2020 DOMESTIC OSINT IED REPORT

TRIP*wire* Open-Source Intelligence Data and Summary Analysis of Domestic Explosive, Bomb-Making Material, and Improvised Explosive Device Incidents

MAY 2021

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
Infrastructure Security Division
Office for Bombing Prevention

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REPORT PURPOSE & SCOPE

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP) annual report provides a national- and regional-level open-source assessment of domestic explosive, bomb-making material (BMM), and improvised explosive device (IED) incidents in the United States from 1 January through 31 December 2020.

SOURCING

The data presented in this annual report is derived from open-source reporting by news outlets, social media, and other multimedia channels related to explosive activity. This includes the discovery of BMM, suspicious packages, bomb threats, and other types of IED incidents in the United States and extended U.S. territories for calendar year 2020. International incidents may also be referenced for additional context. The product also includes analysis developed from focused open-source research and legacy TRIP*wire* data from 2014 to 2020, which is used for comparison analysis of multiple year trends. Population figures used in this product are derived from the Census Bureau's Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for the United States, Regions, States, and Puerto Rico from 1 April 2010 to 1 July 2019. More information on population estimates is available at census.gov.

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DISCLAIMER

This product provides a statistical analysis of available open-source reporting of explosives-related events, bomb threats, and IED activity in the United States and its territories. Due to the nature of open-source intelligence (OSINT) collection, this data may not reflect all bomb-related incidents or casualty figures during the stated period. The provided open-source data is derived from news, social media, and/or other media, including the deep/dark web, and is verified source material to the extent possible. It does not include classified or law enforcement sensitive information. It should be noted that incidents that received a response from law enforcement, first responders, or other authorities are frequently reported only through official channels, such as locally held police logs, because of the nature of criminal investigations. Therefore, some information may not be available and/or captured in the data used to compile this report. Nonetheless, the available records do provide a significant and representative sample of all reported domestic explosive-related events in open-source reporting.

WARNING

This product may contain U.S. person information that has been deemed necessary for the intended recipient to understand, assess, or act on the information provided. U.S. person information is highlighted with the label USPER and should be protected in accordance with constitutional requirements and all federal and state privacy and civil liberties laws.

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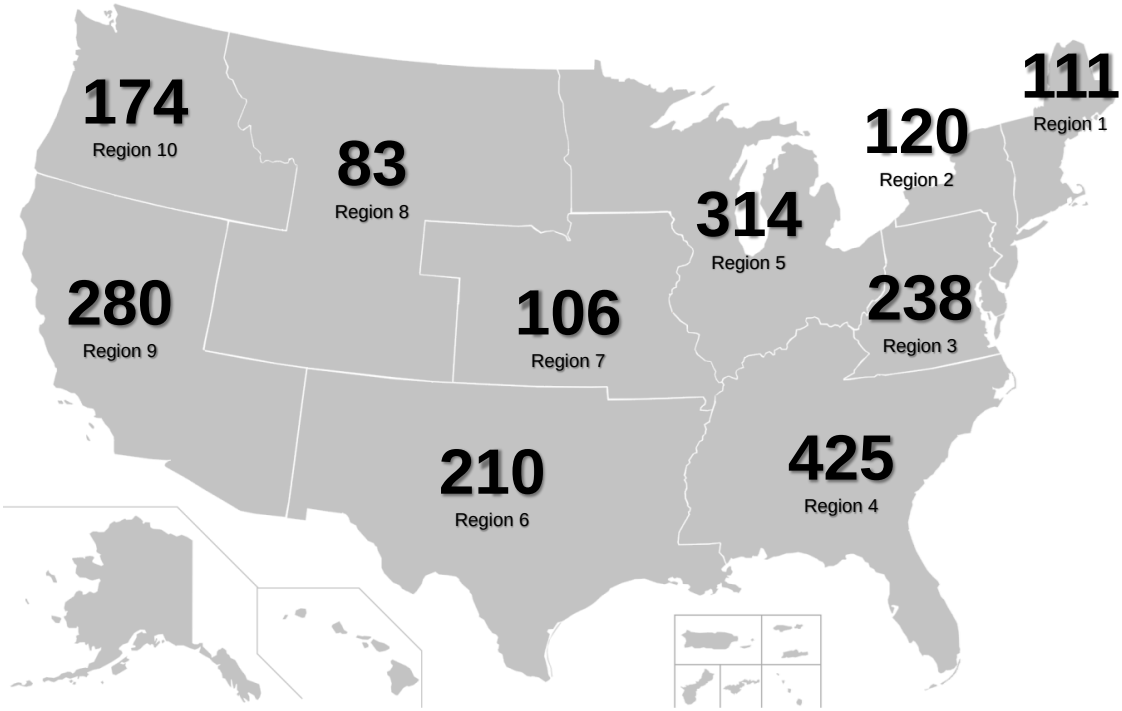
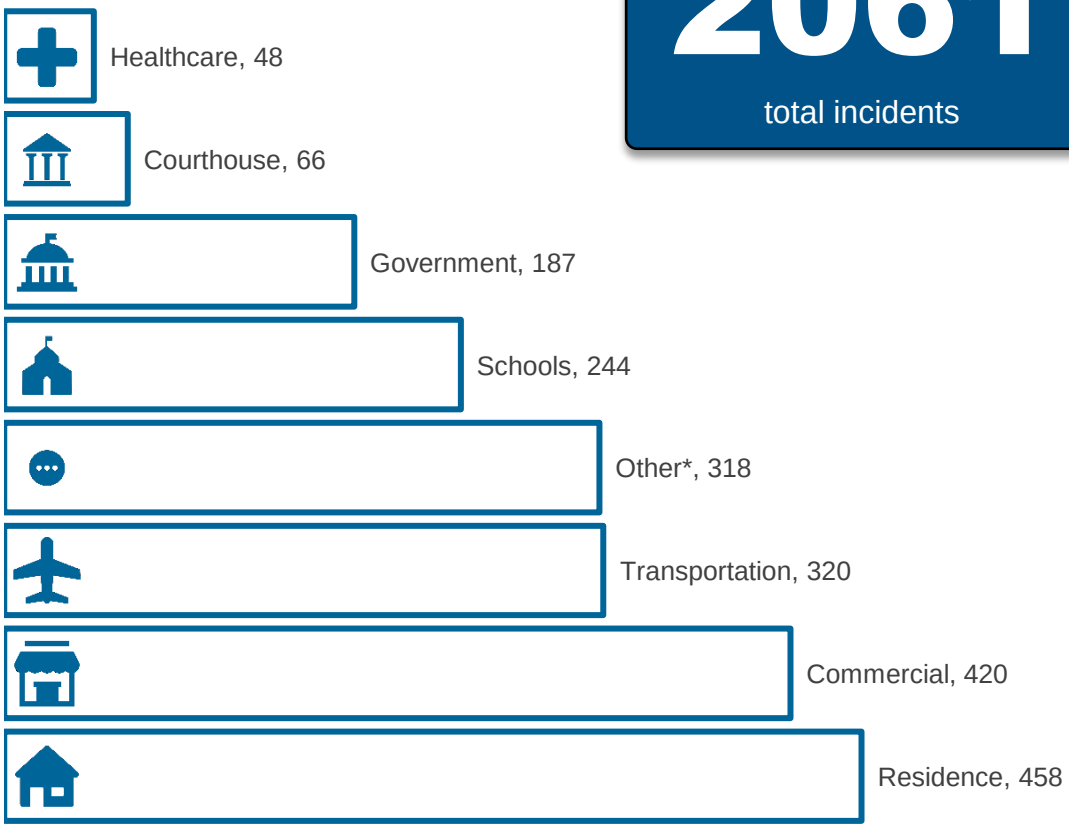
NATIONWIDE OVERVIEW

