



TCM: Improvised Explosive and Incendiary Devices

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Improvised Explosive Device (IED)?

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) is an improvised delivery system to deliver an explosive charge. It includes nearly any common object from a pipe to a vehicle, or even a stroller or back pack.

What is a secondary device?

A secondary device is an explosive device set to detonate after arrival of first responders. The purpose is to injure emergency responders.

What is a suicide bomber?

A suicide bomber is a person who wears an explosive device with the intent to die in the detonation of the device.

What is the minimum evacuation distance for a pipe bomb?

The minimum blast distance recommendations as published by the ODP sets the isolation distance for a pipe bomb at 850 feet. The emergency response guide 112 recommends an initial isolation distance of 1/3 mile for explosives.

What are some common household chemicals which can be used to create Home Made Explosives (HME's)?

Some common household chemicals used in the manufacturing of HME's include:

- Fertilizers - Ammonium, Urea and Potassium Nitrate- based
- Antifreeze
- Aluminum powder
- Acids - Nitric, Sulfuric and Hydrochloric
- Acetone
- Drain Cleaner
- Peroxide
- Baking Soda
- Sulfur
- Hydrocarbons - Sugar, Cocoa, Cinnamon and Coffee (in large amounts)
- Citric Acid
- Hexamine
- Fuels - such as Diesel, Benzene, Kerosene