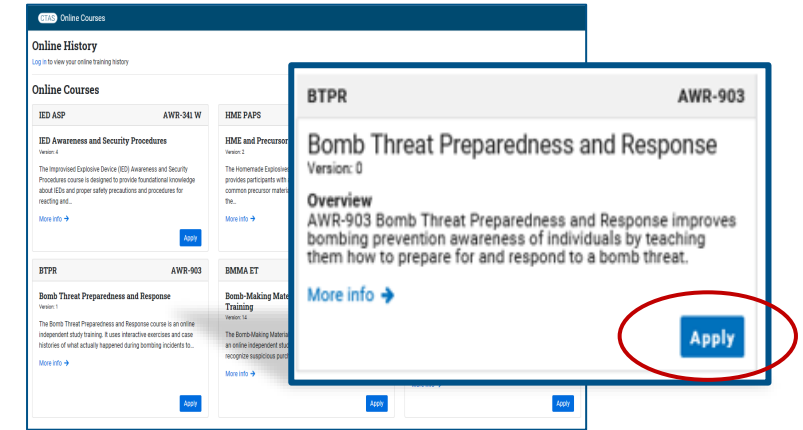# Independent Study Trainings (IST)

AWR-341: IED Awareness and Safety Procedures

AWR-349: Homemade Explosives and Precursor Chemicals Awareness for Public Safety

AWR-903: Bomb Threat Preparedness & Response

AWR-911: Recognizing Bomb-Making Activity – Your Role

AWR-921: Bomb-Making Materials Awareness – Employee Training

What to know about ISTs:

- .5 – 1 hour self-paced independent study training (IST)
- Individual enrollment – not for group viewing
- Mobile device friendly – view on your smart phone

- Courses are offered free-of-charge
- Also available at https://cdp.dhs.gov/obp, courses listed under "Online Training"
- All participants require a FEMA Student Identification (SID) number

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Training Video Resources, Courses

Training Video Series:

What to Do: Bomb Threat – Although a bomb threat may seem rare, they happen every day across the nation. Reacting quickly and safely to a bomb threat could save lives, including your own This video demonstrates the procedures you should follow during a bomb threat and will help you prepare and react appropriately. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pg7yVTBciWg

What to Do: Suspicious or Unattended Item – Demonstrates how you can determine whether an item is suspicious (potential bomb) or simply unattended and will help you prepare and react appropriately. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjcaksGQ6HU
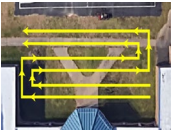
What to Do: Bomb Searches – Set in a school, this video describes basic bomb search procedures to use once the determination has been made that a search is warranted, and authorities have been notified. This video demonstrates in detail, the room, route, and area search techniques that can be applied to any type of facility. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQWEfq7Z6u8

OBP Training Resources:

Bomb Threat Management (BTM) Planning (MGT-451) **Perfect for School Administrators – 1 day In-Person Course**
Description: The BTM Planning course provides participants foundational knowledge on the DHS risk management process and bomb threat management planning. It gives participants opportunity to apply this knowledge to develop a bomb threat management plan

Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response (AWR-903) **Ideal for All School Employees – 1-hour online web-based course**
Description: The Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response course is an online independent study training. It uses interactive exercises and case histories of what happened during bombing incidents to familiarize participants with the steps necessary to prepare for and respond to a bomb threat.

Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items (AWR-335) **Ideal for All School Employees – 1-hour virtual instructor-led course**
Description: The Response to Suspicious Behaviors and Items for Bombing Prevention course provides participants with a foundational introduction to recognizing and responding to suspicious behaviors and activities related to terrorist or criminal activities. This course also highlights what to do when encountering an unattended or suspicious item and to whom to report it

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Training Video Series (TVS)

- **What to Do?** Bomb Threat

- **What to Do?** Suspicious or Unattended Items

- **What to Do?** Conducting an IED Search

- **What to Do?** Surviving a Bombing Attack

What to know about TVS:

- Short 5 -7 minute training videos
- Individual or group viewing
- Mobile device friendly – view on your smart phone
- Accessible anywhere, any time

To view any of the Instructional Videos, please visit www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training

OBP Bomb Threat Resources

Available at: www.cisa.gov/what-to-do-bomb-threat

BOMB-MAKING MATERIALS AWARENESS PROGRAM (BMAP)

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BMAP Program Overview

Description

The Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) is a counter-terrorism risk management bombing prevention program. BMAP focuses on restricting access by malicious actors to explosive precursor chemicals, explosive powders, exploding target materials, associated components, and delivery methods. The program is most effective during the terrorist attack cycle's planning phase. The two focus areas of BMAP are the acquisition of materials and bomb-building stages.

Objectives

1. Restrict access by malicious actors to BMM and explosive precursor chemicals (EPC) used to manufacture homemade explosives (HME) and destructive devices.

2. Provide early detection of the sale of HME precursor chemicals and BMM to suspect individuals.

3. Prevent diversion and theft of HME precursor chemicals and BMM by malicious actors.

4. Build a network of vigilant and informed partners who serve as the Nation's C-IED "eyes-and-ears" as the first line of defense in providing early detection of potential terrorist attacks and criminal activity.

BMAP Approach

STOP ATTACKS

Build Public Awareness

Educate Businesses

BMAP
BOMB-MAKING MATERIALS AWARENESS PROGRAM

Community Outreach

Stakeholder Training

Recognizes Suspicious Activity/Behavior

Suspicious Activity Reported

Fusion/LE Builds Case

IED Attack Prevented

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BMAP Community

Senior Executives

Analysts

Local Businesses

Public Safety Professionals

Dispatchers

Community

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Explosive Precursor Chemicals

A **National Academies of Science** report identified many explosive precursor chemicals and commercially available binary explosives that can be used to manufacture **vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices** (VBIEDs) and **person-borne improvised explosive devices** (PBIEDs).
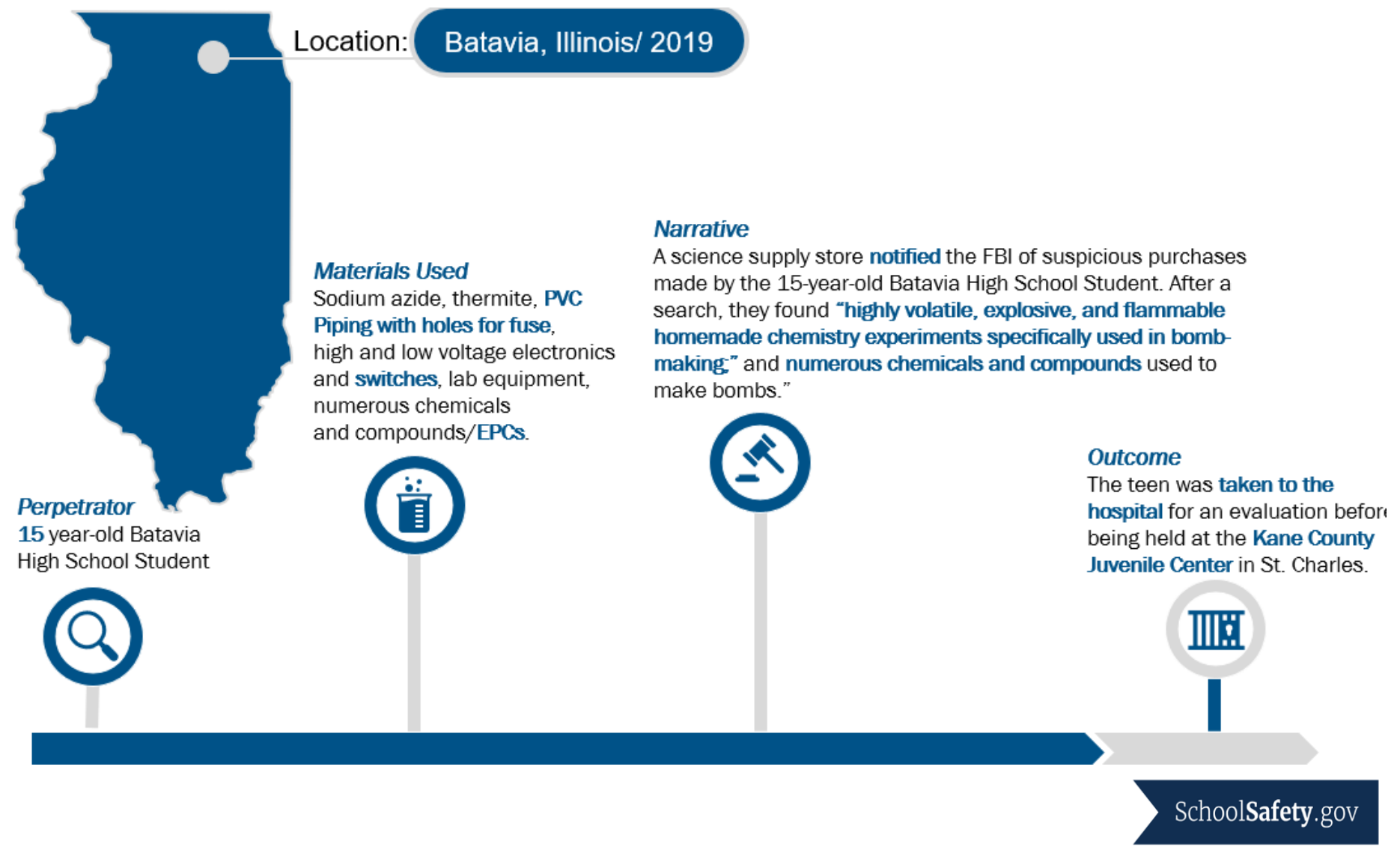
Copyright 2018 by the National Academy of Sciences.

