

ISIS Continues To Encourage Arson Attacks

In July 2020, ISIS's Al-Hayat Media Center released an English-language video titled "Incite the Believers" that urges arson attacks, especially for those who do not possess weapons or are unable to travel abroad to fight. The video depicts fires starting in southern California and Oregon and then spreading to other locations. Unlike other terrorist messaging pertaining to arson, the video does not include instructions for constructing an incendiary device but does advise supporters to target forests, fields, cities, and villages without drawing attention to themselves and to safely dispose of evidence to hinder law enforcement.

CONSIDERATIONS: Close coordination among all first responders is paramount, as a combined fire, emergency medical services, and law enforcement response is key to saving lives through prevention, early extinguishment, or containment.

- Arsonists may purposefully block ingress and egress for first responders and those evacuating.
- Scene preservation is critical to the collection and exploitation of evidence.
- Documenting threats and other suspicious behaviors, as well as real-time video of an attack, may aid an investigation.
- An unusually large fire or multiple fires may be intentionally set to tax responses and resources.
- Arsonists may manipulate or disable fire- or life-safety systems in a facility, including alarms, sprinkler systems, risers, and fire doors.
- Instructional materials combined with signs of precursors in residential or storage areas may indicate nefarious activity.
- Witness statements; tip lines; neighboring CCTV (closed-circuit television); 9-1-1 calls; alarm logs; and financial, insurance, and property records may assist an investigation.

RESOURCES:

- **Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS):** <https://www.atf.gov/explosives/bomb-arson-tracking-system-bats>
- **eGuardian:** <https://www.fbi.gov/resources/law-enforcement/eguardian>
- **TRIPwire or TECHNICAL RESOURCE FOR INCIDENT PREVENTION:** <https://tripwire.dhs.gov>



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