

# BOMB THREAT



## A Guide to Bomb Threat Awareness for Organizations

Shamuel B. Kohen

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Author: Shamuel B. Kohen  
Publisher: Shamuel B. kohen  
Cover design: Laura Benyik  
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## **Disclaimer**

The information within this textbook is based on the authors' knowledge of the topic of bomb threat awareness as well as over 20 years in the security and investigative field. The information within this book is basic and the reader should pursue additional information on the topic to expand his/her growth.

HSI Group nor Shamuel B. Kohen assumes any liability in connection with the use of this material. Not all possible techniques or situations have been presented within this book and the reader assumes all responsibility in his/her continual education on the subject. In addition, country laws and organizational policies differ widely from country to country and organization to organization. If there are conflicts between your organization and the material found in this book, you must follow your organization's policy.

## **Dedications**

This book is dedicated to every professional from the security field to educational institutions, from the tourism industry all the way to the hotels and entertainment industries.

In today's uncertain world most any business in any part of the world is somehow or another effected by the threat of a bomb threat. This book is dedicated to you, the reader that took the time to invest in your education.

## **Acknowledgements**

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Laura Benyik; My training partner and co security consultant as well as co-author, without whom this book would have taken longer than necessary.

# Introduction

This manual has been written with the professional security personnel as well as novice in mind. The novice is in context of a person not formally in the security or police profession but whose profession brings people from all over together and thus being the target of a possible bombing. *Bomb threat - A guide to bomb threat awareness for organizations* is meant to aid people working in the service industry, educational institutions as well as tourism business, or any organization doing business abroad that may be targeted for this threat.

The book is meant to educate the reader in a most basic manner and at the same time not over simplifying the topic of bomb threat awareness. We choose to leave out all the mumbo jumbo of complicated jargon and long winded details. We choose to give you the need-to-knows on handling this threat and choose to leave out the nice-to-knows. Our goal is to keep the information effective for the everyday front line person.

As we listen and read the news, nowadays more than ever the everyday citizens are becoming aware of bombing incidents that are done by vicious and deranged members of our society through the use of explosives devices in forms of traditional explosives such as grenades or even more common the IEDs (improvised explosive devices).

Professional Security agencies are called upon to be the first line of defense, providing protection for the lives of corporate employees, VIP clients frequenting bus and train stations as well as shopping malls.

As we have witnessed in the everyday world Security as well as law enforcement alone cannot be held responsible for every bomb that goes off killing and maiming people as well as destroying property. Every citizen must do their part to ensure a safe environment in which they do business and travel. To develop a security culture is everyone's responsibility.

This book is designed to assist both the security professional and the citizen to prepare for the possible threat of explosives-related violence and intimidation.

The techniques and theories that you find in this textbook can be applied in many cases, they are intended only as a guide to assist you in making choices and aiding in your decision making process.

The information within this textbook is compiled from a wide range of sources and experiences from history within this study context.

The point that we will be aiming at is emphasizing the value of being prepared and aware. By using the ideas or the 3A's (Awareness, Assessment and Action) we will try to ingrain in the reader the need to be on guard and vigilant and not to be caught off guard.

By developing and implementing a bomb threat response plan and developing a security plan, you can reduce and or manage the personal injury and property damage. While it is true that we cannot predict when and where a bombing is going happen, what we can do is develop a plan to manage it and reduce the damage and injury.

# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	5
<b>Chapter 1. Receiving a Bomb Threat</b> .....	9
Why a Bomb Threat? .....	9
Bombs/IEDs .....	9
Bomb Threats .....	10
Who Makes Bomb Threats? .....	11
What Motivates a Bomber .....	13
Real Threats or Hoaxes? .....	14
Why Should Your Organization Prepare? .....	15
How to Prepare .....	16
The 3 A's of Survival .....	17
Security against Bomb Incidents .....	19
Putting Theory into Practice .....	20
<b>Chapter 2. How to Respond to Threats</b> .....	23
Bomb Threat Response .....	23
Receiving Telephone Bomb Threats .....	24
Dealing with the Phone Threat .....	26
Receiving Written Threats .....	29
Possible Response to a Bomb Threat .....	30
<b>Chapter 3. Mail Bombs</b> .....	32
Suspicious Objects and Packages .....	32
Letter Bombs .....	34
Package Bombs .....	35
Toy Explosives .....	36
<b>Chapter 4. Bomb Search Methods and Techniques</b> .....	37
Why Search? .....	37
Prior to the Arrival of Police and Fire Department .....	38
Room Search Methods .....	40
Searching the Area in Six Basic Stages .....	40
General Outside Search .....	47
Important Things to Know and Remember About Searching .....	49
Practice Run .....	49

