

Suicide Bomber Planning & Response

- This PDF is a small variety of slides from my 4-hour Multi-Agency ***“Suicide Bomber Planning & Response”*** Course May 2008 version.
- I developed this PDF after numerous requests for additional information on Suicide Bombers especially from emergency services and emergency management agencies.
- Reminder this a small representation of 45 slides from a class of over 120slides.
- There is a variety of information here from different sources for different agencies!

Suicide Bomber Planning & Response

- 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.
- **Please remember that the information should only be used as a guide and you should always use your local guidelines and procedures.**
- Reminder this information is constantly being reviewed and updated.
- Thank you and be safe! If you have any questions or comments please contact me at fdtac@yahoo.com

Planning For and Responding to Suicide Bomber Incidents



Introduction

- A rapid, safe and successful response requires preparation.
- The likelihood of a suicide bombing incident is low, BUT public safety officials must prepare for these situations.
- Recent suicide bombing 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 events.

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 suicide bombing response plan.



Course Notes

- **COURSE IS A NOT A "TACTICS" COURSE.**
- 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", intelligence and training becomes available on an on-going basis. These plans 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 and explosive threats are occurring with alarming frequency.
- No two incidents are the same. Factors ranging from the bombers motive, their explosive materials, knowledge of the location and law enforcement resources in the area can all influence the outcome of an incident.

OUTLINE

- Suicide Bombers: Myth vs. Reality
- Jihad in Brooklyn: Case Study
- Current Issues
- Bomber Overview
- Rationale/Indicators
- Lessons Learned
- Suicide Bomber Devices
- Response Issues
- Forum to share ideas and experiences.



Myth vs. Reality

- The FBI and DHS have sent several warnings to state and local partners since 2001 to be on the alert for suicide bombers using large vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (LVBIED) and man-portable/hand-carried IEDs.



Homeland
Security



SUICIDE BOMBER OVERVIEW



3 Primary Delivery Means

- Suicide Vests
- Briefcases or backpacks
- VBIEDs



Suicide vest with plastic covers on hangers found in Baghdad school April 2004--DoD

Suicide Vests

- Used with great success in Israel by Palestinian terrorists for years. Seen in Iraq also.
- Easy to manufacture.
- Typically made from plastic explosives with metal objects for shrapnel effect (ball bearings, nails, nuts, tacks, scrap). 15 to 20 lbs weight.
- Encased in cloth or vinyl vests with simple pull pin activator underneath outer garments .
- Difficult to detect under bulky or loosely flowing clothing.



Suicide vest with ball bearings layered on top of plastic explosive charges--DOD

Suicide Vest Pictures



Suicide Vests used in Israel modeled at Worldwide Antiterrorism Conference in Charleston, South Carolina. Note presence of metal nuts and nails in plastic pockets in the vest for shrapnel.

Suicide Vest Tactics

- Target usually identified well in advance; usually reconned by other cell members, but not bomber for fear of detection/second thoughts.
- Timing selected to maximize casualty effects, but also to reduce bomber detection by security forces.
- Bomber coached by cell to remain calm and focused as he/she begin their mission; most effective bombers are non-chalant and unremarkable in appearance and bearing.



Suicide Vest Tactics

- Vest worn for minimum time possible by bomber to reduce chance of detection or premature detonation; clothing selection very important.
- Bomber seeks best opportunity and position when maximum number of personnel are within effective blast radius of his/her device.
- Bomber MAY make brief statement before detonation, I.e., praise to Allah, curse infidels, etc.

Suicide Briefcases/Backpack

- Easy to manufacture.
- Triggered by external switch on case when used in suicide role.
- Can be remotely detonated by cell phone or other electronic signal device or may have built-in timer.
- Timers used when briefcase is left at the intended impact site.
- Used in London, Madrid and India.



Captured suicide briefcase from Iraq--DOD

ALERT

The FBI has developed a suspicious factor or indicator acronym-ALERT-that can possibly help identify a suspected suicide bomber.



