



# COUNTER TERRORISM IED/BOMB & ACTIVE SHOOTER PROCEDURES

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# COUNTER TERROISM IED/BOMB & ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Risks Incorporated is a progressive, European - owned and managed specialist Security Company that has proven itself many times on international operations. We have compiled this document to help those at risk from the threat of improvised explosive device (IED) and bomb incidents. The information in this document is simple and proven and will help the reader to compile an effective operation plan to deal with IED/Bomb incidents.

Risks Incorporated's clients can be assured they are getting the best training and services available from experienced professionals! I personally have over 28 years experience working in the international security industry, what we teach is based on reality, not what someone with no real operational experience thinks would work in a hostile situation. I am a published author and have been interviewed by numerous international TV and media outlets ranging from the New York Times to Soldier of Fortune Magazine on topics ranging from kidnapping, organized crime to maritime piracy.

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# Dealing With Bombs & Improvised Explosive Device Incidents

My personal experience dealing with terrorist bomb/improvised explosive devices (IEDs) incidents started in 1989 while serving in the British Army with 4 Platoon, B-Coy, 1-WFR for 22 months in Northern Ireland; since then bomb/IED awareness has always been a part of my security procedures and planning. I have to say that it astounds me these days after numerous, well publicized IED attacks globally that many security and law enforcement professionals are severely lacking in realistic IED awareness.

If you are working in the center of a large city, like London, Paris or New York, or are working in the emerging markets, where bomb scares are not unusual, it is likely that you may get caught up in a suspicious package or actual IED incident. Whether your venue, office or residence is targeted directly, or it just happens to be on the same street as an IED, you will need to know how to react and should have procedures in place.

Improvised Explosive Devices are a threat to everyone and are used frequently and with great affect by criminals, cranks and terrorists the world over. If you follow international events, then you will see that there is a lethal bombing somewhere in the world almost every day. The basic IED can be made from commercially available materials that are sold over the counter in most places. Information on how to construct IEDs is available from military or survival bookstores, the Internet, former military, or demolitions trained personnel. The size of an IED can range from as small as a cigarette packet to as big as a large container truck.

IEDs can be disguised as virtually anything; this gives the bomber the advantage of being able to kill their targets without alerting them to the threat, giving the bomber a large degree of anonymity. IEDs can be used to kill selected targets or to kill indiscriminately. These facts are why the IED is often the favored weapon of criminal, cranks and terrorists the world over and is the most dangerous threat to security, law enforcement, military and the public.

In this article, I have listed some basic information on IED's and some basic guidelines for dealing with an IED incident. I also dissect the law enforcement response to the NYC times square car bomb incident in 2010. And after reading this article you should be a lot more knowledgeable and competent than those members of the NYPD who oversaw the response to that incident, well more of a circus than a response!

## Explosives

There are many types of explosives available on the market, all of which have differing characteristics, chemical compositions and properties. What they all have in common is that they can be extremely dangerous. I am not going to go into the details of explosive composition because you don't need to know it; it makes no difference if a device has Composition B or gasoline in it, it's an explosive device and can kill you.

There are two categories of explosives: high and low.

- High explosives such as Dynamite, Gelatin, TNT, RDX, PETN, C-4, and Semtex undergo a rapid chemical change upon detonation. This change is a transformation from a solid or liquid to a gaseous state. The change, which takes approximately one billionth of a second results in the gas rapidly moving away from the point of detonation at speeds of up to 26,500 fps in the case of C-4. The moving gas is the force that cuts steel, concrete and anything else in its path.
- Low explosives burn quickly instead of exploding. The best examples of low explosives are gunpowder and match heads. The burn rates of low explosives are usually under 3000 fps. Low explosives are usually more sensitive to heat, shock and friction than high explosives, which tend to be pretty stable.

Commercial and military grade explosives are available on the black market either bought from corrupt soldiers/police or stolen. Also, you need to remember commercial explosives are used in construction, quarrying and by farmers and is available for sale from explosive distributors.

## Bomb & IED Identification

Bombs and IED's can be disguised as virtually anything, so you need to identify whether you, your clients or location could be targeted for an IED attack. You need to compile a threat assessment and identify all the threats you could be targeted by, if IED's are in the threat assessment you need to start making procedures for dealing with an incident. You must remember when compiling the threat assessment to also think what other potential IED targets could be in your area, which if targeted could cause issues for you. I remember one client telling me that during the 90's in Colombia he booked into what he thought was a nice secure hotel only to look out of the window of his room to see it was next to a small military base, which at the time would be an ideal target for narco-guerillas.

At a personal level, you need to be aware and suspicious of any objects, cars, or activity in or around your locations that could be a cover for an IED. An unattended and out of place bag, an unknown car that has been parked next to your building or on an approach road to long, unknown people acting nervously etc. You must be aware and suspicious, but you must understand the realistic threats or, you will be seeing IED's and terrorists everywhere. Common sense is something which is lacking in people today in general but, as a security or law enforcement professional you need to be able to keep things real and not get caught up in what can be classed in many cases as group hysteria. So, at a basic level everyone needs to know what to do if they are caught up in a IED incident, how to deal with a suspicious object or in the worst-case scenario the aftermath of a IED attack!

Detecting IED's can be extremely difficult; there are many bits of equipment on the market that can sniff explosives, ex-ray bags and vehicles etc. These are all good if you have them, they are well serviced and maintained. As far as I know most of the "bomb sniffers" must be regularly calibrated and have their filters changed... I remember visiting quite a few high-profile locations in Abuja, Nigeria where the gate guards were using such devices to check cars, I doubt if the devices had been maintained since being taken out the box, and I would be surprised if they were even charged up. I paid numerous visits to a very high-profile hotel in Abuja and even though you had walk through a metal detector it was clear if you looked at the power cable it was unplugged...

The best example of fake bomb detectors was the British Made ADE-651 that claimed to be able to detect explosives, guns, drugs, ivory and even truffles and was powered by the users' static electricity. You may laugh, but the Iraqi Government apparently bought £52 million UK pounds' worth of them. Its claimed

that up to 20 different governments bought the fake device at £60,000.00 a piece... They were made by the British company ATSC, which was dissolved in 2013 and the company owner Jim McCormick was sentenced to 10 years in prison on fraud charges. So, if you use bomb detectors make sure they are real, are maintained and the people using them know what they are doing.

