

18th November 2021

Protective Security Information for the Business Community

IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Reminder on PBIEDs

Dear all,

Recent events are a timely reminder to refocus attention on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Key references are

Crowded Places Guidance — <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance>

Search and Screening — Explosives, Weapons and CBRN Detection — <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/search-and-screening-explosives-weapons-and-cbrn-detection-0>

Recognising Terrorist Threats — <https://www.cpni.gov.uk/blog/physical-security/recognising-terrorist-threats>

A PBIED potentially enables an agile and penetrative delivery of a smaller explosive device to a target. We would like to remind security personnel and organisational staff that PBIEDs can come in any form, shape or size, and that they can be hidden.

Backpacks

- Manchester Arena Bombing on 22nd May 2017 where an Islamist extremist suicide bomber detonated a shrapnel-laden homemade bomb which was packed into a large backpack.
- 7/7 London Bombings where four coordinated suicide attacks targeted commuters travelling on the city's public transport system using improvised explosive devices packed into backpacks.

Belts / Vests

- The November 2015 Paris attack were a series of coordinated attacks in Paris where attackers used TATP in suicide belts / vest.

Hidden

- Richard Reid (AKA the "shoe bomber") attempted to detonate a shoe bomb whilst on a plane in 2001.

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Although there is no definitive physical profile for a suicide bomber, there are various signs that may indicate an individual carrying a device or conducting reconnaissance. Examples of such signs may include bulky clothing (suspicious in warm weather conditions), acting nervously (constantly looking around, sweating), and / or loitering in a specific area for extended periods of time.

Security leads are requested to remind their teams of this variety and of the capability of terrorists to create explosive devices. Any device which appears to be viable should be treated as such until they are deemed non-suspicious.

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The most effective means of preventing a threat getting to their intended target can be to have effective search and screening processes in place. The guidance from the CPNI for Security is available here:

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/screening-people-and-their-belongings-0>



Businesses can also sign up for the ACT awareness eLearning that provides nationally recognised corporate CT guidance to help increase understanding around terrorism, how to mitigate terrorism and much more. To register please visit:

<https://ct.highfieldelearning.com/>

We would like to remind businesses and individuals on the importance of Security Minded Communications. Read the guidance from NaCTSO here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/crowded-places-guidance/communication>



CPNI and NaCTSO offer guidance that can help you to recognise terrorist threats.

The guidance is available here:

<https://www.cpni.gov.uk/blog/physical-security/recognising-terrorist-threats>