



December 11, 2017

## New York Attack Highlights Terrorists' Use of IEDs

*The attacker who detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) inside the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York City this morning reportedly drew inspiration from ISIS, a group that has provided guidance on how to build such devices in English-language propaganda.* The attacker, who reportedly built a makeshift five-inch metal pipe bomb, caused serious injuries to himself and minor injuries to three others, while authorities found ISIS media on his phone.

- IED construction has been featured prominently in terrorist online media for at least a decade. Al-Qa'ida and ISIS have published several articles on developing IEDs using household chemicals and pressure cookers; in 2014 and 2016, al-Qa'ida provided instructions on assembling car bombs and package bombs.

*Extremists have encouraged operations against large public venues and gathering areas.* In the last two years, large crowds and transportation hubs have been terrorists' preferred IED targets.

- An IED concealed in a bucket partially detonated on the London metro during rush hour on September 15.
- In May, a homemade bomb was detonated outside of an arena—and near the metro—in Manchester, United Kingdom following a concert.
- On March 22, 2016, three coordinated suicide bombings occurred in Brussels, Belgium targeting the airport and metro station.

*The diffuse nature of the terrorist threat suggests the public is the first line of defense and that residents can take proactive security measures.* Some include:

- Reporting suspicious activity by calling 911, 202-727-9099, or filing a report with [iwatchdc.dc.gov](http://iwatchdc.dc.gov). Examples of suspicious activity include:
  - Individuals exhibiting an unusual interest in surveillance cameras, entry points, peak days and hours of operation, security personnel and procedures, surveillance equipment, obtaining site plans;
  - Individuals loitering, parking, or standing in the same areas, over multiple days, with no reason or explanation;
  - Unattended packages or illegally parked vehicles;
  - Religiously or racially motivated graffiti on or near a property.
- Visiting [ready.dc.gov](http://ready.dc.gov) to build a personal plan in case of a disaster or emergency.
- Staying informed by signing up for emergency alert and warning notifications via email, text message, or voice. Visit [AlertDC.DC.gov](http://AlertDC.DC.gov) and click "Sign Up for Alerts."

**Remember, if you see something, say something. You are the first line of defense.**