In my opinion the best thing for detecting IEDs and explosives are properly trained and handled sniffer dogs. Again, at a base level, the dog needs to be properly trained, looked after, and handled... I know of one company in UK that use to ask their guards to bring their pet German Sheppard's etc. on residential security details so the clients could see they had, what they believed to be handlers and trained dogs. I have seen Civil Defense sniffer dogs in Nigeria that were so afraid of the cars they were checking they had to be literally dragged to them. Always verify you're getting what you are paying for, of all industries the security and defense industry should be one of the most credible but, in many cases it's a scammers paradise.

The issue with using dogs and the man portable bomb detectors is you must get close to the potential device and within the blast range. This is a big issue if you are dealing with devices that could have been put in place just to draw security forces into and ambush or suicide bombers.

## The Secondary Device

Remember: The Secondary Attack, The Secondary Attack, The Secondary Attack!!!! If one incident has just occurred then what's next; another IED, follow up ambush, ambush on those responding or ambush on evacuation routes??

An IED can be used on its own or in conjunction with other IEDs or weapons. Good bombers will always place a second device near the first device, in a likely control point for security forces or on an evacuation route from the blast area of the first device. The second device is to catch the personnel or emergency services coming to the aid of anyone hurt in the first blast, security forces dealing with the incident or personnel escaping from the first blast. Sometimes the first device is designed to go off for no other reason than to draw in emergency or security services or drive people into the larger main device.

This happened in Northern Ireland with the Omagh bombing in 1998. Irish terrorists called in the location of a car bomb to local police with the wrong address, this resulted in civilians being evacuated into the blast area of the device; 510 lb's of AMFO... 29 people were killed and over 220 injured... I have a good friend whose family lives in Homs, Syria where there have been too many car and suicide bombings to count. After one suicide bombing incident, the locals rushed to help the victims, one man came out of the blast area bleeding and screaming for help. When people started to pick him up to carry to an ambulance, he blew himself up killing several of the civilians who went to help him, he was a terrorist.

I was recently talking with a client/friend who had a relative working at a hospital in Orlando, FL on the night of the recent terrorist attack on a nightclub there. After such incidents, the security for the casualty receiving hospitals etc. needs to be upped as they are a prime secondary terrorist target as are the responding ambulance crews. When republican Irish terrorists bombed Thiepval Barracks, Northern Ireland in 1996 they placed a secondary car bomb outside of the barracks medical center to try to maximize British Military casualties. Think about it, where will everybody be heading after a terrorist

attack and if the terrorists murder the doctors and nurses who will treat the casualties? Terrorists do not operate by the same human rights laws they expect to be protected by!

You must always expect if an explosive device has been found, gone off or that there could be a second or third device somewhere.

## Examples of incidents from Northern Ireland

Here are a few examples of how IEDs were employed by Irish terrorists; these are taken from when I was a teenager serving in the British Army in Northern Ireland in 1989 to 1991. There were many more incidents but at the time dealing with such things was the bread and butter work for the infantry battalions stationed in Northern Ireland.

- 9<sup>th</sup> of January 1990: Olven Kilpatrick was murdered by terrorists in the shoe shop that he ran in the town of Castleberg, he was shot at close quarters. The terrorists left behind an explosive device in a shoebox set to detonate 30 minutes after the shooting, by which time security forces and emergency services were in the immediate area. Mr. Kilpatrick was an off-duty member of the Ulster Defense Regiment. Think about how many shoe boxes there are in a shoe shop! The device detonated and several Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) officers were injured, there were no further fatalities due to the fact that secondary devices were expected to be left at crime scenes and the area was evacuated.
- 15<sup>th</sup> January 1990: A car bomb is detonated in the Village of Sion Mills and causes major damage to the RUC station that was unmanned at the time. The security forces had limited routes they could use to get to the village. A QRF team from Strabane, lead by at the time Cpl Lewis Weaver responded to the incident and on the way out spotted a suspicious white van along their route, it was noted and they moved on at full speed. The same van was passed on the QRF's return route and the info was reported. On further inspection, the white van contained 1000 lbs of AMFO. It was reported several years later that one of the terrorists involved in the operation "Bernard Declan Casey" was working for British Special Branch and had ensured the command wire was not connected to the device in the white van... It was expected for an IED to be placed along one of the routes into the village to catch the security forces entering or leaving the area. If time was available the routes would have needed to be searched and cleared, if time and helicopters were not available this would consist of the responding patrol in driving in at top speed if there were no foot patrols in the area.
- 1990: A car is parked a short distance from the "Hump" security force base in Strabane with what appears to be mortar tubes inside. A security force cordon is placed around the car to secure the area and when the security force teams are conducting their clearance searches around their cordon points, a team finds an IED attached to a trip wire. Further searches of the cordon positions turn up other IED's. The mortar tube in the car turned out to be a piece of drainpipe, it was a hoax that was used to draw security forces into the IED's that the terrorists placed in likely security force cordon positions.
- 4<sup>th</sup> May 1989: Corporal Stephen Mcgonigle, a very respected member of 1 WFR, was killed near Silverbridge, South Armagh. A car was parked on the side of a country road in an area regularly patrolled by security forces. When the foot patrol spots the car, they check with their control room to see if the car is registered as stolen. It was not. The patrol saw nothing overtly suspicious with the car, so moves forward to check it. At least one of the team was carrying electronic counter-measure equipment that can identify and block radio signal from remote-controlled

bombs. The bomb was not remote controlled it was detonated with a command wire. The three other members of Cpl Mcgonigle's team were all injured in the blast.

You should take nothing at face value and always remember the secondary device. Always be suspicious of anything that looks out of place, if you are in an area where there is an active IED threat you need to draw up plans and procedure of how you will respond if you are caught up in an incident.

## Types of device

### Letter & parcel bomb

Up until the late 1990's the letter and parcel bomb was the most widely used of all IEDs. The bombers who use this type of device range from stalkers through to hard-core terrorists. The letter bomb gives the bomber a direct line of access to the target and affords the bomber virtual anonymity for themselves, as the device can be sent from anywhere in the world. As the name suggests, the device is placed into an envelope or parcel and posted to the target. Upon opening the device explodes.