Explosive Precursor Chemical to HME Examples

Fuel	Oxidizer	Acid	HME End Product
Acetone	Hydrogen Peroxide	Strong Acid (Catalyst)	Triacitone Triperoxide (TATP)
Hexamine	Hydrogen Peroxide	Weak Acid	Hexamethylene Triperoxide Diamine (HMTD)
MEK	Hydrogen Peroxide	Strong Acid (Catalyst)	Methyl Ethyl Ketone Peroxide (MEKP)
Any Powdered Organic Material	Hydrogen Peroxide		Hydrogen Peroxide Organic Material (HPOM) Liquid Explosive
Nitromethane	Ammonium Nitrate		Ammonium Nitrate Nitromethane (ANNM)

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Voluntary Security Works

Location: Batavia, Illinois/ 2019

Perpetrator
15 year-old Batavia High School Student

Materials Used
Sodium azide, thermite, **PVC Piping with holes for fuse**, high and low voltage electronics and **switches**, lab equipment, numerous chemicals and compounds/**EPCs**.

Narrative
A science supply store **notified** the FBI of suspicious purchases made by the 15-year-old Batavia High School Student. After a search, they found **"highly volatile, explosive, and flammable homemade chemistry experiments specifically used in bomb-making,"** and **numerous chemicals and compounds** used to make bombs."

Outcome
The teen was **taken to the hospital** for an evaluation before being held at the **Kane County Juvenile Center** in St. Charles.

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SCHOOLSAFETY.GOV RESOURCES

2021 Infrastructure Security Month

Annual effort to educate and engage all levels of government, infrastructure owners and operators, and the American public about the vital role critical infrastructure plays in the nation's wellbeing and why it is important to strengthen critical infrastructure security and resilience.

"Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience: Build it In"
- Week 1 (November 1-7): Interconnected and Interdependent Critical Infrastructure: Shared risk means building in shared responsibility.
- Week 2 (November 8-14): Plan for Soft Target Security: Build in security for mass gatherings starting with your planning.
- Week 3 (November 15-21): Build Resilience into Critical Infrastructure
- Week 4 (November 22-30): Secure our Elections: Build resilience into our democratic processes.