Alone and nervous

Loose and/or bulky clothing

Exposed wires (possibly through sleeves)

Rigid mid-section (explosive device location or carrying a weapon)

Tightened hands (person may be holding a detonation device)



LESSONS LEARNED



Lessons Learned

- Middle Eastern experience has shown that men, woman and older children will be used as a bomber.
- Bombers have been dressed as civilians, police officers, military personnel, etc. Will try to “blend in”.



Lessons Learned

- Bombings have typically occurred on buses, at bus stops, restaurants, clubs, coffee houses, crowded streets, etc. "Soft Targets".
- In Israel and Iraq there have been thousands killed and thousands injured by suicide bombers.



Lessons Learned

- However, there has been an growing effort shown to target military and law enforcement when possible or “hard targets”.
- Device used in the Middle East have typically been described as an explosive “belt”, usually a cloth vest-type garment with pockets to hold explosives.

Lessons Learned

- A moderate amount of clothing can easily conceal the transport of explosives.
- Also backpacks and briefcases have been used in India, Bali, Israel, Iraq and London.
- Some attacks have also been conducted with coordinated sniper attacks, drive-by shootings, grenade attacks, etc.



Lessons Learned

- Bombers have also added nails, drill bits, bolts, ball bearings and other materials to the explosives.
- Also hazardous chemicals and pesticides have been used.





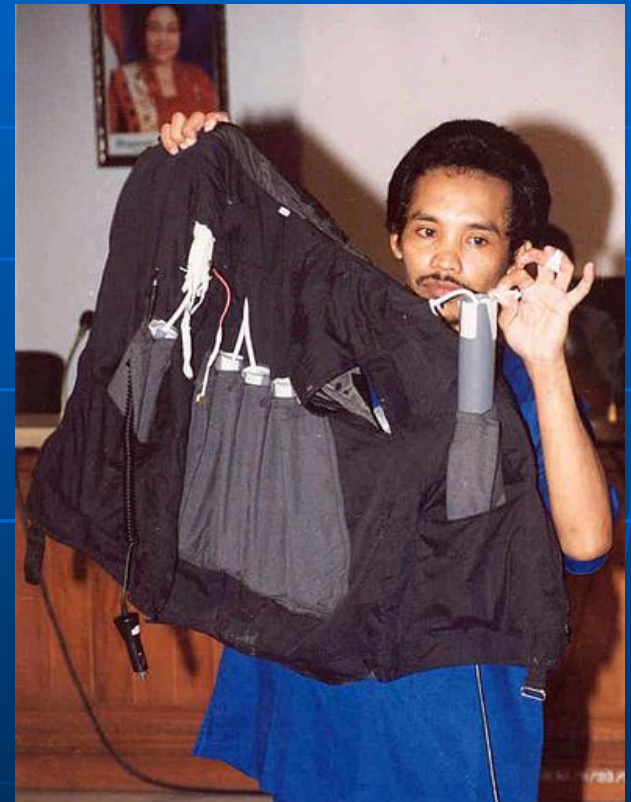
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Response Issues

EMS Response Issues

- Tactical medics may need to be utilized.
- EMS may need to utilize “scoop and scoot” and “load and go” from the incident.
- Casualty collection points may be established in “safe” areas.
- EMS may need to implement disaster procedures such as triage tags, casualty collection points and field treatment areas for minor injuries.

Scene Assistance



- **Local Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** should be activated as soon as possible for long term response, recovery, management, investigative and 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 suicide bombing attack scene from a safe distance.
- Awareness: All responders on the scene have “situational awareness” and must be ready for surprises such as secondary devices or attacks.
- 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.

