

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS CARD

It is important to remember that in many IED attacks around the world first responders have been the primary target. When responding to a post or pre IED event or even a suspected IED event, first responders need to become more “tactical” in their thinking.

DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- Nature of the call and location are important. When responding get all the dispatch information available via pager, cell phone or MDT (mobile data terminal). DO NOT discuss over radio if possible.
- Current threat environment is applicable to an IED response. Any current threats, planned special events or intelligence reference the location?

ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- Slow down when approaching the area and conduct a 360-degree scan during your “windshield survey”.
- Look for objects and people that seem out of place for the location or time of the call - if it looks suspicious it probably is.
- Use Staging Area to limit number of responders - don't stack up responders and resources in one location.
- Establish an outer security perimeter.
- **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF SECONDARY DEVICES!**

APPROACHING THE AREA

- Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) and the necessary components for that response. Unified Command, Staging Officer, Safety Officer, etc.
- Establish hazard Control Zones around the suspected IED (Hot, Warm, Cold). Limit the number of responders entering the Hot Zone.
- Always have an escape route open to leave the scene quickly if needed.
- Beware of locations where the suspect package or device has been placed in a choke point or other critical areas.
- The bigger the suspicious device - the bigger the Hot Zone (300 feet minimum). Do not use radios or cell phones in this area.
- Scan the area using binoculars: spotting scopes or vehicle-mounted cameras before approaching.
- If you must approach the device use shielding and cover to your advantage.
- **RESPONDERS SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!**

Response sheet is for training and informational purposes only. Please utilize local guidelines and procedures.

An IED (Improvised Explosive Device) can be discovered during a terrorist or criminal explosives incident response or can be discovered when conducting routine response activities. Improvised explosive devices can be designed to be concealed or look like ordinary items.

IDENTIFICATION

- ***Responders should be very cautious of any items that arouse your curiosity.***
- The exterior inspection of a suspected device does not ensure its safety.
- When remotely surveying a suspected IED think how it works - it needs an explosive payload, a power source (battery), and an initiator (blasting cap). Can your item or package incorporate these three things?
- Unusual devices or containers with electronic components such as wires, circuit boards, cellular phones, antennas and other items attached or exposed.
- Devices containing quantities of fuses, fireworks, match heads, black powder, smokeless powder, incendiary materials and other unusual materials or liquids.
- Materials attached to an item such as nails, bolts, drill bits, marbles, etc. that could be used for shrapnel.
- Ordnance such as blasting caps, detcord, military explosives, commercial explosives, grenades, etc.
- ***ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ITEMS!***

EXIT STRATEGY

- If there are several strong indicators that you have an IED - leave the area and withdraw your personnel to an area outside the Warm Zone.
- Call for EOD assistance.

FIRST RESPONDERS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE, HANDLE OR DISARM A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED IED; THIS IS A JOB FOR SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL.

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