Incidents by Federal Region



Incidents by Infrastructure Type

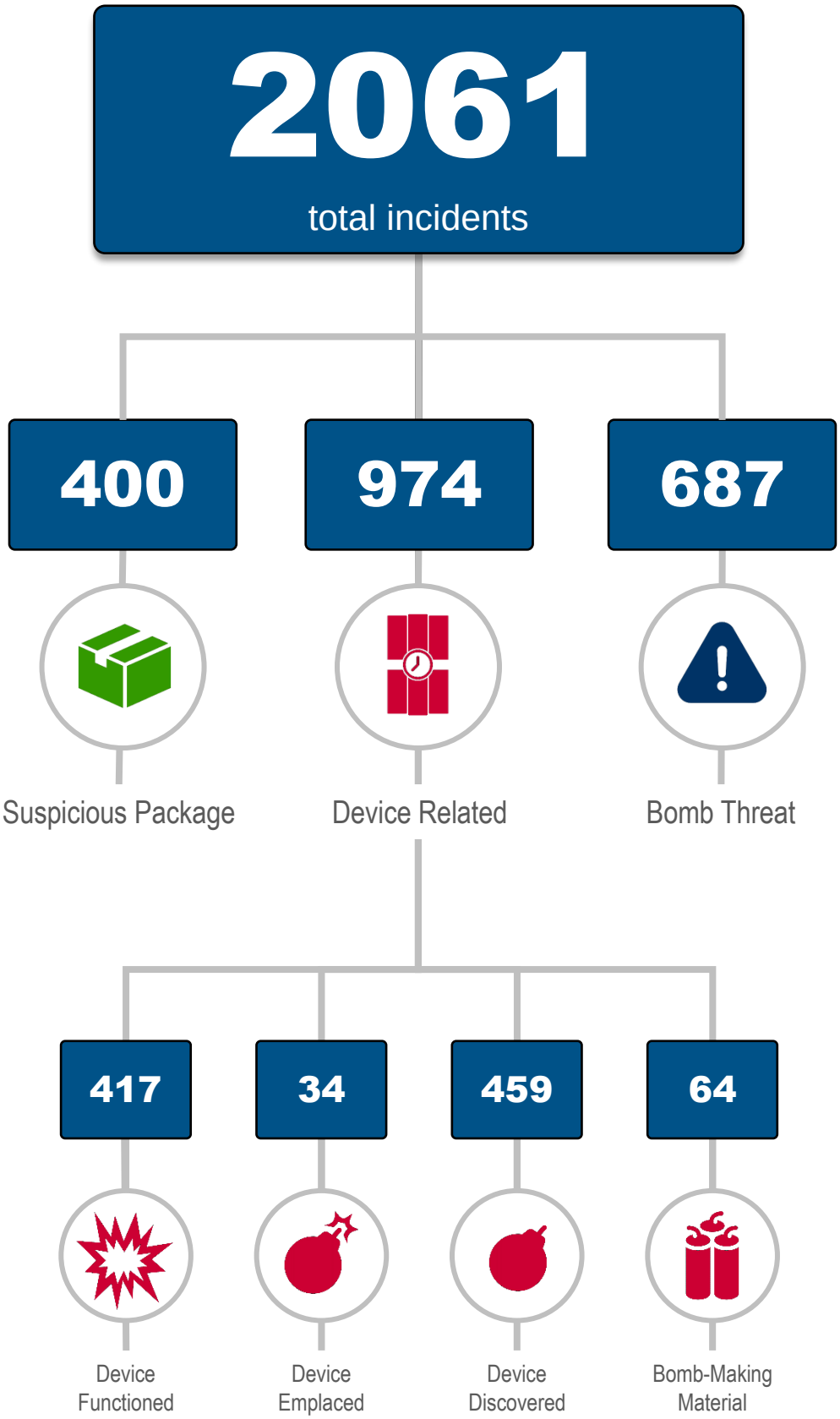
2061
total incidents



*See Index for a complete list of infrastructure sectors.

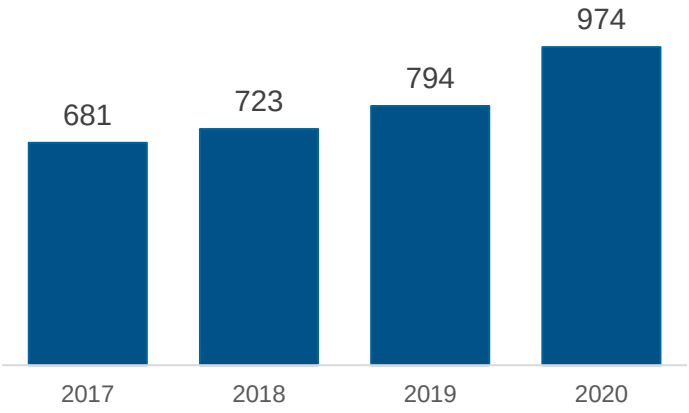
NATIONWIDE OVERVIEW

Total Incidents by Incident Type



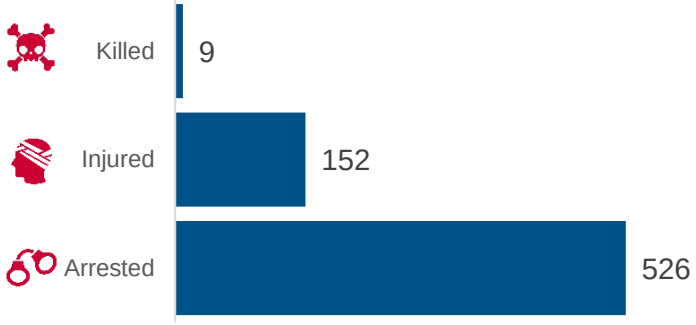
DEVICE RELATED

Device-Related Incident Totals



All device-related incidents increased 23.9% in 2020 compared to 2019, likely due in part to the increased use of devices, especially improvised incendiary devices (IIDs), during nationwide civil unrest that began in May 2020 and continued through October. Incident totals peaked in June during the civil unrest and continued at above-average levels throughout the summer and fall.