The response to an suicide bombing incident, is similar to a hazardous materials response. Use your “zones of control”:

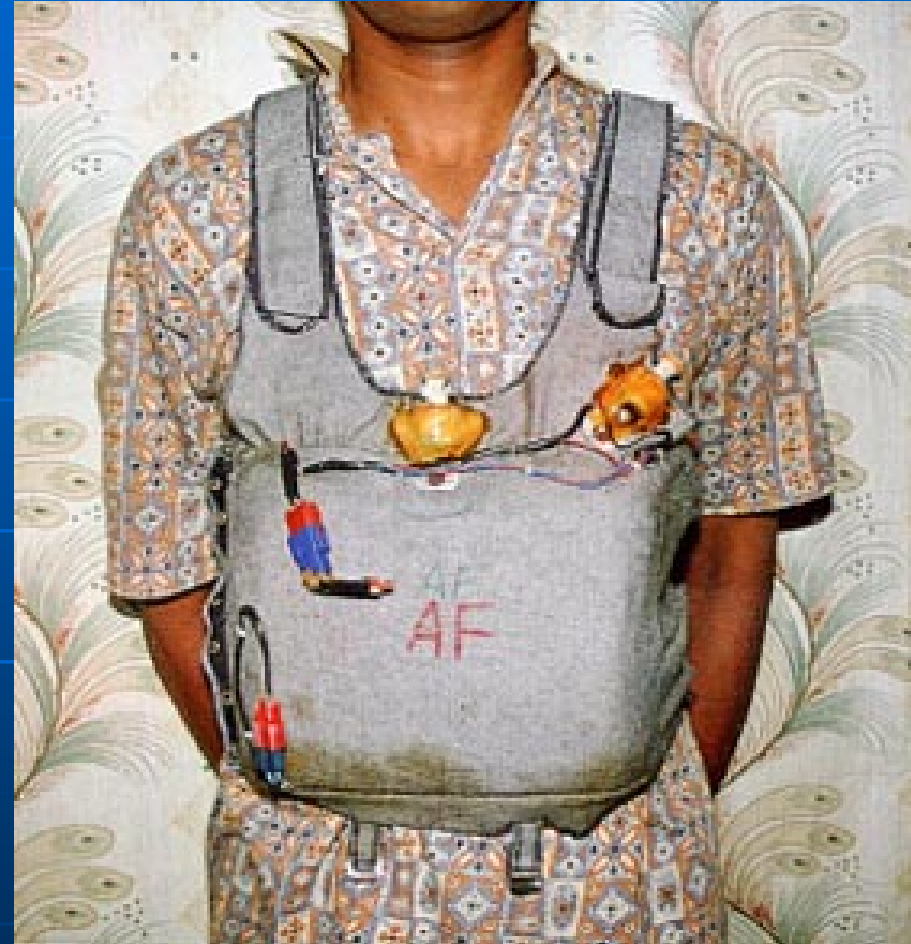
- **Hot zone** – where the suicide bomber is located and damage will occur.
- **Warm zone** – where the large and flexible perimeter area will be established.
- **Cold zone** – location of a unified command post, staff and staging.



SUICIDE BOMBER DEVICES



- Devices usually have very simple initial system. (on/off switch, battery, detonator).
- Most will usually have an additive: nails, bolts, ball bearings, gasoline or parts dipped in pesticide/insecticide.
- Very little/no metal used in construction, difficult to pick up with metal detectors.



Palestinian Suicide Belt Device

Firing switch

Modified personal games console.



Main device

Pocketed belt worn around lower torso under a jacket, containing a number of iron pipe bombs containing TATP as the main charge, together with the arming switch / powerpack. The device is initiated from button on the games console.

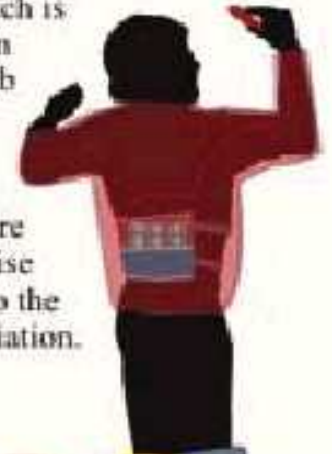
Initiator

Photo flash bulb in holder is drilled and filled with gunpowder - one per pipe bomb.



