

# *Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness*

- This PDF is a small variety of slides from my 4-hour Multi-Agency "*Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness*" Course December 2008 version.
- Reminder this a small representation of 39 slides from a class of 90 slides.
- There is a variety of information here from different sources for different agencies! All information is **OPEN SOURCE**.
- Please feel free to use this file as a resource as you construct your own training materials for a specific audiences. Just please give credit where credit is due!

# *Post Blast Response*

## *Considerations Awareness*

- I developed this PDF to hopefully provide some basic information to first responders (Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement) and those operating in high threat OCONUS locations.
- **Please remember that the information should only be used for educational purposes as a guide and you should always use your local training and procedures.**
- Reminder this information is constantly being updated.
- Thank you and be safe! If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [fdtac@yahoo.com](mailto:fdtac@yahoo.com)

# *Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness*



# *Introduction*

- A rapid, safe and successful response to these chaotic situations requires planning and preparation.
- The likelihood of an explosives incident is low, BUT public safety officials must prepare for these situations. 2009 could bring an increase in actual, suspected and explosive incident threats.
- Recent explosives events across the globe have demonstrated the need to prepare local, regional, state, federal public safety and military resources to plan for and respond to these types of critical incidents.

# *Course Goal*

To prepare first responders, emergency management, military assets and other officials with some basic tools and information needed to develop or assess a post blast response plan.



# *Course Notes*

- The guidelines and procedures discussed in the presentation should not replace common sense and experience. It is impossible to plan for every situation.
- New “best practices”, lessons learned, and training becomes available on an on-going basis. These planning and training efforts should be updated on a regular basis.

# *Threat Groups*

- It appears that the “bad guys” (criminals and terrorists) are more determined, violent and heavily armed than ever before.
- Crisis situations such as terrorist events, criminal attacks, hoaxes and explosive threats seem to be occurring with more frequency.
- No two incidents are the same. Factors ranging from the bombers motive, the target, their explosive materials, knowledge of the location and population in the area can all influence the outcome of an incident.

***Please remember that this information should ONLY be used as an educational guide and you should ALWAYS use your local training, guidelines, immediate action drills and procedures!***



# *Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness*

- Post-blast (or post-detonation) response takes place after an explosion has occurred.
- An explosives event has the potential to overwhelm first responders due to the large number of victims, fatalities and property destruction.

# *Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness*

- There have been two recent incidents utilizing explosives both domestically and internationally.
- In the interest of public safety and in view of current trends, it is prudent to review these current incidents and continue to develop effective public safety guidelines.

# ***Post Blast Response Considerations***

## ***Awareness***

- On Friday, December 12, 2008, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated inside the West Coast Bank in Woodburn, Oregon. Two police officers, including one bomb technician, were killed in the explosion, and two others were injured.
- During the four day siege in Mumbai, India that began on Wednesday 26 November 2008 the latest open source reporting indicates at least seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were employed during the four day long siege that killed over 170 and injured more than 300.

# ***Post Blast Response Considerations Awareness***

- The purpose of the presentation is to provide some easy to follow procedures and guidelines for Responders and Incident Commanders.



# DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- When responding get all the dispatch information available. Nature of the call and location are important.
- Standard guidelines against the use of cell phones and radios may **NOT** be applicable. There will be an overriding need for a rapid, coordinated response. If possible do not use radios within 150 feet of the blast site and use other resources such as runners in the "hot zone".

# ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- Proceed with extreme caution for your own safety.
- Approach from upwind and uphill if possible.
- Slow down when approaching the area and conduct a 360-degree scan during your scene-size up or “windshield survey”.



- Look for objects and people that seem out of place for the location or time of the call - if it looks suspicious be cautious.
- Use Staging Area to limit number of responders - don't stack up responders and resources in one location. Consider multiple staging areas.
- Law enforcement should immediately disperse any crowds and establish an outer security perimeter retaining witnesses.

- Avoid entering blast impact area (Hot Zone) unless it is necessary to save lives when possible.