Notable Incident Outcomes



Incidents By Infrastructure

117 Commercial

14 Courthouse

73 Government

12 Healthcare

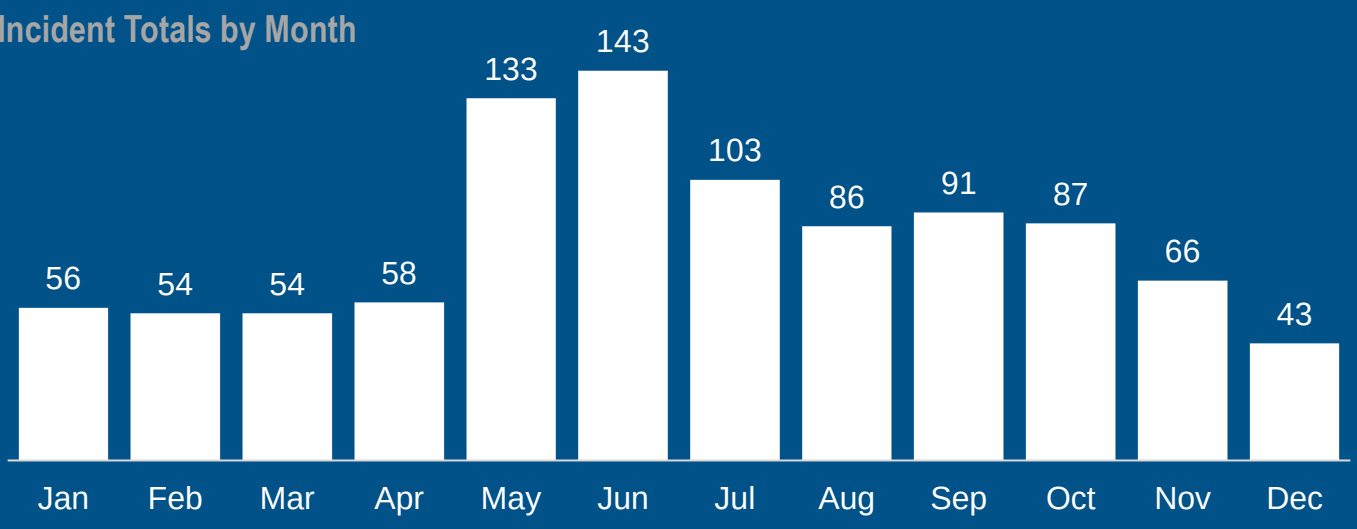
185 Other

380 Residence

11 Schools

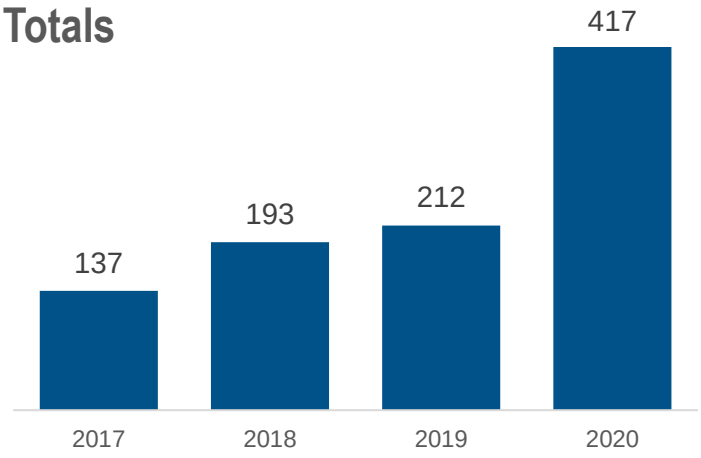
182 Transportation

Incident Totals by Month



DEVICE FUNCTIONED

Device Functioned Incident Totals



The number of incidents during which a device functioned increased 99.5% in 2020 compared to 2019, likely driven by the increased use of IIDs during nationwide civil unrest that began in May 2020 and continued through October. Monthly incident totals peaked in June during the civil unrest and continued at above-average levels throughout the summer and fall.

Notable Incident Outcomes

Incidents By Device Type

163 Incendiary

104 Pyrotechnic

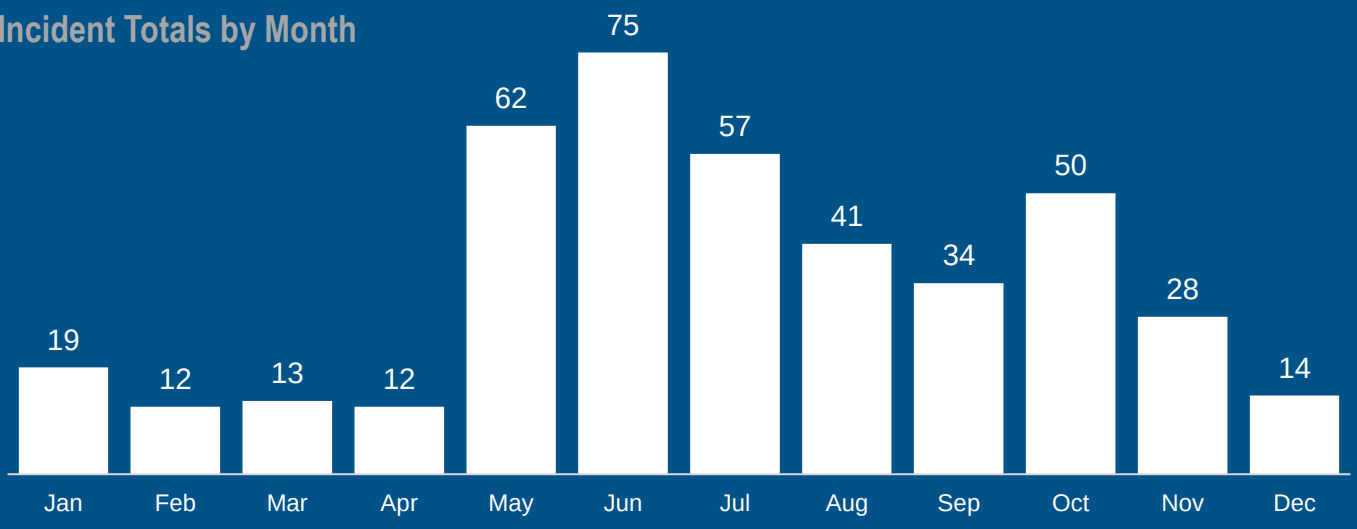
91 IED

43 Unknown

9 Pipe Bomb

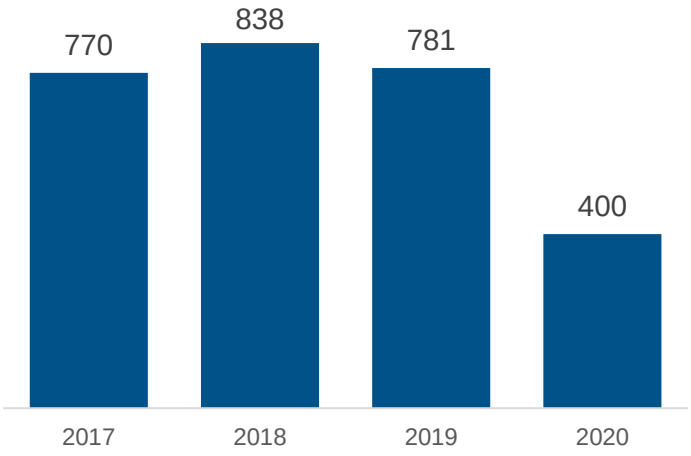
7 All Other

Incident Totals by Month



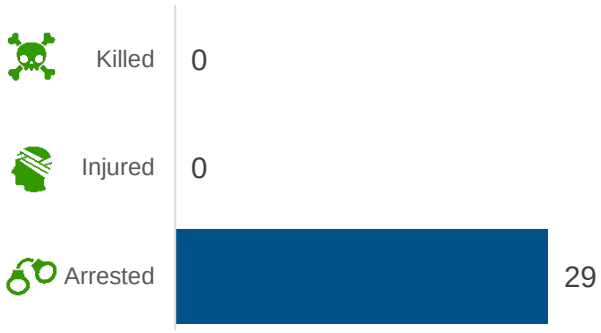
SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE

Suspicious Package Incident Totals



The number of reported suspicious packages declined 48.8% in 2020 from 2019, likely as a result of social and economic changes driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. With people spending less time in public, fewer suspicious packages were reported, and fewer packages that may prompt a law enforcement response were accidentally left behind.