Below is a list of things that should be checked for on any package that you suspect as being an IED. If you or your client is under a threat, all mail should be checked. If some of the following criteria are evident on a suspect package, it should be put through an x-ray machine to confirm or allay your suspicions. If you don't have an x-ray machine, then the suspect package should be placed in a safe area and specialist assistance sought. The package would have been knocked around whilst in the postal system, so it will be safe to move-just don't open it.

Letter and parcel bomb recognition check list:

- Were you expecting the letter or package?
- Was it delivered by hand (to avoid the postal system)?
- Is it uneven or lopsided?
- Is the envelope rigid?
- Is there excessive securing material such as cello-tape, string, etc.?
- Are there any visual distractions on the envelope such as company, official stamps?
- Are there any protruding wires or tin foil?
- Was there excessive postage paid?
- Was the address poorly written/typed?
- Any excessive weight?
- No return address?
- Any oil stains, discoloration, fingerprints?
- Any incorrect titles or any titles but no names?
- Any misspellings of common words?
- Any restrictive markings such as Confidential or Private?
- Any suspicious postmarks such as Belfast or Baghdad, etc.?
- Is the address stenciled?
- Any holes or pinpricks, which could be to let out explosive fumes?
- Any smell of almonds, marzipan or perfume used to mask the smell of explosive fumes?
- Any mechanical sounds?

## **Incendiary devices**

A simple form of this device can be made as small as a cigarette packet and be made from condoms and commercially available chemicals. When properly ignited, they will burn at high temperatures and are primarily designed to destroy property. Incendiaries require an initiator (flame or chemical action), delay mechanism, igniter and main incendiary charge. Incendiary bombs are usually used against shops and businesses for extortion purposes or say a lawyer's office to destroy case records before a trial etc. They can easily be placed between the cushions of furniture or among flammable objects, in the case of thermite, on or above machinery or vehicles, and timed to go off when the business is empty of staff, causing the maximum fire damage. This can also help to give the bomber anonymity.

If either your client or his business is under the threat of incendiary attack, the following precautions should be taken. A deterrent would be to install overt CCTV and employ high profile 24-hour security guards. The CCTV could, in the event of an incident, be used to identify the bomber but keep the videos in a fireproof container or if using internet cameras back everything up on the cloud. If the client's workplace is an office suite, then access needs to be restricted as much as possible. Visitors should not be left unsupervised, all non fire retardant furniture removed and all areas searched at the end of the business day. Cameras should be placed in high-risk areas entrances/exits and outside toilets and all personnel entering the suite should be searched.

## **Blast bombs**

This device can be made very small. A device can easily be placed in a take away food container or bag and placed in a trash can or pile of rubbish, this type of device is used to cause disruption and confusion. In the city of London, UK, in the early 90s, a spate of such devices placed in trash cans resulted in all trash cans being removed from the streets and the London Underground. These devices can cause great disruption and kill indiscriminately.

Realistically, there is very little that can be done to stop a bomber planting these devices in city areas. The device can be easily disguised and moved during rush hour. It would be impossible to watch everyone, let alone search them, dogs could be employed but they will not be able to sniff everyone. Security cameras on buildings and in shops would be useful when trying to identify the bomber after the device has detonated.

## **Pipe Bombs/Grenade's**

Pipe bombs are simply metal tubes filled with some type of explosives usually mixed with a type of shrapnel (nuts, bolts, nails) and detonated by various means. If put together properly they can be very portable, concealable, and devastating weapons. Military grade hand grenades are available on the black market and are again very portable, concealable with most with an effective blast radius of 10 to 15 meters. One incident that comes to mind is from when I was in Jos, Nigeria in 2011, where a church was attacked on Xmas Day... A grenade was thrown at a church and the police officer working security was shot and killed... Simple attack that took seconds and the attackers escaped.

You have to be aware of your environment and constantly assessing people and their body language, in high profile areas where the threat assessment identified a possibility of this type of IED attack extra security measures need to be put in place such as screens on windows etc. so nothing can be thrown in.



### **Undercar Booby-trap (UVB)**

This device was a favorite weapon of Irish terrorist's groups when targeting off duty police and military personnel. The device is placed in a container such as a Tupperware container and attached to the underside of a vehicle using magnets, usually under the driver seat. The usual method for triggering the device is by using a tilt or vibration sensitive switch. The UVB enables the terrorists to attack selective targets. There is a risk of discovery involved when placing this device as access to the targets vehicle is needed. If the bomber manages to plant the device, it will kill and maim the occupants of the car if it is not discovered.

The best defense against the UVB is to deny the bomber access to the vehicle. If you are under an IED threat and the vehicle is secured in a garage, the entrance and driveway to the garage need to be physically checked before the vehicle is moved. There could be a device attached to the door of the garage or a mine in the driveway. If the vehicle has to be left unattended, the surrounding area needs to be searched and then the vehicle. Searching a vehicle for IEDs is a basic and important skill and needs to be practiced regularly.

### **Car and truck bombs**

Car and truck bombs enable the terrorist to conceal and move large devices. The car bomb can be used against individual or indiscriminate area targets. All it takes is for someone to drive the vehicle to the target and leave it to explode. Against an individual this device could be placed along a route or near an entrance to a building that is frequented by the target. The device can be triggered by remote control, command wire or, if the target is setting a pattern, by a timer. A method of delivering a device to a high security area is to use a suicide bomber or force someone to drive the vehicle with the device in it. The latter was a common tactic of Irish terrorists. It starts with the intended driver being kidnapped or having his home taken over. The driver is then informed that if they don't drive to the device or to the target they and their family will be killed. If they drive the device, at least he has a chance of survival. The driver is then chained and locked into the vehicle with the device and he is told how long they have got to get to the target before the device explodes. The driver has little choice but to drive the device to the target and hope the security personnel has some bolt cutter on hand with which to cut him out of the car, before the device explodes. Nearly all front gate guard posts and check points in Northern Ireland in the day had bolt cutters available for exactly this situation. On 24<sup>th</sup> October 1990 our Battalions main base "Lisanelly Barracks" in Omagh was proxy bombed, the driver of the vehicle was cut out by the front gate guards. This 1500 lb AMFO device failed to fully detonate due a faulty detonator.