- ***ALWAYS BE AWARE OF SECONDARY DEVICES!***





# APPROACHING THE SCENE

- Rapidly implement the Incident Command System (ICS) and necessary components (Unified Command, Safety Officer, etc.)
- Establish hazard Control Zones around the incident (Hot, Warm, and Cold). Blast site is the “hot zone”.
- Always have an escape route open to leave the scene quickly if needed.
- All responders should wear all available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- Trained bomb technicians and explosive canines should search for secondary explosive devices during the response if available and after the response.
- Appropriate agencies – Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Bomb Squads, Emergency Management, and hospitals should be notified as soon as possible if there is a report of an explosives incident or possible explosives incident.
- ***BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY PERSONNEL, ITEMS OR ACTIVITIES THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!***

# POST BLAST RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- An explosives incident has the potential for large number of victims with very traumatic injuries.
- Will need to rapidly coordinate with Law Enforcement to prioritize force protection resources around areas of critical operations and the scene.
- Searching beyond the immediate blast scene for victims unable to call for help. This may be especially needed in a dense urban environment, where persons injured in upper stories of building were injured/affected (directly by the attack or others suffering a health condition).

- Some seriously injured victims may have no visible wounds and some victims may be beyond help.
- Quickly remove victims from the area and render aid in a secure location. Triage must be conducted outside the blast/hazard area when possible. The use of SKEDS, litters or backboards is recommended.



- EMS may need to implement disaster procedures such as triage tags, casualty collection points and field treatment areas for minor injuries.
- Implement local mass-casualty/mass-fatality procedures as soon as possible.
- Triage will be conducted at least twice, once at the blast scene and again at the hospital.
- Biohazard issues will need to be addressed, as these scenes can have multiple traumatic injuries in one small location. Field decontamination can be an option.

- Expect numerous types of injuries from traumatic injuries, blast pressure or internal injuries, burns and shrapnel.
- Responders must immediately monitor for other hazards such as chemical agents, gases or radioactive materials.
- Identifying and prevention of secondary injuries due to falling pieces of broken windows and other debris from upper stories.



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- Consider the need for other specialized assets such as Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials Teams, Tactical Teams, Incident Management Teams, etc.
- Consider secondary hazards such as electrical lines, gas lines, disrupted water mains, etc.



- **If a suicide bombing incident and the suspect is neutralized and there is no explosion, DO NOT render aid to the suspect.** The suspect may only be injured and a handler or associate could still detonate the device. Bomb squad personnel or a robot should be the first to approach a bomber or suspected bomber.
- ***Be aware of the possibility of secondary devices and attacks. This type of event has targeted responders.***



# CRIME SCENE CONSIDERATIONS

- Establish as large a crime scene perimeter as possible as rule of thumb for the perimeter is to extend the perimeter 50% from the farthest piece of evidence located.
- Ensure that responders preserve possible evidence for subsequent criminal and forensic investigations.
- Plan on an intensive media response and appoint a Public Information Officer (PIO) as soon as possible.

- Family and friends may converge on the scene so consider a Family Assistance Center (FAC) due to the impact of this event on a community.
- After disconnecting utilities, lighting of the scene is necessary in order to enhance the evacuation of casualties and post-incident investigation by law enforcement.
- Law enforcement will need to respond to hospitals as evidence can be recovered from victims living and dead.

- Fire Depts should not conduct overhaul and clean up operations until coordinated by the investigative authorities.
- Make immediate notifications of local, state and federal resources.
- Plan on an extensive, multi-day crime scene investigation.

# *Scene Assistance*



- **Local Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** should be activated as soon as possible for long term response, recovery, management, investigative and local, state and federal support efforts.
- **Joint Information Center (JIC)** should be established involving all key agencies and players to manage the local and national media efforts.

# *Scene Assistance*

- Family Assistance Centers (FAC) may need to be established near the site and other remote locations.
- Helpline phone numbers should be initiated.
- CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) efforts should be considered for all responders.



# *L.A.C.E.S.*

Another effective scene management tool adopted from the wildland/forestry fire community.

- Lookout
- Awareness
- Communications
- Escape
- Safety Zones



# *L.A.C.E.S.*

- Lookout: Someone is watching overall entire explosives scene from a safe distance and high ground if possible.
- Awareness: All responders on the scene maintain “situational awareness” and must be ready for surprises.
- Communications: Responders **MUST** have effective communications (voice, hands, radios).
- Escape: Plan escape route from unstable scenes.
- Safety Zones: Escape to safe areas that provides distance and shielding from the incident and secondary hazards.