Notable Incident Outcomes



Incidents by Infrastructure

97 Commercial

13 Courthouse

63 Government

5 Healthcare

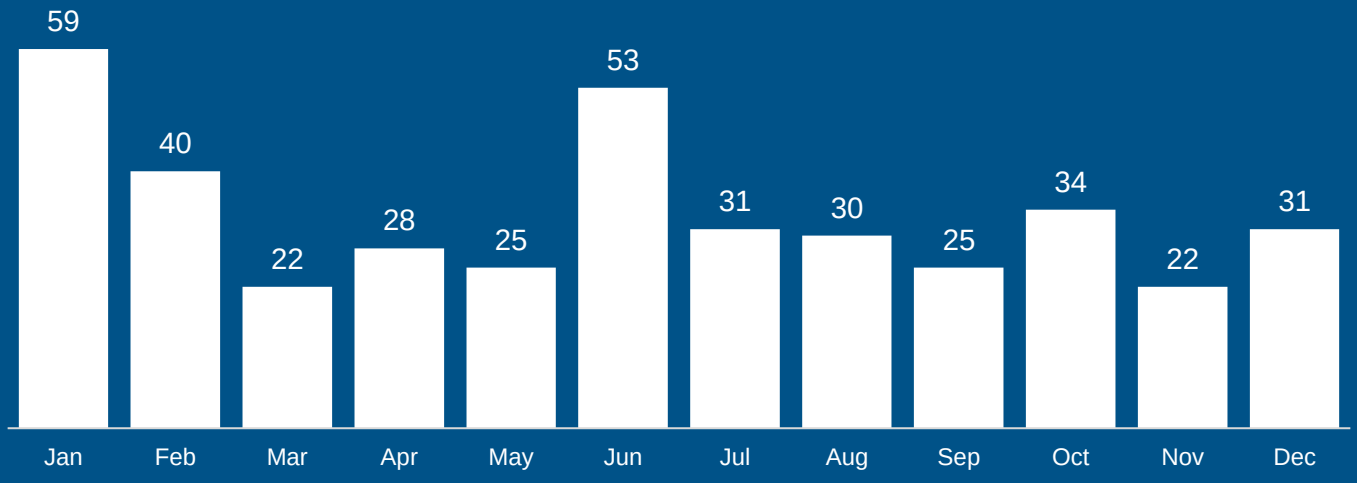
58 Other

48 Residence

10 Schools

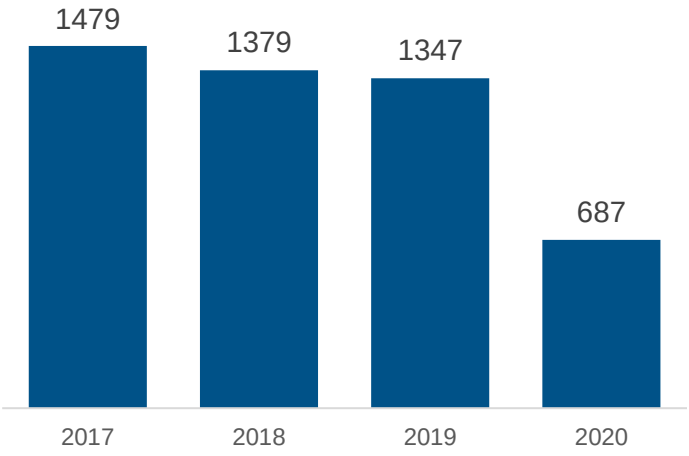
106 Transportation

Incident Totals by Month



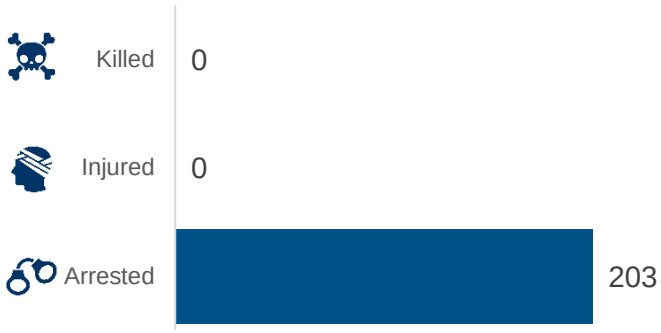
BOMB THREAT

Bomb Threat Incident Totals



The number of reported bomb threats declined 48.9% in 2020 from 2019, likely as a result of social and economic changes driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. With fewer schools and businesses operating, fewer targets were available to receive bomb threats.