As I stated earlier in major cities you can get caught up in IED incidents without be a target, just in the wrong time at the wrong place. April 24<sup>th</sup> 1994, I had just landed in Johannesburg, South Africa and was at the main bus station waiting for a bus a to Durban and talking to a girl I knew there on a payphone. What I though sounded like a bomb was a bomb and killed 9 people just up the road and I am sure injured way more, but the positive things was, as I remember my bus still left on time.

While in Abuja and Jos, Nigeria late 2011 and early 2012 there were numerous attacks on churches. One car bomb attack in Abuja that killed 37 people; the car had been parked in the church parking lot for days before the attack but never checked or searched. A smile pre-service sweep by a trained search dog would have identified the device.

### **Improvised mines**

These devices can vary in size and be disguised as virtually as anything. Their triggering methods are only limited to the imagination and ability of the bomber. In Northern Ireland, large devices were usually placed in rural areas in culvert, under roads, or perhaps disguised as milk churns or in bales of hay. In the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria IED's have been hidden in animal carcasses. In urban areas, they can be placed in lampposts, rubbish bins or in vertical drain piping on the side of a building. To place a bomb into a drainpipe, the terrorist lowers the device into the drainpipe from the top and a command wire detonates the device. The command wire can go over the building or be laid in the guttering connected to a firing point out of the line of sight of the killing zone. In all such operations, the terrorists use youths as watchers. The child playing at the end of the street shouting to his friends could be telling the bomber you are in the kill zone.

### **Sleeper bombs**

An IED can be placed in a position a month before it explodes. If it is known that at a certain time in the future you or your client will be attending an event, a function or staying in a hotel at a certain time, precautions need to be taken. In 1984 in Brighton, England, such a device killed five people in an IRA attempt to kill the then British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

### **Defense against car bombs & mines**

To beat the area car bomber, one has to be vigilant and suspicious. If a vehicle looks suspicious, then get it checked out. Security forces have an advantage over private security personnel in being able to check out the background (whether it is stolen or rented) of a vehicle very quickly. So, if you are suspicious of a vehicle, call the authorities and let them check it out; if you are unwilling or unable to contact the authorities, then just avoid the vehicle. For private security personnel: when the car bomb or mine threat is directed at your client, then precautions need to be taken. If there are limited routes in and out of the client's residence or office, then these routes need to be regularly physically checked. Any suspicious cars, recent digging or wires leading away from the road need to be checked out. When the client is traveling to and from work, the routes must be varied as much as possible. All trips should be kept secret until the last minute and then be preceded by an advanced security team, which needs to arrive at the client destination with enough time to check out the area before the client arrives. When entering or exiting a building, different entrances/exits need to be used. If possible, use fire escapes and staff entrances. If the client is to stay in a hotel their room will need to be searched along with the adjoining rooms, if possible, and a check kept on anyone using the rooms. If the rooms are booked a while in advance, a check will need to be done on all building work and maintenance carried out in between the time of booking and the time of stay, as this work may have been used to cover the planting of a device.

### **Suicide bombers**

Suicide bombings are not a new issue, back in WW2 the Japanese employed attacks against allied forces to great effect in the Pacific campaigns, but in recent years suicide attacks have become the hallmark of Islamic extremists terrorists.

The Israeli security forces have been dealing with the threat of suicide bombings for decades and at a frontline level rely on training their police and military personnel extensively in reading and understanding

people's body language, to try to identify suicide bombers and eliminate them before they can detonate their devices. There is no politically correct way to deal with possible suicide bombers, luckily for the Israeli forces their Government understands their situation and supports their actions. This is a huge contrast to the witch hunts British Armed Forces have been subjected to over the past few years.

In the wars in Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan the front-line troops constantly face the threat of suicide attacks from devices in armored vehicle to devices strapped to children. In the battle for Mosul the Iraqi forces have been dealing with an extremely complex situation as every vehicle and every civilian could be a potential bomber.

Kurdish forces in Iraq and Syria abiding by rules of engagement advised to them by their Western trainers put themselves at risk constantly by giving surrendering and wounded terrorist the benefit of doubt rather than a double tap. The Kurds are seeking independence doing everything possible to fight a fair war against an enemy that deserves no quarter.

From a security professional's perspective if dealing with the threat of suicide attacks you must understand you are going to take casualties, but you need to plan to limit the extent of the casualties as much as you can. A recent example is the attacks on the Coptic Churches in Egypt on Palm Sunday 2017, one surveillance video shows one of the bombers detonating his device at the security checkpoint, most likely realizing he would not get into the Church without the device being discovered.

So, at a frontline leave everyone needs to understand what indicators they need to look for in someone's body language that could identify them as a potential threat. From a planning perspective, procedures need to be put in place to limit the bombers access to target areas and limit the potential blast area at checkpoints etc. In the case of an attack.

### **Mortars**

These days no-one seems to consider the threat from mortar attacks. Mortars can be improvised and I see no reason why terrorists should not be able to get military mortars and ammunition. Mortars and grenade launchers have been found in the arsenals of Mexican drug cartels and recently in raid on illegal arms dealers in Spain, so they are on the open market. Improvised mortars were used widely in Northern Ireland, against Security Force bases (and on mainland UK against Heathrow airport and the Prime Minister's residence in Downing Street, Central London). They were usually launched in quantities of ten, from an improvised base plate mounted on a flat bed or high-sided truck. The mortars usually contained about 45 lbs of improvised explosives with a fuse time of 16 to 20 seconds and a flight time of 10 seconds. Their range was between 80 to 250 meters. The propellant was normally made from Sodium Chlorate soaked "J cloths". Each mortar weighed about 120 lbs and usually went straight through most anti-mortar screening.

Attacks were common in Northern Ireland, one of our (1-WFR) patrol bases at the "Hump" in Strabane was hit in 1990 when D-Coy was on duty, Clady PVCP was hit when A-Coy was on duty, luckily no casualties on both occasions. The Irish terrorists tried to hit the "Hump" again in January 1991 when 6 Plt, B-Coy was on duty, the terrorist tried to put the mortars in a location where a RUC patrol was having a tea break. After a quick exchange of fire where everyone missed the terrorist escaped but at least the attack was avoided.