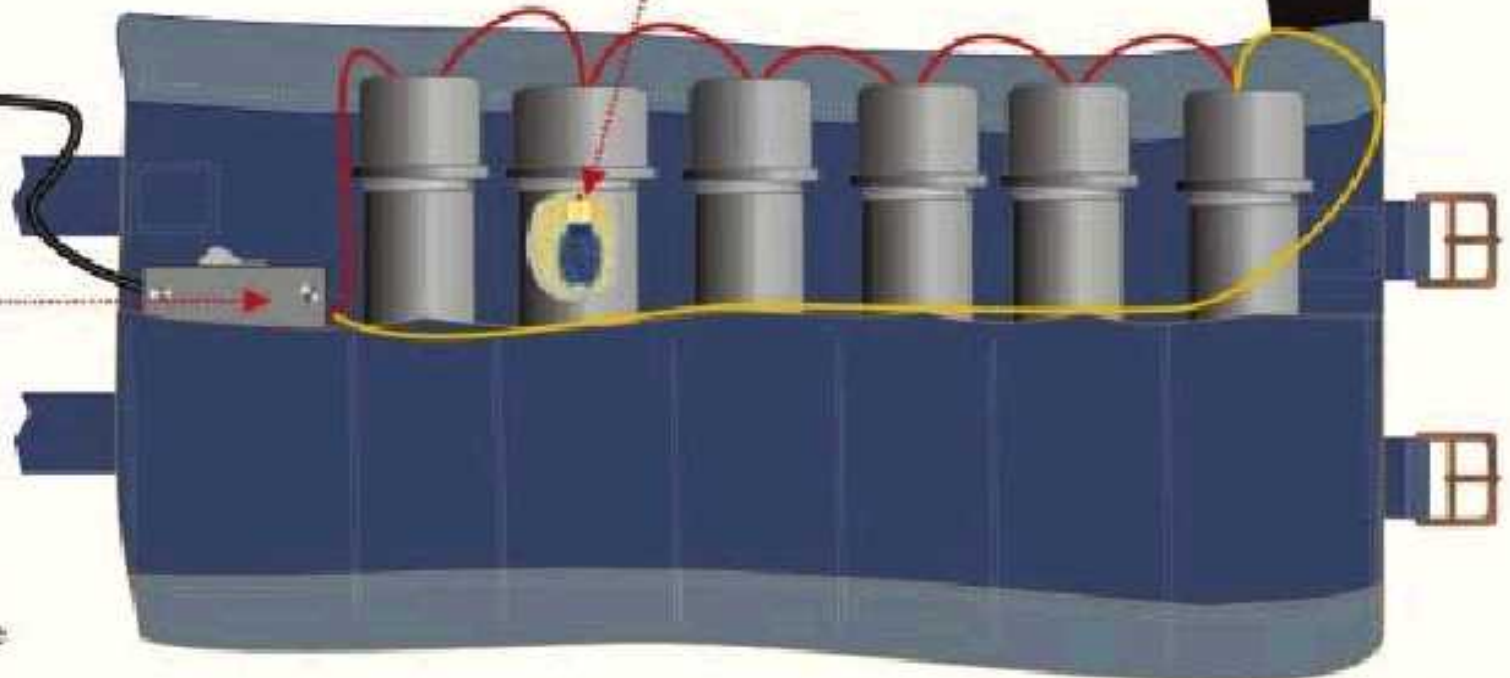
Deployment

The cable from the firing switch is threaded down sleeve to bomb around waist under loose fitting jacket. Perpetrators are believed to raise their arms into the air before initiation.



Arming switch

Simple rocker type arming switch and 9 volt battery.