Notable Incident Outcomes



Incidents by Infrastructure

206 Commercial

39 Courthouse

51 Government

31 Healthcare

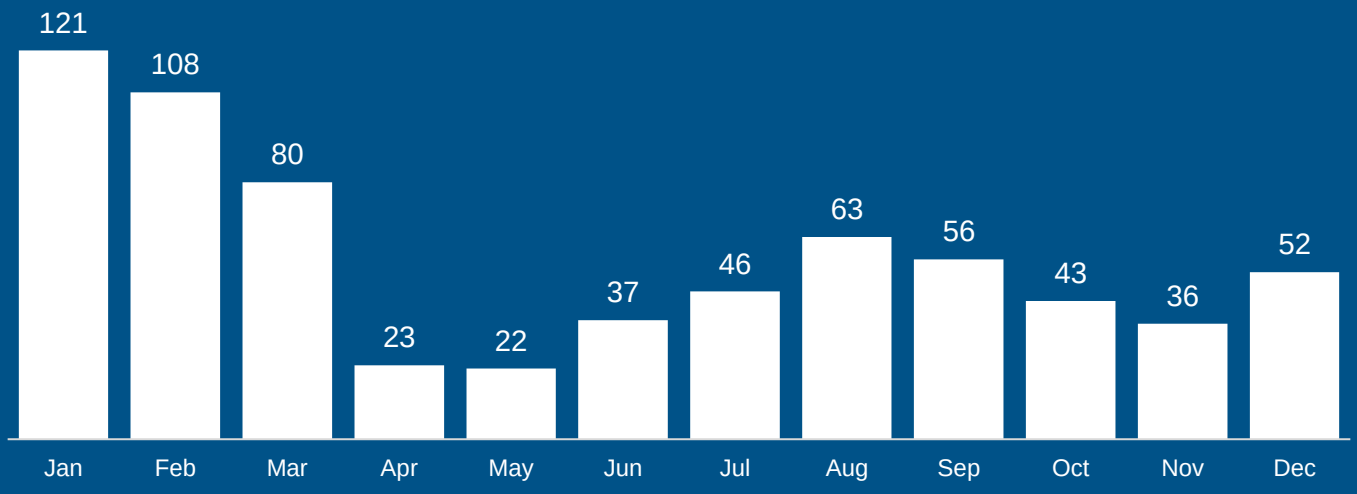
75 Other

30 Residence

223 Schools

32 Transportation

Incident Totals by Month



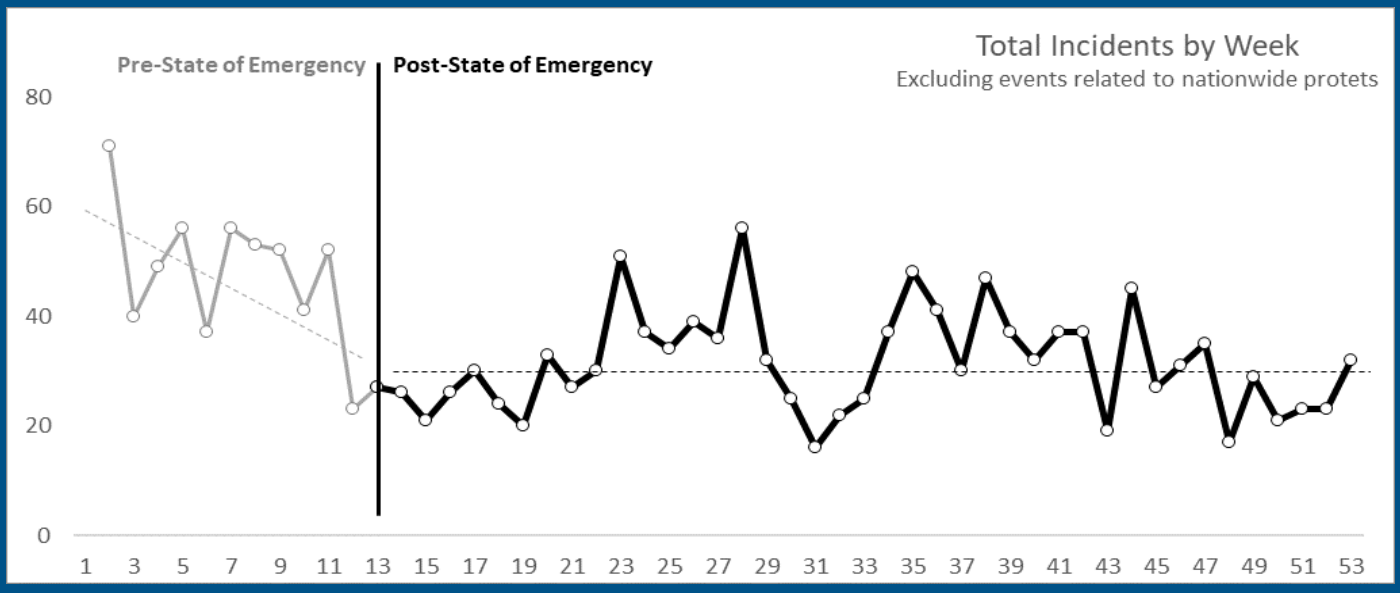
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SIGNIFICANT TREND: ADAPTING THREATS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered the domestic explosives-related threat environment. The pandemic impacted domestic violent extremist (DVE) tactics, targets, and messaging (see pg. 15). Foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) incorporated the pandemic and associated state responses in their publications to inspire homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) to act (see pg. 16).

The COVID-19 pandemic also altered law enforcement's operational environment by spurring a substantial decline in the number of reported bomb threats and suspicious packages, as highlighted by the chart below. COVID-19 likely drove the 48.9% decline from 2019 in bomb threats as fewer businesses and schools, the two most-affected infrastructure sectors according to historical trends, were operating. Consequently, the number of potential targets that could receive a bomb threat declined. Similarly, prospective perpetrators may have had fewer perceived reasons to issue a threat since fewer people were reporting to work and/or school.

The number of suspicious packages declined 48.8% from 2019 for similar reasons. With fewer people out in public spaces, fewer people were in a position to observe and report suspicious packages to law enforcement. At the opposite end of this trend, fewer people were positioned to accidentally leave behind an item or package that could be perceived as suspicious and prompt a law enforcement response.

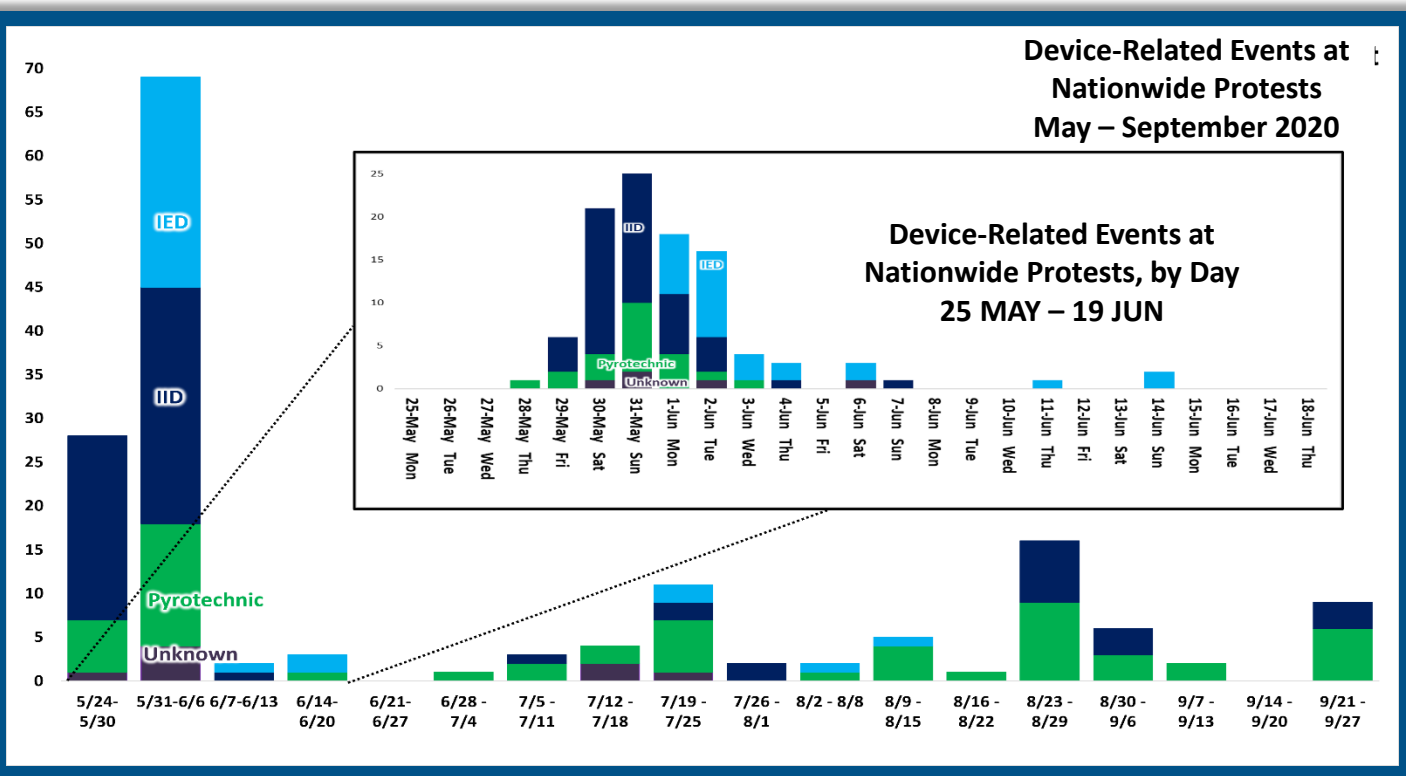


SIGNIFICANT TREND: TARGETING LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING CIVIL UNREST

Compared to prior years, 2020 saw a rise in attempted and successful attacks on law enforcement (LE) personnel and property, especially in the context of civil unrest that occurred nationwide throughout the summer and fall of 2020. These attacks often resulted in injured officers, and between May and September 2020, 1 officer was killed and 70 others were injured, often by IIDs or pyrotechnics. Over the roughly 5-month period of civil unrest, the device type employed by individuals targeting LE changed as overall levels of unrest declined from a peak in June.

Time:	IEDs	IIDs	Pyrotechnics	Unknown	Total
MAY-JUN	27 (25%)	54 (50%)	22 (20%)	5 (5%)	108
JUL-SEP	4 (6%)	18 (29%)	37 (60%)	3 (5%)	62
MAY-SEP	31 (18%)	72 (42%)	59 (35%)	8 (5%)	170

Overall, IIDs tended to be the most common device type, employed in 42% of all device-related incidents, but were far more common during the initial peak in May and June 2020 compared to the subsequent plateau. Pyrotechnic devices were the second most common (35%) but followed a different trend than IIDs, dramatically increasing in July through September. IEDs, including pyrotechnic devices modified with fragmentation enhancements, were third most common overall (18%) but, like IIDs, were much more common during early summer incidents and experienced a decline beginning in July.



SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS TARGETING LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING CIVIL UNREST

Source: Associated Press

30 May
An officer was struck by fragmentation and suffered second-degree burns when a soda-can sized pyrotechnic device detonated after it was thrown toward a group of officers in Charlotte, **North Carolina**.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice

31 May
A suspect emplaced 3 IIDs in Pittsburgh, **Pennsylvania,** near the site of protests. Authorities later discovered IID-associated components at the suspect's home. The suspect was arrested.

Source: KIRO7

19 July
Twelve officers were injured after individuals protesting threw multiple IEDs in Seattle, **Washington**. The devices were described as modified mortar-type pyrotechnics enhanced with metal BBs for fragmentation. One officer suffered serious neck lacerations from the fragmentation.

Source: Seattle Police Department

25 July
Three officers conducting crowd control operations in Seattle, **Washington,** were injured when a pyrotechnic device functioned near them. Throughout the evening, individuals threw pyrotechnic devices, bricks, and other projectiles at officers, injuring an additional 18.

Source: FOX29

27 July
Four police vehicles were significantly damaged after unknown individuals threw IIDs, described as Molotov cocktails, on or underneath the vehicles. Two of the incidents occurred directly outside of police stations in Philadelphia, **Pennsylvania**. No officers or civilians were injured.

Targeted Infrastructure

Emergency services (e.g., LE, first responders) and federal, state, and local government facilities were most often targeted during device-related incidents that occurred in the context of civil unrest.

Extremists Sought to Exploit Unrest

During these periods of civil unrest, DVEs across the ideological spectrum sought to exploit the unrest to provoke violence and further their individual ideological goals. Similarly, FTOs encouraged HVEs to capitalize on the unrest. For more on the development of DVE and HVE trends, see pg. 15 and 16, respectively.

Violent opportunists used the civil unrest as cover to orchestrate attacks against LE and critical infrastructure targets. These actors tended to be strongly anti-government and anti-LE but were not always committed to a broader violent extremist ideology.

Geographic Variances

While initial incidents involving civil unrest in May and June 2020 were widespread and nationwide, incidents became concentrated in **Oregon**, **Washington**, and **Wisconsin** as summer 2020 progressed. Between July and September 2020, of the device-related incidents connected to civil unrest identified by the TRIP*wire* OSINT Team, 74.2% of incidents occurred in those three states. Portland, **Oregon,** alone represented 37.1% of all incidents and 53.3% of all arrests.

SIGNIFICANT TREND: DVE PLOTS, ATTACKS INCREASE

Source: SITE Intelligence Group

24 March
FBI agents killed a suspect during a shootout in **Missouri** who was active in several RMVE* and WSE* circles after he plotted to target a Kansas City-area hospital with a time-delayed vehicle-borne IED (VBIED). The suspect specifically sought to attack a hospital because of the COVID-19 pandemic and had acquired 10 lb of urea and 60 lb of ammonium nitrate and another fertilizer that could be used to manufacture explosives.

Source: NBC News

6 June
Authorities arrested two suspects, including a 32-year-old active-duty U.S. Air Force sergeant, after a shootout that killed one sheriff's deputy and injured another in Santa Cruz, **California**. The two suspects ambushed the deputies with multiple IEDs and gunfire. The 32-year-old suspect allegedly wrote "Boog" in his blood before his arrest. Authorities seized multiple explosive devices from his home, as well as paraphernalia further linking him to the "Boogaloo" movement. The suspects are also believed to be connected to a 29 May murder of a Federal LE officer.

Source: KTNV News

30 May
Federal authorities arrested two military veterans and a U.S. Army reservist who attempted to bring IIDs and pyrotechnic devices to a protest in Las Vegas, **Nevada**. Authorities described the IIDs as glass bottles filled with gasoline and rags. The suspects also planned to modify pyrotechnic devices with aerosol cans as accelerant. The suspects self-identified as members of the "Boogaloo" movement.

Source: Associated Press

6 October
Federal and state authorities arrested a combined 14 suspects for their involvement in plotting to kidnap the Governor of **Michigan** in advance of the 2020 U.S. elections. FBI agents reported that members of the group sought to use explosives during the kidnapping and tested at least one IED comprising black powder, a fuse, balloons, and BBs for fragmentation while planning the attack.

A confluence of factors in 2020, including civil unrest, the COVID-19 pandemic, the re-emergence of conspiracy theories about government actions in DVE circles, and a surge in anti-government sentiment, led to a substantial increase in DVE attacks, plots, and messaging.

A wide array of DVEs sought to exploit the high level of civil unrest across the United States to further their ideological goals and spur followers to act. Many DVEs saw civil unrest as an opportunity to degrade public support for state institutions and accelerate the collapse of the state and/or society. DVE plots and attacks frequently targeted LE, government facilities, and critical infrastructure targets. Commercial infrastructure was also frequently targeted.

In addition to the civil unrest, DVEs' behavior was heavily influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and public health responses that were perceived by many DVEs as government overreach. DVE messaging consistently called for attacks on pandemic-related infrastructure, such as hospitals, that were seen as a new set of soft targets/crowded places. National and state responses to the pandemic may have helped fuel anti-government conspiracy theories and plots.

In 2020, DVE networks dramatically increased the sharing of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) and ideas internationally. These communications increasingly connected DVEs, especially racially and ethnically motivated violent extremists (RMVEs)*, with like-minded actors outside of the United States, creating avenues to exchange tactics and expertise.

*See Glossary for definitions.

SIGNIFICANT TREND: HVE ACTIVITIES DECLINE, MIRRORING GLOBAL TREND

Sources: News4SA, WACH Fox57

26 September
Authorities arrested two suspects, one from **South Carolina** and the other from **Texas**, after the pair plotted on an encrypted chat platform to orchestrate explosives- and/or firearms-based attacks against high-profile targets across the United States. The suspects researched VBIED and person-borne IED (PBIED) manufacturing and discussed traveling to Syria to join ISIS.

Source: SITE Intelligence Group

26 November
An al-Qaeda-aligned group published a guide, titled "Wolves of Manhattan," appealing to lone violent extremists operating in Western countries. The guide suggests using IIDs to leverage conditions created by the pandemic to launch attacks and calls on DVEs to target important government and private individuals such as military officers and business leaders.

Source: SITE Intelligence Group

December
A user published a 33-page guide in a pro-ISIS forum instructing "lone wolves" on how to manufacture an IED using a malleable triacetone triperoxide (TATP) paste explosive. The guide provides an overview on IED construction using a TATP paste main charge.

The number of attacks and plots perpetrated by HVEs declined in 2020, mirroring a broader global decline in terrorism. Restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic likely contributed to this trend. Consequently, as state restrictions ease and soft targets return to pre-pandemic capacities, HVE plots and attacks may increase and return to past levels.

Despite this decline, the United States continued to face a threat from HVEs resorting to violence in the name of FTOs, including the Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS), al-Qaeda, and other groups. Despite the decline, HVE activities continued, and FTOs continued to attempt to inspire attacks. Like DVEs, FTOs' messaging often focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, suggesting it supported their efforts to target Western countries and calling for HVEs to act in novel ways.

HVE Indicators:

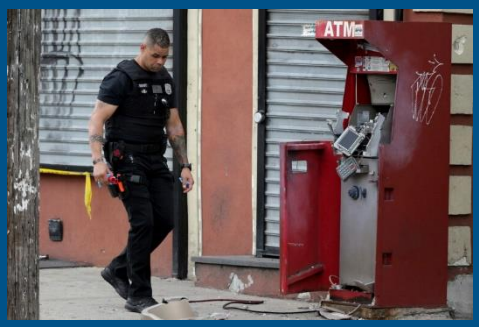
- Posting on the internet or social media sites public comments or links that promote FTOs or stating the desire to pursue acts of violence in the United States on behalf of FTOs.
- Communicating with known or suspected U.S.- or overseas-based violent extremists in person or on social media sites.
- Performing internet research for target selection and/or acquisition of technical capabilities, without a reasonable explanation, to plan for attacks in the United States.
- Conducting suspicious financial transactions to obtain the funds to acquire weapons, explosives, or precursors to build IEDs.