<b>Chapter 5. Evacuation</b> .....	50
Action Stage .....	50
Informing the Customers and Employees .....	52
The Choice to Evacuate .....	53
From Class Room to Workplace .....	53
Hypothetical Drill .....	55
Evacuation Routes .....	59
Where Do Evacuated People Go .....	59
<b>Chapter 6. Improving Physical Security</b> .....	62
Evaluate Threat Level and Vulnerability .....	62
Physical Security Suggestions .....	62
Outer Perimeter .....	64
Fence Perimeter .....	64
Lighting .....	65
Parking Areas .....	65
Physical Security Barriers .....	66
Video Surveillance .....	67
Physical Security Patrol .....	67
Security Staff .....	68
<b>Chapter 7. After the Bomb, Disaster Recovery</b> .....	70
Primary Importance .....	70
Your Organizational Plans .....	70
<b>Closing Comments</b> .....	72
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	74

Sources

About the Author

Appendix

# Chapter 1.

## Receiving a Bomb Threat

### Why Bomb Threats?

To make a bomb threat is easy, it does not cost much and it is very easy to make companies and organizations as well as a group of public citizens in a nightclub for example to react. When a caller makes a bomb threat, it certainly will get the attention of the organization that received the call. When the media gets a hold of the story of that bomb threat call they will also jump to it. Nothing gets the media attention more than a bomb threat call with the potential of a grand explosion.

### Bombs/IEDs

Bombs or Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) can be made to look like almost anything from a coke can to a fluffy teddy bear. They can be placed or delivered to their intended targets in many ways. The stereotypical Hollywood style bomb with a beeping sound and a red led light flashing is almost nonexistent.

Most bombs/IED's are made in the home or other facility of the would be bomber and are designed to look like anything and the most common daily items, depending on source or the resources available to the bomber. When searching for the potential bomb, you must suspect everything that looks unusual or out of place. You must know your area of work to know what item is out of the context of that area, for example a bicycle in the computer office.

What is a bicycle doing in a computer office in the context of a called in bomb threat? That is suspicious and that is also known as one big pipe bomb. However once you learn to recognize things out of place, you will then let the trained bomb squad or technician figure out what is or is not a bomb or other explosive device.

It is not my intention to list and describe all the possible improvised explosive devices nor is it my intent to describe bomb components and the explosive make up. That will be up to the reader to fulfill.

## Bomb Threats

When Bomb threats are made they are done in many possible ways. The majority of bomb threats that are made are call in types. At times however bomb threat calls are communicated in a written form (electronic or paper) or by a pre recorded message.

Why would a would-be bomber report and call in the bomb threat? If the bomber really wanted to simply blow up people or property, wouldn't it be logical not to say a word and just let the bombing take place? That is a question that many people have asked and it is a very valid question. Let us look at some basic reasons why a caller would want to report a bomb to you.

1. The bomb threat caller has definite knowledge or believes that an explosive or IED has been or will be placed at the target location and the caller wants to minimize injuring people but simply wants to make a statement.
2. The bomb threat caller wants to create anxiety and panic within the target or organization which will result in anxiety and disruption of the normal activities and day to day business at the threat target were the possible bomb is supposed to be placed.
3. The caller seeks media attention and wants to cause doubt in the security and protection of its civilians.
4. The caller is simply looking for "target reaction". Seeing how security responds. This is also extended to seeing how Community will respond i.e. Police, Government agencies.

For our own purposes, we are not interested in the "threat moment" and why the caller reported it. However, the fact is the possibility of a bomb will certainly get a reaction from both the target and the media.

Through your proper planning and good threat management, a wide variety of uncontrollable reactions and fears can be greatly reduced and managed. Just think of it in context of a fire planning policy as well as a fire prevention plan. If you have something on paper as well as planning, you can greatly reduce the fears of people once the situation does occur and action must be taken.

# BOMB THREAT

With the current global challenges to business and educational institutions, It is important for security, organizational management and law enforcement to have an active knowledge of bomb threat awareness as it currently applies to global terrorism to the organizational structure. Being ignorant to these threats can contribute to public panic, death and injury. All of these factors contribute to destroying the confidence of citizens and an organization's employees in their organizational or national safety and security. Within these pages you the student or any organizational leader will have a clear and easy understanding of bomb threat awareness and will give you the knowledge of how to deal with such threats and assist you in implementing an incident security plan. You will learn the critical steps needed in a search and evacuation, without being burdened with information that will only confuse and disorient you in your studies. The book will give you the basic techniques for risk assessment and target and threat identification. You will learn the most common methods of bomb delivery such as letter bombs, package bombs and car bombs to facilities such as, schools, businesses, airports and hospitals. One of the many points stressed in the book is to build within an organization a security culture, and we will do this through a simple and effective understanding of the important points within a bomb threat situation. Many organizations will never start and practice a bomb threat awareness plan because it looks so complicated. The many books that have been published are filled with nice to know material for specialists and the NEED TO KNOW is lost within all the complicated text when the book is read by a non-specialist. Here you will only learn the NEED TO KNOW materials. By doing this it will make it very easy for you to start a bomb threat security plan. This book will teach you how to deal with the bomb threat caller SIMPLY, do a search SIMPLY, do a safe evacuation SIMPLY, start a plan SIMPLY and it is SIMPLE for anyone in the organization to understand. All this is done without oversimplifying the topic. You will learn what we in the professional security and VIP protection work must understand to effectively protect our clients and the organizations that hire us.

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