Download your Infrastructure Security Month toolkit to get started: Infrastructure Security Toolkit.

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Safety Readiness Tool | SchoolSafety.gov

The Safety Readiness Tool assists users in evaluating their respective school's safety posture across 10 foundational elements of school safety.

After completing the assessment, users are provided a tailored Action Plan with task prioritization, options for consideration, aligned resources, and grant opportunities specific to their individual school's needs.

Question 1
ⓘ See a definition of designated staff. ⌄

Designated Staff

Question 7
ⓘ See a definition of staff and faculty training. ⌄

Staff and Faculty Training

Are school staff trained on the Emergency Operations Plan (school EOP) and safety and security procedures?

Your School Safety Action Plan ⬇

Every school is different and requires a unique approach to preventing school violence.

Use this personalized action plan to learn the initial priorities you should consider as part of your safety planning. Consider taking the assessment again in the future to see how your action plan evolves after implementing options for consideration.

Download Your Action Plan

Topic Pages | SchoolSafety.gov

Topic pages include a high-level overview of key school safety issues and threats, as well as strategies to consider and aligned resources available from the Federal government to support schools and districts.

Resources tend to be how-to or action-oriented guides that inform users on how to implement strategies to address school safety topics and issues.

Targeted Violence | SchoolSafety.gov

- Physical Security | SchoolSafety.gov
- School Security Personnel| SchoolSafety.gov
- Violence Prevention | SchoolSafety.gov

K-12 School Security Guide and Assessment Tool

The 3rd edition of the K-12 School Security Guide and Assessment Tool will provide a comprehensive doctrine and systems-based methodology to support schools in conducting vulnerability assessments without requiring staff to be security experts.

The guide will assist in the planning and implementation of layered physical security elements and associated policies, procedures, practices, personnel, and training programs across K–12 districts and campuses.

More information coming in January 2022.
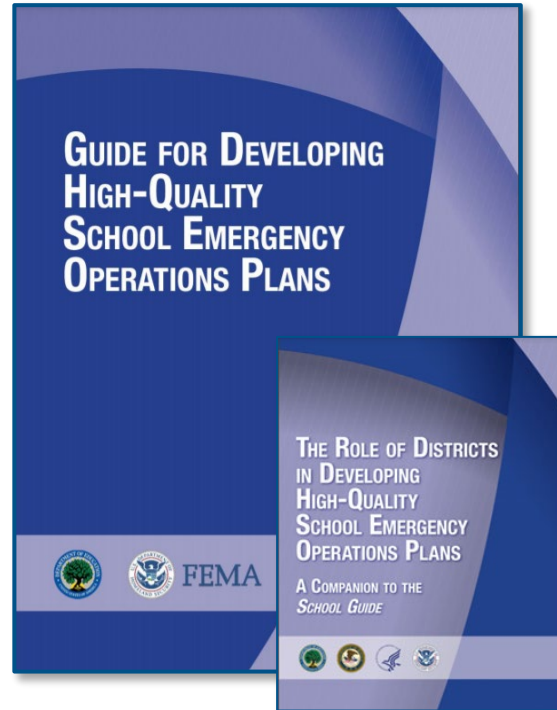
Associated Product Suite:

K-12 School Security Guide (3rd Edition)

School Security Assessment Tool (SSAT)

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Additional Resources

[SchoolSafety.gov Resources | Physical Security](#)

[Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans](#)

[Hometown Security (CISA.gov)](#)

Thank You!

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- @CISAgov

Click here to sign up for regular updates or scan QR code.

Key Resource Links
- https://www.SchoolSafety.gov
- https://www.cisa.gov/office-bombing-prevention-obp
- https://www.cisa.gov/counter-ied-awareness-products
- https://www.cisa.gov/bombing-prevention-training-courses

Questions, feedback, or ideas?
Please contact SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov or OBP@cisa.dhs.gov.

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Question & Answer