2020 Tactics, Techniques and Procedures

TTP: Explosive Attacks on ATMs Increased, Concentrated in Region 3

Explosive attacks on ATMs increased approximately 78.6% in 2020 from 2019, with many of the incidents occurring in the greater Philadelphia, **Pennsylvania,** region. According to open-source reporting, 56 attempted or successful ATM attacks occurred nationwide with 47 (83.9%) of those occurring in the greater Philadelphia area alone. While success rates are low, unsuccessful attacks may still result in casualties and property damage. At least one individual was killed in 2020 during an attempted attack.

Many of these incidents occurred during periods of civil unrest when LE and first responder resources may have been stretched thin. However, attacks continued as levels of civil unrest declined.



2 June 2020 Crime Scene
Source: Associated Press

ATM Attack Tactics

Criminal actors typically conduct explosive attacks on ATMs using the following methods:

- **Explosives:** Criminal actors have used a wide assortment of explosives, including pipe bombs and pyrotechnic devices, such as firecrackers and illegal M-1000 "quarter sticks," to attack ATMs.
- **Gas Overpressure:** A flammable gas such as propane or oxyacetylene is pumped into the ATM casing and then ignited, bursting open the ATM and allowing its contents to be accessed.

TTP: Anti-5G Conspiracy Theories Spread, Spur Attacks on Communications Infrastructure

At least 8 arson, 17 vandalism, and 2 explosive/incendiary device-related incidents targeting communications infrastructure occurred in the United States that may have been motivated by anti-5G conspiracy theories. Calls for such attacks increased in 2020 as these conspiracy theories, centered on false claims about 5G technology and reinforced by the COVID-19 pandemic, spread online.

11 June
Incident: Two IIDs functioned and a third was emplaced near cell towers in Fontana, **California**. The attack occurred five days after "Global 5G Protest Day," which authorities warned could incite attacks against infrastructure.
Suspected Motive: Given the timing of the attack, the suspect may have been motivated by 5G conspiracy theories.

Source: Fontana Police Department

Nashville VBIED Scene
Source: WKRN

25 December
Incident: A 63-year-old male suspect detonated a VBIED in downtown Nashville, **Tennessee,** outside a telecommunications data center.
Suspected Motive: While the suspect's motive remains unclear, he may have been motivated in part by anti-5G and other conspiracy theories. At the time of publication, the investigation was ongoing.

Trend: Gender Reveals Show Unpredictable Nature of Explosives

Accidents involving pyrotechnic devices at gender reveal celebrations continued in 2020, resulting in at least one death and millions of dollars in damages. 2020 marked the second instance in history in which a gender reveal accident caused a massive wildfire in **California**. Fire officials warn against the use of HMEs as well as commercially available options due to their unpredictable nature. This unfortunate trend is expected to continue in the future.

Source: CNN

Domestic Incident: Gender Reveal Sparks Wildfire
On 5 September 2020, smoke-emitting pyrotechnic device used during a gender reveal ceremony accidentally initiated the El Dorado Park wildfire in **California**. Similar pyrotechnic devices typically consist of long cylinders with a fuse that release a colored smoke after being ignited. The family hosting the party unsuccessfully attempted to extinguish the fire and cooperated with law enforcement. The fire killed one firefighter, injured 12 people, caused over $8 million in damages, and burned nearly 23,000 acres.

Trend: Use of Homemade Explosives (HMEs)

The use of HMEs by DVEs, HVEs, and criminals continued to be a trend in 2020, endangering LE and first responders. At least one DVE plot sought to manufacture ammonium nitrate/fuel oil (ANFO), possibly as an homage to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. In December 2020, a user posted a guide on a pro-ISIS forum detailing how to construct an IED using a malleable TATP paste.

BMAP
BOMB-MAKING MATERIALS AWARENESS PROGRAM

Domestic Incident: HME Found After Fire

On 15 September, the New York City Police Department and Fire Department responded to a fire at a residence and discovered a substantial quantity of BMM and books about military explosives and booby traps. Authorities also found 40 lb of potassium nitrate and undisclosed amounts of additional explosive precursor chemicals (EPCs), including magnesium powder, sulfur powder, copper powder, and aluminum powder, as well as hobby fuses and mixing cups. The 37-year-old male resident was arrested. Authorities say there is no indication the suspect was planning an attack.

Trend: UAS Threat Remains of Concern

Threats from unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) continued to be of concern in 2020. However, no explosives-related UAS incidents occurred in the United States.

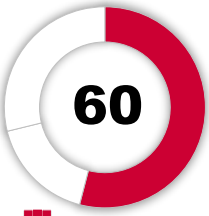
Internationally, weaponized UAS platforms continued to proliferate among violent non-state actors. Consumer UAS technology and capabilities continued to improve, heightening the potential risk posed by UAS to critical infrastructure and open-air crowded places.

International Incident – Mexico

On 17 August, self-defense militia members discovered two consumer-grade UAS abandoned by drug cartel gunmen after a firefight. Suspected C4, wires, and remote detonators were attached to the UAS.

