



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CISA's Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program promotes a well-informed community.



Why Your Agency Should Have a Bombing Prevention Program.



A Suspicious Transaction

A customer with an extensive shopping list searches your local home improvement store for a curious assortment of goods: galvanized pipe cut to specific lengths, with matching endcaps; a variety of nails, washers, and screws; a soldering iron; a glue gun; egg timers; electrical tape; explosives precursor chemicals, and wire strippers. The trained cashier easily recognizes the possible components of a destructive device, commonly known as an improvised explosive device (IED).

Considerations:

- Do they recognize the activity as suspicious?
- If so, do they know what actions to take?
- Do they notify management?
- Should they notify law enforcement of the activity, including the suspect's description, vehicle information, still photos, and store surveillance video?
- Or do they just file the incident away, like one of several hundred routine transactions during any given day?



Working a Wreck

A police officer is dispatched to a routine motor vehicle crash. Upon arrival, the driver of one of the vehicles involved is extremely nervous, refuses to make eye contact with the officer, and is evasive when questioned about the circumstances of the crash. The officer smells an unknown chemical odor coming from the vehicle and asks the nervous driver for consent to search his vehicle. The driver agrees, and the officer conducts a complete and thorough search. To the officer's surprise, based on the driver's behavior, he fails to locate illegal firearms, narcotics, or any other contraband. The officer does note, however, that the driver's trunk contains unusual quantities of acetone, muriatic acid, and hydrogen peroxide. The officer also observes assorted glassware, filters, and a cooler filled with ice.

Considerations:

- Does the officer recognize the items as potential components of bomb-making materials (like Triacetone Triperoxide)?
- Does the officer notify a supervisor or investigator?
- Is the Bomb Squad called?
- Is the Arson and Explosives unit notified?
- If not, does the officer write an incident report or field interview form to report the suspicious activity?



An Observant Neighbor Calls Dispatch

Dispatch receives a call from a concerned citizen. The caller advises the dispatcher that her neighbor has been acting suspiciously. The caller states that the neighbor keeps odd hours, works in his garage until late into the night, and is often seen wearing a half-face mask, gloves, and eye protection while working. He has obvious signs of bleaching on his skin and is evasive when asked about his actions. He receives large shipments of pool chemicals, but he does not have a pool. His curbside trash is curious as well, with empty boxes for electronics, Christmas tree bulbs, and pressure cookers. Loud noises, like explosions or fireworks, can often be heard from his back yard.

Considerations:

- Does the call-taker recognize the activity as that of a potential bomb-maker?
- Does dispatch send an officer to investigate?
- Does she forward the intel to investigations?
- Is the bomb squad or Arson and Explosives group notified?

Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA's) Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) was created to address all of the above scenarios. As a bomb technician or arson and explosives investigator, it is quite common to be asked to provide explosives-related training for the public sector, including retail outlets and schools, emergency services organizations and personnel, and law enforcement - both inside and outside of your organization. While some larger departments have full-time bomb technicians or investigators who can be tasked with creating presentations for such needs, in reality the plates of most bomb technicians and investigators are full, based on work assignments, extra jobs, and family responsibilities.

Whether it be preventative, responsive, or investigative, the C-IED community works tirelessly every day to ensure that Americans live in an environment free from the unlawful use of explosives. BMAP's preventative in-person outreach and awareness courses enable communities to identify suspicious activity and report

potential terrorists/criminals who purchase explosives precursor chemicals (EPCs) or bomb-making materials (BMM) from stores across the country. Real-life bomb plots, such as in Batavia, Illinois, illustrate the tremendous impact and influence the BMAP program can have.

On 26 November 2019, authorities discovered BMM and containers at the home of a Batavia high school student. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) notified the Batavia Police Department of a tip received from a chemistry wholesale retailer indicating that a subject in Batavia bought materials used to make explosives. The initial investigation led them to the juvenile's residence, where investigators found highly volatile explosive materials, bomb-making equipment, and other BMM. As a precaution, police with explosives detection K-9s searched the student's high school and found no evidence of explosives or BMM.

Media sources stated that a science supply store notified the FBI of suspicious purchases made by the Batavia high school student. Identifying suspicious purchases and reporting them to local law enforcement or the FBI is exactly what BMAP promotes with its accredited outreach training and awareness courses. This case study is important because it underscores the need for outreach to not only chemical retailers across the United States, but to all stores that may sell or stock BMM and EPCs.

BMAP Goals

BMAP is a counter terrorism bombing prevention program sponsored by CISA, in partnership with the FBI. BMAP is designed to promote BMM awareness and the reporting of suspicious activity to prevent the intentional misuse of common consumer goods to make IEDs.





The goal of the program is not only to build awareness and educate public and private sector stakeholders, but also to stop attacks from happening. Only with a committed and sustainable program will communities be knowledgeable and feel comfortable enough to report suspicious activities to law enforcement. BMAP provides you with the foundation and support to empower your community. The BMAP Implementation model illustrated at right covers a range of critical activities to perform, including building public awareness, educating businesses, and stopping attacks.

Building Public Awareness

Over the last two years, BMAP has increased its outreach numbers to point-of-sale (POS) retailers and communities. These outreaches are accomplished by BMAP's trained Community Liaisons, Federal partners, and headquarters personnel through community and POS outreach. The outreach has been conducted through in-person visits, training, phone calls, and marketing campaigns.

Community Liaisons

Becoming a Community Liaison strengthens prevention and mitigation opportunities and promotes community-based outreach. BMAP offers a course that prepares these liaisons to conduct outreach within their communities by familiarizing participants with EPCs and common household products used in the manufacturing of homemade explosives and the construction of IEDs. Additionally, the course provides participants with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to recognize suspicious purchasing behaviors, identify available BMAP resources, and implement outreach strategies within their communities at no charge. Community Liaisons build a network of vigilant and informed partners who serve as the Nation's Counter-IED "eyes-and-ears," the first line of defense in providing early detection of potential terrorist attacks and criminal activity.

Defining the Problem

Based on aggregate data from several Department of Homeland Security sources, there are approximately 250,000 businesses across the United States and its territories that sell or stock BMM and EPCs that could be used for nefarious use. BMAP has categorized these types of businesses by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Gun Stores, Beauty Supply (wholesale), Home Improvement, Hardware, Pharmacy, Pool Store, Fertilizer (wholesale/retail), and Fireworks (not including pop-up stands).

What Can You Do?

All BMAP products and trainings are offered completely free. When you and/or your organization become a BMAP member, the program's outreach products can be shipped, free of charge, to assist you in your community outreach. A Community Liaison course can be scheduled for your department. BMAP's educational videos can be shown in your communities to foster community policing, build a stronger community relationship, and keep your community members safe and informed. BMAP's web-based training is accredited and brings new information in for your squads to deliver to your community.

Become a Member!

Based on your expertise in the explosives field, a BMAP partnership should be in your future. BMAP can provide you with the training modules and advisory notices to assist with outreach and education. To request training or for more information on the BMAP training and product offerings, visit <https://www.cisa.gov/bmap> or email us at bmap@cisa.gov.

Thanks to:

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