*The response to a Post Blast Scene is similar to a hazardous materials response. Use your "zones of control":*







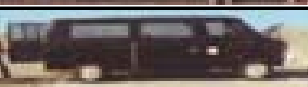
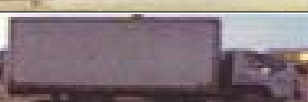
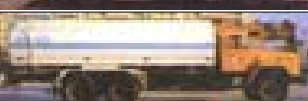
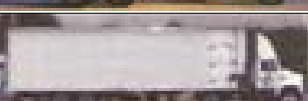
- **Hot Zone** – Where the blast took place and damage/injury will occur.
- **Warm Zone** – Where the large perimeter area will be established and area cleared.
- **Cold Zone** – Location of a unified command post, staff, resources, triage and staging.









**FIRST RESPONDERS SHOULD NOT  
ATTEMPT TO APPROACH A  
CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED IED OR  
VBIED; THIS IS A JOB FOR  
SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL.**



# U.S. Department of Defense Minimum Evacuation Distances

Threat Description		Explosives Mass (TNT equivalent)	Building Evacuation Distance	Outdoor Evacuation Distance	
High Explosives (TNT Equivalent)		Pipe Bomb	5 lbs 2.3 kg	70 ft 21 m	850 ft 259 m
		Suicide Belt	10 lbs 4.5 kg	90 ft 27 m	1,080 ft 330 m
		Suicide Vest	20 lbs 9 kg	110 ft 34 m	1,360 ft 415 m
		Briefcase/Suitcase Bomb	50 lbs 23 kg	150 ft 46 m	1,850 ft 564 m
		Compact Sedan	500 lbs 227 kg	320 ft 98 m	1,500 ft 457 m
		Sedan	1,000 lbs 454 kg	400 ft 122 m	1,750 ft 534 m
		Passenger/Cargo Van	4,000 lbs 1,814 kg	640 ft 195 m	2,750 ft 838 m
		Small Moving Van/ Delivery Truck	10,000 lbs 4,536 kg	860 ft 263 m	3,750 ft 1,143 m
		Moving Van/Water Truck	30,000 lbs 13,608 kg	1,240 ft 375 m	6,500 ft 1,982 m
		Semitrailer	60,000 lbs 27,216 kg	1,570 ft 475 m	7,000 ft 2,134 m

<b>ATF</b>	<b>VEHICLE DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>MAXIMUM EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY</b>	<b>LETHAL AIR BLAST RANGE</b>	<b>MINIMUM EVACUATION DISTANCE</b>	<b>FALLING GLASS HAZARD</b>
	COMPACT SEDAN	500 Pounds 227 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	100 Feet 30 Meters	1,500 Feet 457 Meters	1,250 Feet 381 Meters
	FULL SIZE SEDAN	1,000 Pounds 455 Kilos <i>(In Trunk)</i>	125 Feet 38 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters	1,750 Feet 534 Meters
	PASSENGER VAN OR CARGO VAN	4,000 Pounds 1,818 Kilos	200 Feet 61 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters	2,750 Feet 838 Meters
	SMALL BOX VAN <i>(14 FT BOX)</i>	10,000 Pounds 4,545 Kilos	300 Feet 91 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters	3,750 Feet 1,143 Meters
	BOX VAN OR WATER/FUEL TRUCK	30,000 Pounds 13,636 Kilos	450 Feet 137 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters	6,500 Feet 1,982 Meters
	SEMI-TRAILER	60,000 Pounds 27,273 Kilos	600 Feet 183 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters	7,000 Feet 2,134 Meters

# *Sources of Info/Training*

- [www.emrtc.nmt.edu](http://www.emrtc.nmt.edu)

DHS Live explosive training for first responders.

- [www.tripwire-dhs.net](http://www.tripwire-dhs.net)

DHS Office of Bomb Prevention (OBP)  
Tech Resources for Incident Prevention.

# FIRST RESPONDER CRITICAL INCIDENT GUIDE



*New “First  
Responder Critical  
Incident Field  
Guide” from Red  
Hat Publishing  
Available early 2009  
[www.redhatpub.com](http://www.redhatpub.com)*

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# CONCLUSION

- Please remember to follow local guidelines and procedures.
- Each community should have a plan in place to address these types of events.
- The more our public safety agencies prepare, the better they are prepared to respond to and effectively manage any type of critical incident that might arise. The community has entrusted us with their safety.... **SO LETS PREPARE NOW!**

# *Thank you & be safe!*



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*August Vernon provides specialized emergency services planning and training on critical incidents.*