

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

Florida Fusion Center 21-097

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BusinessSafe Threat Topic: Explosive Devices

While explosive devices have legitimate purposes, bad actors have been known to use them with the intent to harm, destroy, or distract. One type, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), are homemade explosive weapons usually consisting of commonly available materials and come in a variety of shapes and sizes, such as those placed or sent in pipes, packages, luggage, or backpacks. According to the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC), there were approximately 177 explosion incidents involving IEDs and 3,950 suspicious or unattended baggage incidents in the U.S. in 2020. Individuals and businesses play an active and important role in preventing IED attacks by reporting suspicious or unattended baggage or packages. Federal and local agencies offer training to the public and business owners to assist with stopping bad actors from obtaining the materials needed to create IEDs.

Criminal Activities

- Explosive Device Attacks:** Criminals may use explosive devices to cause mass harm and damage. In some instances, explosives may also be used as a distraction to aid in committing other crimes, to steal property or gain access to secured areas. While law enforcement makes all efforts to ensure public safety and security against explosive device attacks, the ability to remotely detonate explosive devices increases the difficulty of mitigating an attack. Reporting suspicious activity can aid in prevention efforts. [FBI Releases New Video of Person Planting Bombs Before Capitol Riot Video Captures 2 Men at Westchester ATM Before It Explodes](#)
- Hoax Bomb Threat Incidents** – A bomb threat is the use of communication channels to make a threat to detonate an explosive or incendiary device to cause death, injury, or property damage. Bomb threats can also include bad actors intentionally leaving misleading or hoax unattended suspicious items or packages. Bomb threats should always be taken seriously. Bad actors may make hoax bomb threats to businesses, homes, or government or federal agencies. While it is illegal to make a hoax bomb threat, according to the USBDC, there were approximately 287 hoax bomb threats reported across the U.S. in 2020. [Florida Airport Evacuated Over Bomb Threat](#)
[Florida Man Charged in Portland Bomb Scare](#)



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Terrorist Activity

- **Targeted Terrorist Explosive Device Attacks** – Terrorists use IED attacks to destroy property, harm or kill others. Terrorists often target events or locations where the damage will have a large impact such as mass gathering events or symbolic areas or buildings. Bomb prevention and awareness training programs can assist businesses in identifying potential precursor chemicals as well as spotting and reporting suspicious incidents.
[Man Pleads Guilty To 65 Felonies for Mailing 16 Improvised Explosive Devices in Connection with October 2018 Domestic Terrorist Attack](#)
[Man Sentenced to Life in Prison for ISIS-inspired Bombing in New York City Subway Station in 2017](#)

Resources

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides multiple resources and training and awareness programs for businesses and individuals for recognizing and responding to improvised explosive devices and threats on the following websites:

[Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Training and Awareness](#)

[What to Do – Bomb Threat](#)

[Bomb Threat Checklist](#)

[Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program \(BMAP\)](#)

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) offers information on illegal explosives on their [website](#). If you suspect someone is creating, distributing or selling illegal explosive devices, contact the ATF tip line at 1-888-ATF-BOMB (283-2662).

“If You See Something, Say Something®” –Report suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, on the FDLE website using the [Florida’s See Something, Say Something Tool Kit](#) or by calling 855-FLA-Safe. In an emergency, call 911.



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