Military mortars come in light, medium and heavy variations. I would say that light and medium mortars would be the most useful to terrorists as they are quite mobile. The maximum range of light mortars, 50mm to 60mm can be anywhere from 700 to 3500 meters when firing high explosive bombs of about 2 to 4lbs with rates of fire from 8 to 20 rounds a minute. The maximum range of medium mortars, 81mm and 82mm is up to 5900 meters with high explosive bombs weighing 6 to 8lbs with a rate of fire of 8 to 20 rounds per minute. The ideal targets for mortars would be busy airports, chemical plants, gas refineries and petroleum storage depots. The best defense against improvised mortars is to identify and dominate any likely positions that could be used as a base plate location to launch mortar attack, this can be done with CCTV or patrols. If the terrorists have military mortars you are going to have a lot of problems controlling an area of up to nearly 6km around your location. This could be why no-one wants to consider the threat from mortars!

## HOW TO DEAL WITH AN IED INCIDENT

*POLICE OR SECURITY FORCES SHOULD BE INFORMED AS SOON AS AN IED IS FOUND OR IF YOU HAVE GOOD REASON FOR EXPECTING AN OBJECT OR VEHICLE OF BEING AN IED. DISPOSAL AND DIFFUSION OF IEDS IS TO BE LEFT TO TRAINED PROFESSIONALS. DO NOT ATTEMPT THIS YOURSELF.*

Everyone should know the basics for dealing with an IED incident. If you are working in or have a business in an area where there could possibly be an IED threat you will need to draw contingency plans for an IED incident. If you are traveling to a city where IED incidents occur, you need to know how things can develop and whether security forces know what they are doing or putting you and others at risk.

### There are four steps when dealing with an IED:

- **Confirmation:** Confirm, to the best of your ability, whether the object/vehicle is an IED, taking into account the following considerations: Are you under a threat from IEDs? Are the objects seemingly out of place? Are you in an area where terrorists are operational? Is there a funny smell around the object such as almonds, marzipan or petrol? This is where your threat assessment comes in. An unattended bag in an airport will arouse more suspicion than an unattended bag in a bar or restaurant but both could be just as dangerous or just as harmless. If all unattended bags in bars or other public places were reported as IEDs, there would be hundreds of false incidents every day but one just might be an IED. If you have good reason to suspect an object or vehicle, then check it. The police and security forces should be willing to help you, if you give them good reasons for your suspicions.
- **Cordon:** Once a device has been confirmed, the area around it and roads leading to it needs to be cordoned off so no-one can access. It depends on the size and location of the device, as to how far away the cordon will be but a basic rule is that you should be out of line of sight of the device. This is because if you can see the device you can be hit by shrapnel or debris if it detonates. Think of the potential IED as a rifle barrel, if you can see it, it is pointed at you and has a clear shot at you, it can hit you. In the private security world, cordon preparations and duties would fall on the static/residential security teams etc. If an IED turns up at your residence, the RST, if you have security personnel, would have to deal with the initial cordon and clearing of the area. Cordon equipment needs to be on hand, such as cordon tape, torches, and maps of the area and communications equipment. Plans need to be made for the evacuation procedures and cordon points for the different types of device. All cordon and control point location need to be physically

searched for booby traps before being set up, the basic search would be 10 meters around the position.

- **Clearing the area:** People should be moved out of the blast area of the device; the blast area depends on the size and location of the device. In some cases, depending on the size of the device, it may be safer to leave people in buildings and under cover, rather than moving them into the open. It would make sense to assign a location in your building that could be used for this purpose, and internal room with no windows would be ideal. When evacuating people, a route should be taken that is out of line of sight of the device; if the device explodes when evacuating personnel, flying and falling glass is a big danger and needs to be considered when planning the evacuation route, as is the threat of secondary devices.
- **Controlling the incident:** Control of all IED incidents should be handed over to authorities, as soon as possible. You need to brief the responding personnel as to where the device is, when it arrived, how it arrived, where your cordon positions are, whether there is anyone still within the cordoned area and where they are. You also need to pass on any relevant information of threats that have been made or suspicious incidents or people that have been in the area. Not only is this professional, but it could help apprehend the terrorists.

When a threat assessment reveals a threat from IEDs, a great deal of planning is needed. Whether you are a business owner, lone international traveler or a close protection team member, procedures need to be made for dealing with IEDs. Everyone in law enforcement, homeland security and the private security industry must have a basic knowledge of how IEDs work, the effects of an explosions and how to deal with incidents but, sadly they don't. These days basic search techniques and IED recognition is a necessity for all everyone, as IEDs are the most widely used terrorist weapon and will be for a long time to come.

### How not to do things!

#### **TIMES SQUARE CAR BOMB, NEW YORK CITY, MAY 1ST 2010**

After reading what has already been written in this article you should be able to pick out quite a few mistakes in the New York Police Department (NYPD) handling of the 2010 car bomb incident in Times Square in the City of New York.

The vehicle that contained the explosives was a dark blue 1993 Nissan Pathfinder sport utility vehicle with dark tinted windows, it had been parked on a busy tourist-crowded. People in the area noticed smoke drifting from vents near the back seat of the unoccupied vehicle, which was parked with its engine running and its hazard lights on. They also heard firecrackers going off inside.

A police officer approached the car and observed the smoke, canisters inside, and the smell of gunpowder. The vehicle was set ablaze, but did not detonate. Upon arrival, the bomb disposal team used a remote-controlled robotic device to break out a window of the vehicle, and explore its contents. The device's ignition source malfunctioned and failed to detonate the main explosives. Had it detonated NYPD officials said the bomb would have cut the car in half, and "would have caused casualties, a significant fireball and would have sprayed shrapnel, and killed or wounded many people.

OK, the U.S. had been engaged in the war on terror for 9 years, so do the NYPD and other agencies not know how to deal properly with a car bomb incident. It amazed me when I saw the incident on the TV; they showed the bomb squad defusing the device with crowds stood watching. Basic rule, you and cordon

positions must be out of line of site of the device, if you can see the device you can be hit by shrapnel etc. If the device had detonated there would have been many un-necessary casualties from the stupid cordon positions alone. The car bomb was described as a crude device, so was it not taken seriously? My first thought if I came across a crude and amateur explosive device would be, where is the real one, and that the crude device was nothing but bait to draw security forces into a trap. I strongly doubt the area and cordon positions were checked for secondary devices. In the TV coverage you could see that roads at either end of the road where the device was located were still open and cops were milling and sitting around relaxing, a suicide bomber could have driven right through the cordon and blown up the bomb squad, you can't protect others if you can protect yourself! The NYPD's handling of this incident can be classed as very negligent and how you should not deal with an IED incident!

