

IED MANUFACTURE INDICATORS

First responders, public safety personnel and bystanders may encounter suspicious activities, items, or behaviors associated with the manufacture of IEDs during regular interactions. IED components are inexpensive, legal, and readily available (most do not require identification for purchase), increasing the challenge of detecting acquisition and use for malicious purposes. To compound these challenges, malicious actors may use common household goods and basic tools to construct IEDs, highlighting the importance of personnel recognizing seemingly innocuous materials and tools used in an unusual manner.

WARNING: ONLY AUTHORIZED BOMB TECHNICIANS SHOULD MOVE, HANDLE OR ATTEMPT TO RENDER SAFE ANY SUSPECTED IEDS OR COMPONENTS. IMPROPER HANDLING MIGHT CAUSE EXPLOSION. **CALL 9-1-1.**

IMAGES FROM A MAKESHIFT IED WORKBENCH:

The IED manufacturing process would likely produce indicators to an observer who is already familiar with IEDs, but it can also raise suspicion to the untrained observer, particularly when dealing with someone who is displaying unusual behavior. The indicators may include large amounts of tools and components—especially those not commonly used together for legitimate purposes—and components modified in a manner inconsistent with their intended use, along with related trash. Whether an individual would notice and report these observables depends on several factors, including their relationship with a potentially dangerous actor. Importantly, recognition and prompt reporting may prevent or mitigate attempts to manufacture IEDs.

IF ENCOUNTERED, DO NOT TOUCH



DUAL-PURPOSE MATERIALS: A would-be IED maker may commingle multiple items on a workbench not commonly used together for legitimate purposes. These items include pipes or pipefittings, end caps, fireworks, gunpowder, nuts, bolts, and modified or disassembled electronic devices, such as string lights, clocks and batteries.

1. Pipe filled with nuts
2. Modified string lights, wires, and battery



“TRASH”: A would-be IED maker would probably also generate a large amount of trash, in or around the immediate workbench. This includes packaging materials for tools (soldering iron, scale, and glue gun), components (fireworks, nuts, bolts, screws, nails, clocks, and batteries) and equipment (backpacks, boxes, and containers).

3. Seemingly random trash
4. Discarded firework wrappers and tubes



RESOURCES:

- **DHS OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION (OBP)** offers training to build counter-IED capabilities and enhance awareness of IED threats. Training is available in traditional classroom settings, online independent study, and virtual instructor-led training platforms. <https://www.dhs.gov/bombing-prevention-training>
- **BOMB-MAKING MATERIALS AWARENESS PROGRAM (BMAP)** is a national outreach initiative to promote private sector point-of-sale awareness and suspicious activity reporting to prevent misuse of common household items as explosive precursor chemicals and IED components. <https://www.dhs.gov/bmap>
- **TRIPwire** or **TECHNICAL RESOURCE FOR INCIDENT PREVENTION** is a secure, online, collaborative information-sharing and resource portal for the Nation’s federal, state, local, and tribal government security and emergency services professionals. <https://tripwire.dhs.gov>
- **“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”™ CAMPAIGN:** Across the country, in our communities, we share everyday moments with our neighbors, family, coworkers, and friends. We go to work or school, the grocery store, or the gas station. It is easy to overlook these routine moments, but as you are going about your day, if you see something that does not seem quite right, say something. By being alert and reporting suspicious activity to your local law enforcement, you can protect your family, neighbors, and community. <https://www.dhs.gov/see-something-say-something>
- **NATIONWIDE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING (SAR) INITIATIVE (NSI)** is a collaboration by DHS, the FBI, and state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement partners, which helps prevent terrorism and other related criminal activity by establishing a national capacity for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing SAR information. <https://nsi.ncirc.gov/>

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR DETECTION:

Attentive store employees may experience unusual customer interaction or witness suspicious purchases:

- Purchases spread across multiple stores in a chain.
- A customer exhibiting a noteworthy level of nervousness while inquiring about or purchasing potentially dangerous items.

NOTE: Any determination of possible suspicious behavior or indicators should be supported by additional facts that justify reasonable suspicion. Although one activity may seem insignificant on its own, the indicators should be looked at under the totality of the circumstances.



NOTICE: This product was developed by the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT), which is a collaboration by NCTC, DHS, the FBI, and state, local, tribal, and territorial government personnel to improve information sharing and enhance public safety. The product intends to promote coordination among intergovernmental authorities and the private sector in identifying, preventing, and responding to foreign terrorist activities in the US. Consider the product within the context of existing laws, authorities, agreements, policies or procedures. For additional information, contact us at JCAT@NCTC.GOV.



PRODUCT FEEDBACK FORM

(U) JCAT MISSION: To improve information sharing and enhance public safety. In coordination with the FBI and DHS, collaborate with other members of the IC to research, produce, and disseminate counterterrorism (CT) intelligence products for federal, state, local, tribal and territorial government agencies and the private sector. Advocate for the CT intelligence requirements and needs of these partners throughout the IC.

NAME and/or ORG:

DISCIPLINE: LE FIRE EMS HEALTH ANALYSIS PRIVATE SECTOR DATE:

PRODUCT TITLE:



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, OR QUESTIONS. HOW DOES JCAT MAKE PRODUCTS BETTER?

WHAT TOPICS DO YOU RECOMMEND?