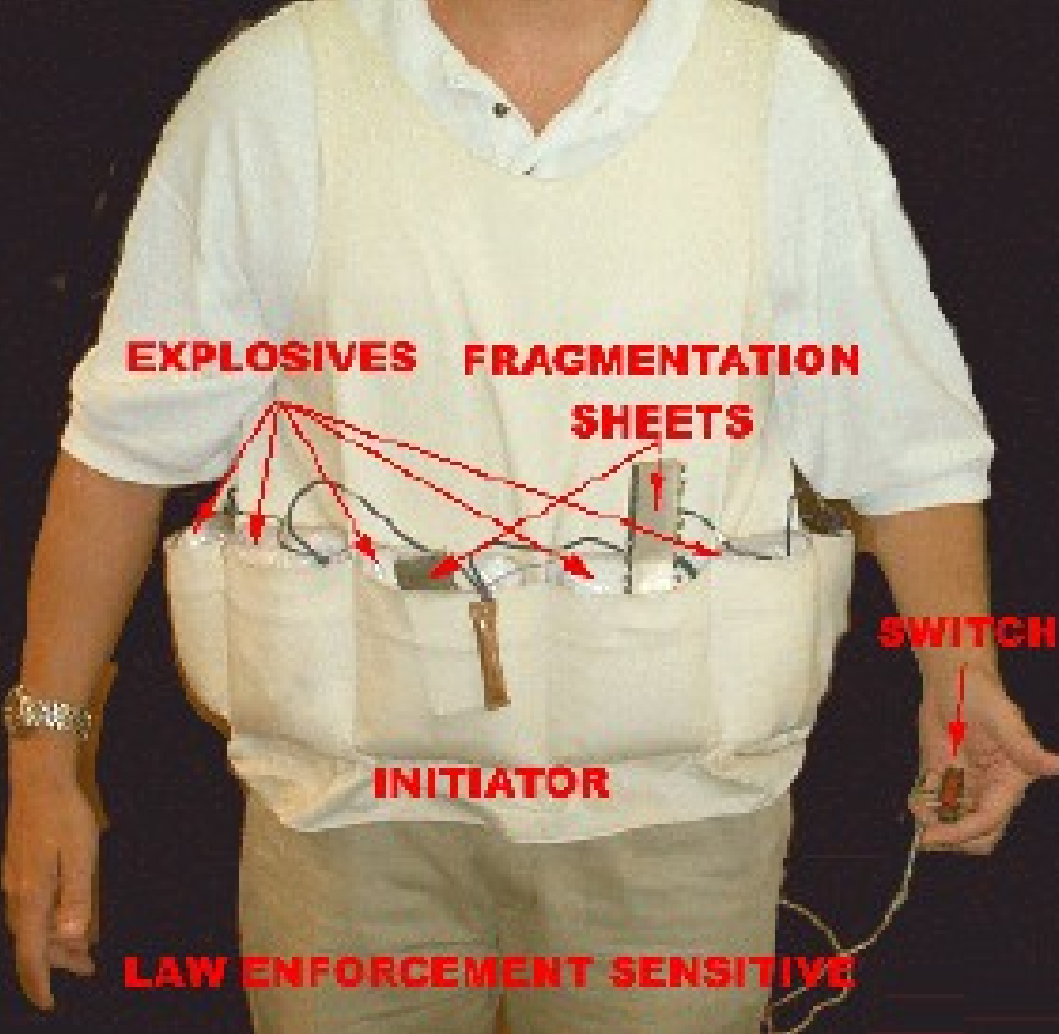




Covert Suicide Bomber Vest



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Cutaway of
device showing
explosives and
ball bearings.

Exterior view of
Iraqi Suicide
vest seized in
Baghdad.