If you are in an urban area and there is a car bomb incident you should initially find cover, get into a building and away from windows. If a device goes off the shock wave can break windows for few blocks around it. You don't want to be on an open city street with glass falling on you from 50 stories up. When safe to evacuate the area use back allies and non-obvious routes and do not hang around to watch how things develop. This is because of the threat from secondary devices and because the first device may only be there to draw in crowds of onlookers or channel people into the main device.

## Conclusion

So, hopefully from this article you can see that dealing with IEDs is a complex problem where generally the terrorists have the advantage. The responsibility for IED and Terrorist attack prevention is everyone's responsibility, not just that of the frontline security forces.

- Urban planners and the like are responsible for including basic security features in their designs be it for shopping malls or airports. Sadly, in places like South Florida U.S. security considerations seem to be the last thing on their mind; who's going to attack a beautifully designed airport anyway... Next you will be telling terrorists will hijack planes and fly them into buildings...!
- Those responsible for security planning need to realistically understand the threats they could be facing and be allowed to put in place workable preventive measure and responses. I understand that a lot of times security management professionals sadly have their recommendations for upgrading security procedures ignored by their senior management etc. But they must perceive and make maximum use of the resources they have.
- Frontline security forces need the proper training, equipment, and workable procedures to do their jobs properly. Untrained and badly managed guards or police and not only putting themselves at risk but also those they are meant to be protecting.
- The general public needs to know the basics on how to identify suspicious and report activity and what to do if caught up in a terrorist attack. At a family level, there should be plans in place of what to do if there is a terrorist incident at a shopping mall or public gathering etc. Some simple knowledge and 5 minutes discussing plan and preparations can save lives.

*Many thanks to former 1 WFR members Lewis Weaver (Moose) and Matt Trott for helping with details of the incidents for Northern Ireland.*

# Active Shooter Response Procedures

*Remember!*

*Moving targets are harder to shoot than stationary targets!*

*Smaller targets are harder to shoot than the large target!*

When I ask my students what is the most important thing they must do in a hostile incident, most reply that they should simply shoot the bad guys, get access to their weapons, shoot for the head, carry a big gun and so on. The answer I am looking for is not to get shot by the terrorists!

You should first of all work out a plan of action that you will take in the case of an active shooter or terrorist attack. Do this for your home, business and for when you are out and about in public. Things that need to be considered are means communication, safe areas, when to fight and when to flee and so forth. Planning is what sorts the professionals from the amateurs, if you plan how to deal with a hostile situation if it happens, you'll know what to and how to react to it and not be confused and panic!

## Plan a reaction for being shot at!

As I just mentioned, you NEED to put together a plan of action on how you will react to a shooting or a hostile incident. Over the years I have spoken to many security contractors, police and former non-British military personnel and find it amazing that when talking about their reaction fire drills most just say they would draw their weapon, if they have one and return fire... That's ok if you have a gun or are on a gun range but you need to take a few other things into consideration if someone is shooting at you!

This is an adaptation of the British Army individual reaction to fire drill. Some of this may apply to you and some might not- use this as a basic format. If you are serious about your security, you must put together a plan that is specifically designed for your personal situation and then practice it until it is second nature.

- **Preparation:** If you have a gun it must be clean, serviceable and well-oiled. Ammunition must be of good quality, clean and your magazines full. You must be properly trained and ready to deal with the incident.
- **Reacting to fire:** The immediate reaction at close quarters is to identify the threat, move to cover as you are deploying your weapon if you have one, and returning fire. If you are being shot at from a distance or do not know where the shots are coming from, you should:
  - **Dash-** a moving target is harder to hit than a stationary target.
  - **Down-** keep low and present a smaller target.
  - **Cover-** Get into cover from fire.
  - **Locate-** Observe where the threat is.
  - **Return fire-** if you have a firearm.
- **Winning the fire-fight:** If you have a firearm: As soon as the threat has been firmly located, you must bring down sufficient accurate fire on the terrorist to incapacitate them or force them into cover so you can extract yourself from the situation.
- **Re-organizing:** As soon as you have incapacitated the terrorist or are in a safe area, you must reorganize yourself as quickly as possible in order to be ready for other possible threats. You need

to re-load your firearm if you have one, make sure that you or anyone with you is not injured and inform law enforcement and emergency services immediately.

Moving targets are harder to shoot than stationary targets. It's a fact, it's harder to shoot a target that is moving than one that is stationary. So, if someone is shooting at you, do not stand still, run. Smaller targets are harder to shoot than large targets! If there is no cover for you, make yourself a smaller target and drop to a kneeling position. I do not recommend prone position, as it takes too much time for most people to stand up. From a kneeling position, you can quickly run and get to cover.

There may be situations where you cannot evacuate the building you're in and you may have to find cover and wait the incident out. I have seen numerous gadgets being marketed that can be used to block a door in the case of an active shooter incident in a school etc. They seem to forget that most doors are made from light wood or alloy at best and will not stop bullets, if you look at the construction of most doors the average person should be able to punch through them with a bit of aggression. If you must barricade a door do it properly, so it will stop or slow down anyone trying to enter the room. I will talk about use of cover next, but you must try to hide or shelter behind walls or objects that can stop bullets, if you are in a drywall room, you might have problems. Try to alert people outside of your building to where you are, break windows if required, if you are on an upper floor and can not jump to safety do your best to signal and alert the responding police and emergency services.

## Use of cover

This is a very important and basic subject! In your home, business or when you are walking around, you should always be looking out for positions that you could use for cover in the event of a shooting incident. There are two types of cover: 1.) Cover from view 2.) Cover from fire (bullets and shrapnel), you always want to locate the latter. You also may want to consider which type of rounds the cover will stop. A table might be able to stop a .32 bullet fired from a handgun, but a 7.62X39mm bullet fired from an AK-47 would go through both the table and you. Also consider will you want to be able to shoot through the cover, such as at a criminal in your house through dry wall etc.

