



Glossary

Ammonium Nitrate – a chemical oxidizer commonly used in the manufacture of explosive products.

ANFO – an explosive material consisting of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil.

Binary Explosive – a blasting explosive formed by mixing or combining two phosphoric materials (e.g., ammonium nitrate and nitromethane).

Black Powder – a low explosive consisting of a mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and an alkali nitrate, usually potassium or sodium nitrate.

Blasting Agent – an explosive material which meets prescribed criteria for insensitivity to initiation.

For storage, Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 55.11 defines a blasting agent as any material or mixture, consisting of fuel and oxidizer intended for blasting, not otherwise defined as an explosive: provided, that the finished product, as mixed for use or shipment, cannot be detonated by means of a No. 8 test blasting cap (detonator) when unconfined (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Regulation).

For transportation, Title 49 CFR, Section 1173.50, defines Class 1, Division 1.5 (blasting agent) as a substance which has mass explosion hazard but is so insensitive that there is very little probability of initiation or of transition from burning to detonation under normal conditions in transport.

Camouflaged device - An explosive device disguised to avoid detection.

Class A Explosives – a term formerly used by the U.S. Department of Transportation to describe explosives that possess detonating or otherwise maximum hazard. (Currently classified as Division 1.1 or 1.2 materials.)

Class B Explosives – a term formerly used by the U.S. Department of Transportation to describe explosives that possess a flammable hazard. (Currently classified as Division 1.3 materials.)

Class C Explosives – a term formerly used by the U.S. Department of Transportation to describe explosives that contain Class A or Class B explosives, or both as components but in restricted quantities. (Currently classified as Division 1.4 materials.)

Commercial Explosives – explosives designed, produced, and used for commercial or industrial applications.

Consequence Management – Response to a disaster focused on alleviating damage, loss, hardship, or suffering.



TCM: Improvised Explosive and Incendiary Devices

Detacord® – a brand name for a detonating cord manufactured by Ensign Bickford Company.

Detonating Cord – a flexible cord containing a center core of high explosives used to detonate other explosives. The exterior has a waxy appearance and is initiated by means of a blasting cap. Colors and material of detonating cord are variable, according to each manufacturer.

Detonation – an explosive reaction that moves through an explosive material at a velocity greater than the speed of sound in the material.

Detonator – any device containing an initiating or primary explosive that is used for initiating detonation. A detonator is not permitted to contain more than 10 grams of total explosive material per unit, excluding ignition or delay charges. The term includes, but is not limited to, electric detonators of the instantaneous and delay types, detonators for use with safety fuses, detonating cord delay connectors, and nonelectric detonators of the instantaneous and delay types that consist of a detonating cord, a shock tube, or any other replacement for electric leg wires. Unless specifically classified otherwise, detonators are classified 1.1 (Class A explosives). Also see Detonators 1.4 (Class C explosives).

Dirty Bomb – A conventional explosive that is packaged with radioactive material that scatters when the bomb is detonated.

Dynamite – a high explosive used for blasting, consisting essentially of a mixture of, but not limited to, nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, ammonium nitrate, sodium nitrate, and carbonaceous materials.

Electric Detonator – a detonator designed for, and capable of, initiation by means of an electric current.

Explosion – a chemical reaction involving an extremely rapid expansion of gases, usually associated with the liberation of heat.

Explosive – any chemical compound, mixture, or device whose primary or common purpose is to function by explosion.



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Explosive Classifications

Current Classification	Hazard(s)	Class name prior to Jan. 1, 1991
Division 1.1	Mass exploding	Class A
Division 1.2	Projection hazard	explosives
Division 1.3	Fire hazard, minor blast or projection hazard	Class A or Class B explosives Class B explosives
Division 1.4	Minor explosion hazard-not mass detonating	Class C explosives
Division 1.5	Insensitive explosives.	Blasting agents
Division 1.6	Very little probability of initiation or transition from burning to detonation during transport Extremely insensitive explosive articles	No applicable hazard class

Explosive materials – these include explosives, blasting agents, and detonators. This term includes, but is not limited to, dynamite and other high explosives; slurries, emulsions and water gels; black powder and pellet powder; initiating explosives; detonators (blasting caps); safety fuse; detonating cord; igniter cord; and igniters.

Fireworks – combustible or explosive compositions or manufactured articles designed and prepared for the purpose of producing audible or visible effects.

Flare – a pyrotechnic device designed to produce a single source of intense light.

Fuze – a mechanical, electrical, or electronic device used for detonating an explosive device.

HME – Home Made Explosives; a combination of commercially available ingredients combined to create an explosive substance.

High Explosives – explosive materials that can be caused to detonate by means of a blasting cap. A few examples of high explosives would be boosters, detonators, dynamite, water gels/slurries, and emulsions.

Improvised Explosive Device - A delivery system to deliver an explosive charge using items or methods not initially designed for this purpose.

Low Explosives - explosives that are characterized by deflagration or a low rate of reaction and the development of low pressure. Black powder, smokeless powder, safety fuse, and squibs/igniters are classified as low explosives.



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Military Explosives – items of equipment designed primarily for military offensive or defensive operations. A few examples of military explosives are M6 military electric detonators, M112 demolition charge, C4, TNT, and TOW blast simulators.

Nitroglycerin - an explosive chemical compound that is used as a sensitizer in dynamite.

Oxidizer or Oxidizing Material - a substance, such as nitrate, that readily yields oxygen or other oxidizing substances to stimulate the combustion of organic matter or other fuel.

PBIED – An IED worn by a person, such as a vest, belt, backpack, etc., in which the person houses the whole IED or principle IED components and/or serves as the delivery or concealment means for explosives with an initiating device.

Propellant Explosive – an explosive material that normally functions by deflagration and is used for propulsion purposes. It may be a Class A or Class B explosive, depending upon its susceptibility to detonation.

Pyrotechnics – any combustible or explosive compositions or manufactured articles designed and prepared for the purpose of producing audible or visible effects.

Secondary Device - An explosive device set to detonate after arrival of first responders. The purpose of the device is to injure emergency responders.

Small Arms Ammunition Primers – small percussion-sensitive explosive charges encased in a cap or capsule and used to ignite propellant powder.

Smokeless Propellant (Smokeless Powder) – solid propellant, commonly called smokeless powder in the trade, used in small-arms ammunition, cannons, rockets, propellant-actuated powder devices, etc.

Terrorism - The unlawful use of force against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in the furtherance of political or social objectives. This definition includes three elements: (1) Terrorist activities are illegal and involve the use of force. (2) The actions are intended to intimidate or coerce. (3) The actions are committed in support of political or social objectives.

VBIED – An IED delivered by any small ground-based vehicle (e.g. passenger vehicle, motorcycle, moped, bicycle, etc.) and/or serves as the concealment means for explosives with an initiating device.