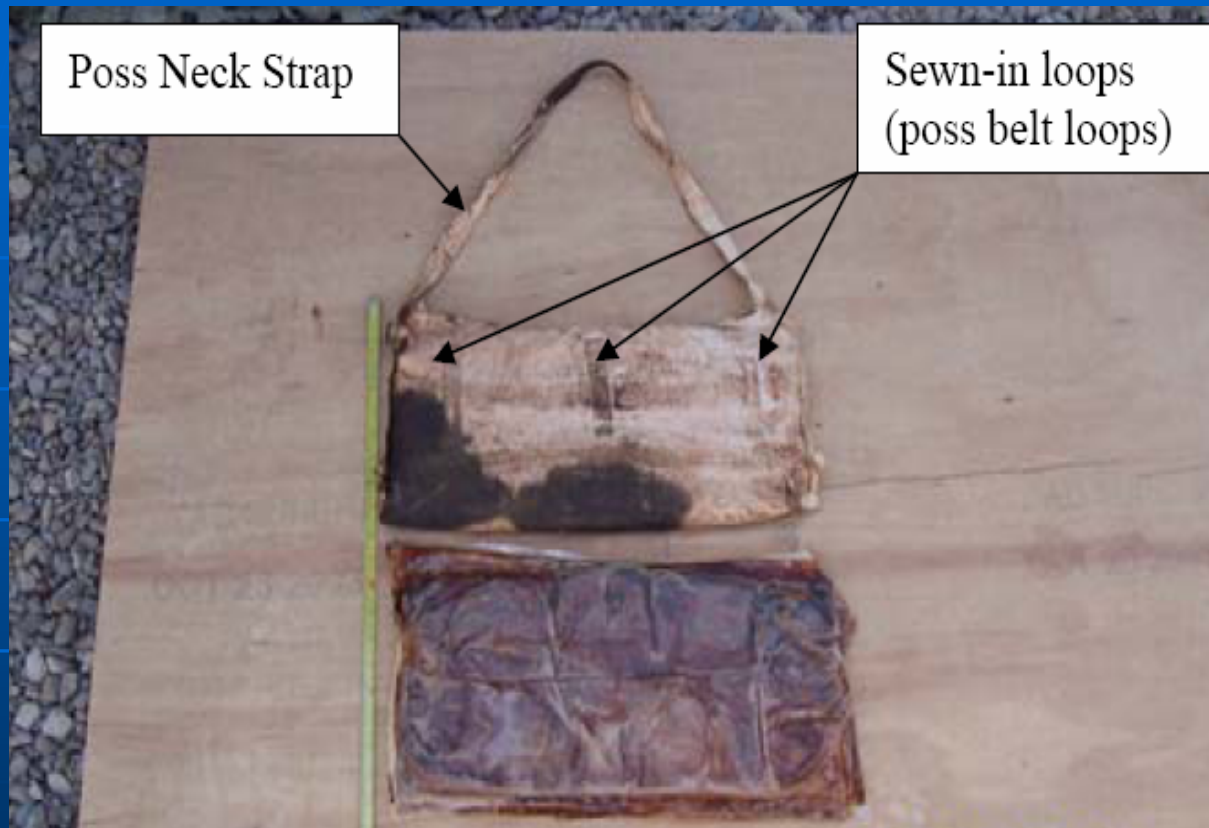


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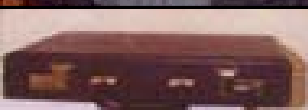


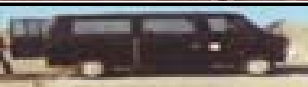
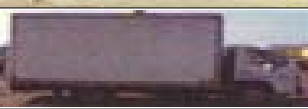


Commercial Vest

Electric Wires for Initiation

Fragmentation Bands



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

Sources of Info/Training

- **www.emrtc.nmt.edu**
DHS Live explosive training for first responders.
- **www.tripwire-dhs.net**
DHS Office of Bomb Prevention (OBP)
Tech Resources for Incident Prevention.

FIRST RESPONDER CRITICAL INCIDENT GUIDE



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*New First
Responder Incident
Field Guide from
Red Hat Publishing
Available Fall of
2008*
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.