### Cover from view includes:

- Cardboard boxes and empty rubbish bins
- Bushes
- Thin walls and fences
- Thin tabletops
- Doors
- Shadows

### Cover from fire (depending on the firearm used):

- Thick tabletops
- Heavy furniture
- Stone and concrete walls
- Dead ground
- Thick trees
- Various areas of a car
- Curb stones



One of the best-publicized examples of good use of cover happened in St. Petersburg, Russia on February 26, 1996. At 4:25 pm, two mafia gunmen in long coats entered a fashionable café. Under their coats, each man had a AKS-74. They were there to kill an opposing mafia boss, who was in the cafe with his two off duty police bodyguards. The mafia gunmen fired 60 rounds at close quarters from the AKS-74s and killed both the police bodyguards. The criminal boss tipped over a thick marble table he was sitting at and hid behind it; although wounded he was well enough to walk out the cafe making phone calls, after the gunmen had escaped. A Scottish lawyer was killed; he was just sitting drinking coffee in the café when he was hit by three stray bullets. The attack took about 40 seconds from the gunmen entering to leaving the café. The Scottish lawyer was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

When you get into cover, you should always try to have an escape route and try not to get pinned down. When using cover as a shield, always keep low and fire or look around cover- not over it. When you are in cover and need to move, first select the next piece of cover that you will move to and move fast and keep low. Keep the distances between cover positions short. When you get behind the cover, assess your situation, where the threat is, etc. Keep moving this way until you are out of danger.

### **Remember!**

- Always looking for and make maximum use of available cover and concealment.
- Avoid firing or looking over cover; when possible, fire or look around it.
- Avoid silhouetting yourself against light-colored buildings, backgrounds and lights.
- Always carefully select a new piece of cover before leaving the cover your in.
- Make sure you always have an escape route planned.
- Avoid setting patterns in your movement, for example, shooting or looking from the same position at the same level.
- Keep exposure time to a minimum; don't look over or around cover for an extended period of time.
- Always look up and behind you remember that positions which provide cover at ground level may not provide cover on higher floors.

### **Camouflage**

It makes me laugh when I see a lot of SWAT Teams and PSD guys wearing Tactical Black and other colors that look cool but do-nothing but make them stand out. In reality black is one of the worse colors to wear, what is black in nature, look around you now and what in your surroundings are black? I expect very little... In urban areas most walls are white, gray or cream... Light colors! The colors you wear should blend in with your background whether its day or night. Even at night dark cloths stand out when moving past light backgrounds. In the country or bush when moving through low bushes or fields the silhouettes of people in dark colors are easy to see at a distance...

### **Moving through a building**

If you have to evacuate your home or business, for whatever reason, it should be done quickly, quietly and with the minimum of fuss. You should also have already worked out your escape routes and exits. If there is an incident, get as much information as possible to what the threat is, where and what the threat is. I recommend you never use obvious evacuation routes and exits, the criminals or terrorists could have blocked, booby trapped, ambushed or manned them.

If you have to walk down corridors keep low and move fast, do not walk down the center and do not walk next to the walls. Stay a couple of feet off the walls to avoid being hit by any ricochets and wall fragments if you come under fire. Doorways and frames can make good cover, even in an apparently empty corridor look for things that could be used as cover. Remember to continuously check behind you, and if you must stop, do not stand up, stay in a kneeling position. Always be aware of where you are casting shadows, you do not want this to give away your position, such as before you go around a corner. You should always keep staggered spacing from anyone who is with you; you do not want to bunch up. Remember; one bullet can go through two people; large group of people make an easier target than a lone individual. Also if you are dealing with criminals or terrorists who are using improvised pipe bombs or hand grenades, one of these devices could take out your whole group if you are close together.

Going through doorways is very dangerous, especially if the room or area on the other side could contain a criminal or terrorist. If you must go through a doorway, try to determine if there are any threats on the other side before you enter. Use your senses of smell and hearing, in addition to sight; take a quick look into to room at a low level before entering. If you have to open a door, do so quickly, quietly and then back away from the door and listen. You want to back away from the door because if there is a terrorist in the room they will be shooting at the now opened door or moving if startled. Also consider if the wall around the door could stop a bullet; the criminal or terrorist could shoot through the wall and hit you, especially if they are armed with hunting or assault rifles. When you go through a doorway, again keep low and move fast, check the corners, when through the door move away from it and get behind cover.

You must keep a cool head as you might not be the only person evacuating the building. When you are clear of the building, get out of the area and summon support and law enforcement, ASAP.

#### **Remember!**

- Never use obvious escape routes.
- Use your senses of smell and hearing not just sight!
- Move quietly, cautiously and quickly.
- Corridors are areas of extreme danger- avoid whenever possible.
- If you need to use a corridor, NEVER walk down the center stay a couple of feet off the wall.
- If you must walk past an open door keep low and move fast.
- Always check around corners before you go around them and expose yourself.
- Continuously check behind you.
- If you must stop do not stand up, stay in a kneeling position.
- Avoid offering a silhouette for your opposition to shoot at.
- Lights behind you should be extinguished.
- Always keep a space between you and others; one bullet can go through several people.

### **Tactical use of light**

In my opinion, many people are over-enthusiastic in the use of flashlights. There is a big market in tactical flashlights and the companies making them wants everyone to buy one, thus making them a must have item. Flashlights have an application in hostile situations but you should remember that any light will give away your position and draw fire. Light should be used sparingly and tactically. I tell my students to get used to training in the dark and using their senses of hearing and smell in addition to sight. At night there is more chance you will hear someone before you see them! When moving in a dark environment, do so

slowly and cautiously and try to make minimum noise. Try finding your way around your house or business in the dark, before you start moving around give your eyes a few minutes to adjust to the dark.

If you must use a flashlight, keep it at arm's length and keep it on for no longer than necessary, then move quickly or get behind cover. If you want to check a room or a corridor, one option is to roll the flashlight across the doorway, corridor or into the room. Light can be used as a distraction and help to cover your movement, shine it in their general direction of your opponent and move. This will mess up their night vision and if you leave the light pointing in their direction, it will be difficult for them to see what is happening behind the light.

If possible, use remote lights, as this is more of an application for your home or business. For example, place powerful spotlights that illuminate corridors to safe rooms, stairways or doorways. If your home is broken into at night, you could move your family to your safe room and take up a position in cover behind the lights. If you hear or identify movement to your front, you turn on the spotlights; this will surprise, blind and illuminate anyone in the corridor. This will also help you to confirm that the people in your house are criminals or terrorists and give you good targets to shoot at if you have a firearm.

