



WASHINGTON STATE FUSION CENTER

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS BULLETIN

WSFC Tracking Number # 18-0077

March 20, 2018

(U) Identifying, Reporting, and Responding to Suspicious Packages

(U//FOUO) The Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC) is providing this bulletin for your situational awareness.

(U) Since March 2, 2018, there have been four package bombs found in locations throughout Austin, TX, while a fifth package addressed to a location in Austin detonated at a parcel sorting facility in San Antonio, TX. The four explosions in Austin came from packages left in yards, on porches, and on the side of the road. One of the packages utilized a tripwire, suggesting the package was not specifically targeting a single individual.¹

(U) While the WSFC is not aware of any connections or specified threats to Washington State, we are constantly monitoring threats to the U.S. Homeland for potential nexus to Washington State.

(U//FOUO) The incidents in Austin are not the first time parcels and packages have been used to conceal IEDs. In 2017, eight parcel bombs were discovered in Greece and addressed to locations throughout the European Union.² Additional notable incidents involving suspicious packages and parcel bombs include:

- (U) On January 17, 2011, Kevin Harpham^{USPER} placed a remote-controlled IED, made of black powder and lead fishing weights dipped in rat poison, at a park bench near the parade marching route on the morning of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Spokane, WA. The suspicious item was reported to authorities and rendered safe by local bomb technicians.³
- (U) In 2010, al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) attempted to detonate IEDs concealed in printer cartridges and shipped onboard cargo planes bound for the United States. The parcel bombs were detected at their last point of departure facilities.⁴
- (U) Between 1978 and 1995, Ted Kaczynski^{USPER}, also known as 'The Unabomber', placed and mailed a total of 16 parcel bombs, injuring 23 people and killing three others.⁵

(U//FOUO) As with any suspicious package or item, extreme caution should be taken to ensure the safety of yourself and those around you and law enforcement should be notified immediately.

- (U) On March 3, 2018, a suspicious package temporarily shut down the Seattle Ferry Terminal while explosive ordinance teams inspected the package and determined no explosives were present.⁶
- (U) On February 28, 2018, a suspicious package was reported at the Bellevue Transit Center. The Bellevue bomb squad deployed a remotely controlled robot and did not find anything dangerous.⁷

(U) NOTE: This information is the property of the Washington State Fusion Center and may be distributed to law enforcement officials, as well as to public and private sector stakeholders with a legitimate need-to-know. Further dissemination to authorized recipients is permitted without prior approval. Precautions should be taken to ensure this information is stored and/or destroyed in a manner that precludes unauthorized access.

(U) Tracked by: HSEC 8 and WSFC SIN 1

Contact Us: Hotline (toll free): 1-877-843-9522 // Fax: 1-206-224-5454 // Email: intake@wsfc.wa.gov

(U) Indicators of suspicious packages:

- Not expecting a package;
- Spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors;
- Exposed wiring;
- Odors or stains emanating from the parcel.

(U) If you receive a suspicious package:

- Stop. Don't handle;
- Evacuate and isolate the immediate area;
- Don't open, smell, or taste.



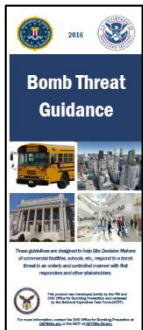
(U) Click images to enlarge

(U) Considerations

(U//FOUO) It is important to note that the discovery of one suspicious package should not automatically mean the conclusion of a search. Additionally, recognizing the difference between suspicious and unattended packages will determine the appropriate response by law enforcement officials.

- Not all items are suspicious
- An **unattended item** is anything, such as a package, not in someone's possession and where there are no obvious signs of being suspicious, especially if no threat was received.

(U) Additional Resources



(U//FOUO) A suspicious item is anything that is reasonably believed to contain explosives, an IED, or other hazardous material that requires a bomb technician to further evaluate it. Potential indicators are threats, placement, and proximity of the item to people and valuable assets. Examples include unexplainable wires or electronics, other visible bomb-like components, unusual sounds, vapors, mists, or odors. Generally anything that is hidden, obviously suspicious, and not typical should be deemed suspicious.

(U//FOUO) For additional information, click on the Office for Bombing Prevention Bomb Threat Guidance pamphlet to the left.

(U//FOUO) Developed in partnership with the FBI, the DHS-DOJ Bomb Threat Stand-off Card is a quick reference guide providing recommended evacuation and shelter-in-place distances for various types and sizes of IEDs. (Click on the image)

Threat Description	Explosive Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Distance	Preferred Evacuation Distance
Pipe Bomb	5 lbs.	75 ft.	75-100 ft.	>100 ft.
Suicide Bomber	25 lbs.	150 ft.	151-500 ft.	>100 ft.
Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs.	150 ft.	151-500 ft.	>100 ft.
Car	500 lbs.	325 ft.	325-1000 ft.	>100 ft.
SUV/Van	1,000 lbs.	400 ft.	401-2000 ft.	>2000 ft.
Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs.	600 ft.	601-2000 ft.	>2000 ft.
Container/Trailer Truck	10,000 lbs.	800 ft.	801-2000 ft.	>1000 ft.
Semi-Trailer	60,000 lbs.	1075 ft.	1075-2000 ft.	>1000 ft.



(U//FOUO) [The First Responder Support Tools \(FiRST\)](#) application allows first responders to quickly define safe stand-off distances around a potential bomb location, calculate rough damage and injury contours, suggest appropriate roadblocks, and identify other nearby facilities of concern (e.g., schools, hospitals, and care centers).

(U) For more information on any of the DHS Office for Bombing Prevention counter-IED products, please visit www.dhs.gov/obp or email OBP@hq.dhs.gov.

(U) If your department, agency, or organization has seen or receives reports of this nature, please contact the WSFC at 1-877-843-9522 or email intake@wsfc.wa.gov. Additionally, reporting can be accomplished by using the "REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY" feature at the Northwest Warning, Alert and Response Network (NWWARN) at www.nwwarn.org/.