### After a shooting incident

You should do all that you can to avoid getting involved in any hostile situations, even indirectly. If you are somewhere where a hostile situation is developing, leave the area quickly and not by an obvious route. You do not want to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and to catch a stray bullet. So, if you see a hostile incident developing and it has nothing to do with you, mind your own business and leave the area, ASAP! If you are unfortunate enough to get involved in a shooting incident, when you believe the incident is over, you should reload your weapon if you have one, prepare to deal with any other threats, give first aid to anyone with you who is injured and evacuate to a safe location. You should also call for support and police etc. as soon as is safely possible.

In developed countries, even if you believe others have already called the police, still do so yourself and identify yourself to the dispatcher as the victim and you should do as the dispatcher tells you, as long as it does not compromise your safety. You must ensure that the police officers responding to the incident know that you are the victim and not the attacker. For their own safety, the police officers will assume that anyone at the scene of the incident is a threat. You should never point your gun at the police and should comply with their every request. Remember the responding police will be scared and most are not that well trained and will shoot with minimum excuse. Try to remain calm and do not argue with them- do as you are told. Make no fast movements and keep your hands where they can be seen. It would be unfortunate to survive a lethal encounter with a criminal, only to end up being shot by the police.

If you get into a hostile shooting in a country where the police cannot be trusted and going to prison would most probably mean you would catch an incurable disease to say the least, you should have pre-planned on how to deal with the situation. My advice; leave the country as quickly as possible!

# Basic Counter-Attack Considerations

There may be situations if you are trained and armed when you will have to take aggressive action. For example, an ambush that does not kill all those in the kill zone or just disables your vehicles, to get out of the kill zone you may have to attack the ambush party. An attack on a residence where access has been gained by the attackers, the residents or security team must clear any attackers from the residence. An attack on a shopping mall or hotel where you may be visiting or staying an aggressive action may be required to evacuate the location.

This is very basic information and can help you establish your own procedures if you are in a situation where you have the capabilities for counter-attack options. This is based on basic procedures for close protection teams and can be adapted to most situations. You cannot learn the skills required for this by reading a book or this document, you have to learn to shoot and train tactically for these tasks. This section can help you establish your procedures; you won't become a Tacticool Ninja by reading this!

There are three fundamental elements to aggressive actions:

- Speed
- Surprise
- Aggression

For your action to be successful you must have at least two of the above elements

## Mobile counter-attacks

The conventional military response to an ambush is to attack the ambush. In most cases an individual or small security team would not be able to attack an ambush, for to do so would leave a client or family members without close protection when the need is greatest. Also, an individual or two-man security team would not usually have sufficient weapons or ammunition to perform and assault.

The best means of attacking an ambush is to use a separate security team not responsible for the client's immediate protection. The counter attack team should consist of people who have received training in small unit tactics and have sufficient firepower to deal with all threats. It should consist of not less than two people, in one vehicle. The counter attack team follows the client's vehicle at a distance so that it will not become caught in an ambush on the client's vehicle but close enough to be able to attack the ambush quickly. The distances the team will have to be from the client will vary due to terrain, traffic etc. The protective surveillance team/personnel can be trained and used as the counter attack team.

### **Actions on a terrorist ambush by immediate close protection personnel:**

- Return fire
- Drop smoke
- Cover Client's vehicle and attempt to break out.
- Send contact report

**When counter attack begins:**

- Give covering fire.
- Remove Client from the killing zone to a safe location.

If the opportunity arises to escape before counter attack team takes action, and never endanger the client because of your concern for the counter attack team.

**Actions on a terrorist ambush by Counter Attack Team:**

- Move to killing zone at best speed
- Use lights and siren for distractions
- Debus and attack ambush or drive at ambush.
- Do not hesitate. Fast, aggressive action is vital.
- If Client has been extricated, do not attack ambush but cover and move to safe house or emergency RV.
- Weapons. Maximum use must be made of automatic weapons, grenades and CS gas etc.

**Counter-attacks on buildings**

A counter attack on a building must be mounted quickly; the longer the delay, the more time the attackers will have to fortify their positions. A counter attack plan must be made and, if possible, practiced.

The counter attack team should consist of at least two people, but not more than five; i.e. a team leader and two pairs. The team leader needs as much information as possible on the situation in the building. This could be obtained from civilians, locations security team, staff by the use of radios or cell/mobile phones or social media.

**The information required includes:**

- The number "of attackers.
- The description of the attackers.
- Method of entry
- Types of weapons and equipment used by the attackers
- Location of the client
- Physical state of the client
- Location of any family or household staff
- Overall casualties

**Methods of Entry**

- If restricted by protective measures use same entry point as attackers but only as a last resort
- Enter by stealth whenever possible.
- Enter at the roof or top floor whenever possible.
- Early contingency planning to identify possible means of entry.
- Secure the entry point.

### **Room Clearing**

- Work in pairs.
- Clear the door.
- On entering the room IDENTIFY targets before engaging with fire.
- Check all hiding places.
- When room is clear, secure and lock the door if possible.

### **Progression**

- Control will be difficult.
- Clear the building progressively; room by room, floor by floor.
- Stairs. Once taken, stairs must be held.
- Use fire and Maneuver
- Avoid confrontation with other team members.
- Avoid being silhouetted or illuminated
- Use natural and locations lights to your own advantage.
- Use sound to disorientate the attackers: 1) Alarms. 2) Sirens. 3) Concussion Grenades.
- Use of vehicles for approach and escape. 1) Must not spoil surprise. 2) Must remain secure. 3) Must not be put to unnecessary risk. 4) Consider for external lighting of the location

### **Action when building is clear**

- Ensure that the Client is safe. Do not, however, remove them from a safe room.
- Check that all attackers are dead or secured as prisoners.
- Ensure that the perimeter of the building is secure. Secure the entry point(s).
- Decide whether to hold or escape
- Co-ordinate external agencies on their arrival.

It is unlikely that plans proposed before the event will be put into effect as envisaged. The plan must be carefully thought out and rehearsed by all members of the team.

# Risks Incorporated

We hope the information in this document has been of use to you. Please remember this is basic information, if you have any questions then please feel free to contact us.

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