Source: Forbes

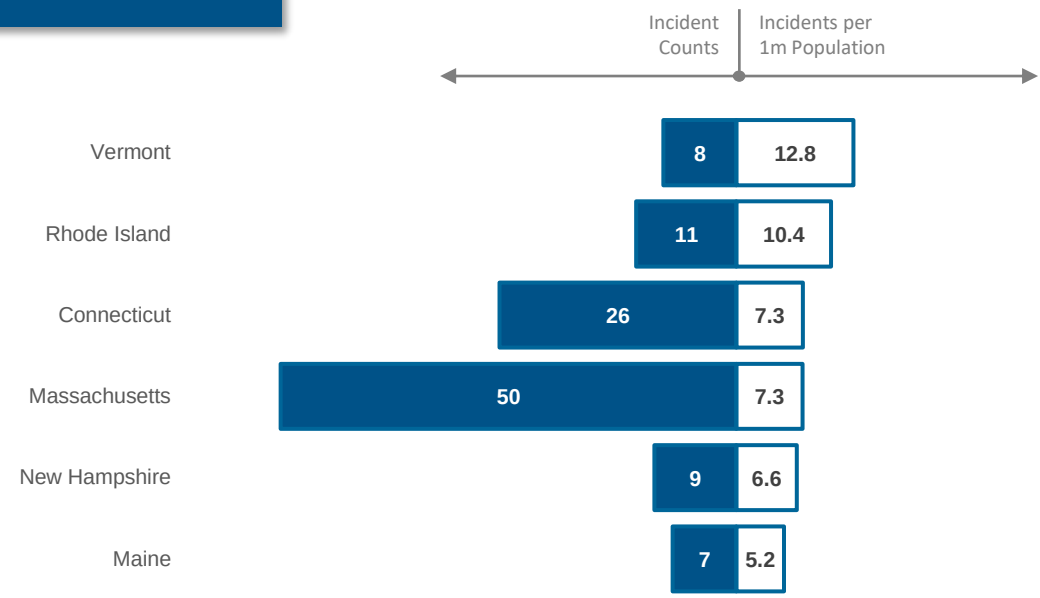
REGION 1



Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



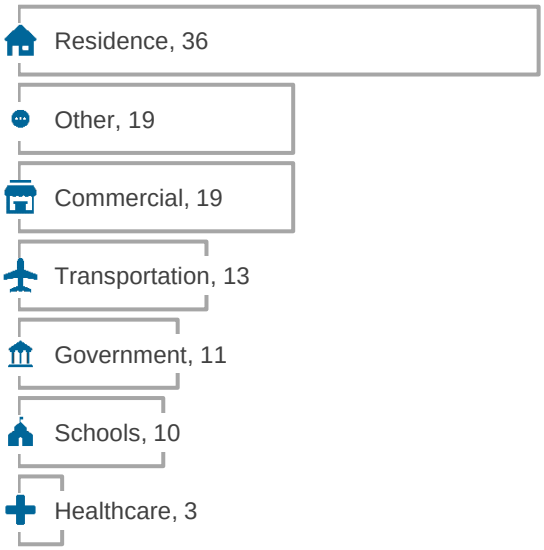
Region 1's total incidents declined, generally mirroring national trends during 2020 with the incident total falling 21.8% from 2019. Reported suspicious packages and bomb threats declined 62% and 39.6%, respectively. Device-related incidents increased 76.5%.

While Vermont and Rhode Island experienced higher incident totals when state populations were standardized, actual incident counts remained low in both states.

0 Killed

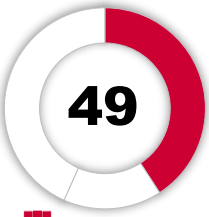
8 Injured

29 Arrested



Region 1		National
111	Total Events	2,061
54%	Device Related	47%
1:14	Causality Rate	1:13
1:4	Arrest Rate	1:3

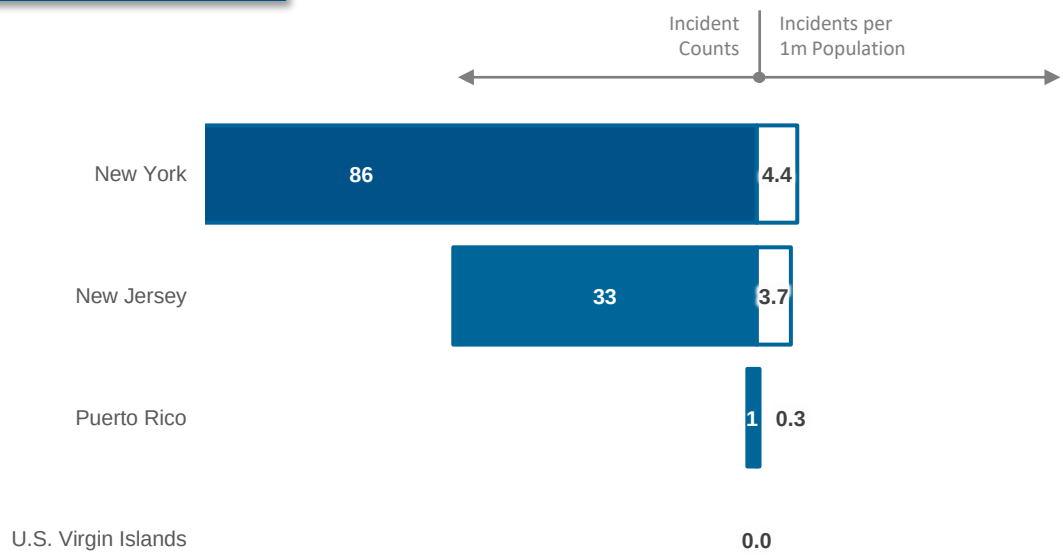
REGION 2



Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



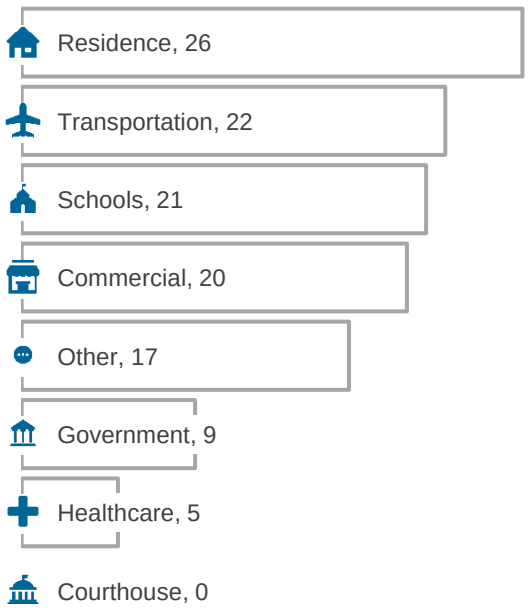
Region 2 generally mirrored national trends during 2020, experiencing a 46.7% decline in total incidents compared to 2019. Suspicious packages and bomb threats declined 67.2% and 56.7%, respectively. Device-related incidents increased 14% in Region 2 compared to 2019, a smaller increase than the national average of 23.9%.

2020 was the second straight year without a recorded incident in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

0 Killed

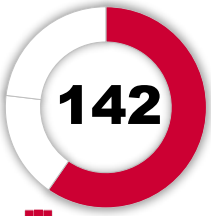
11 Injured

69 Arrested



Region 2		National
120	Total Events	2,061
41%	Device Related	47%
1:11	Causality Rate	1:13
1:2	Arrest Rate	1:3

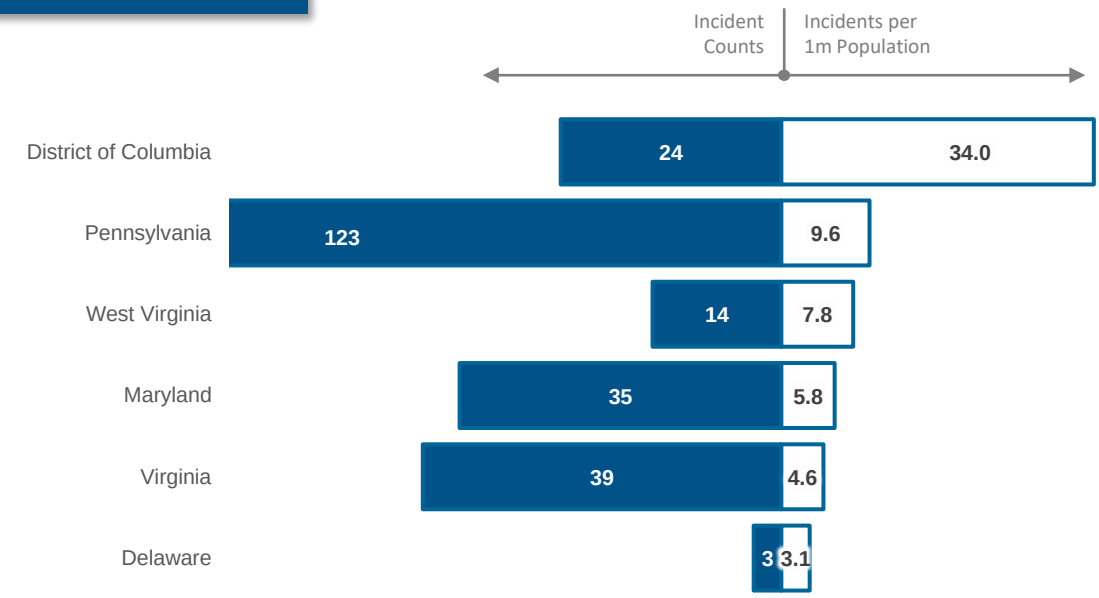
REGION 3



Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



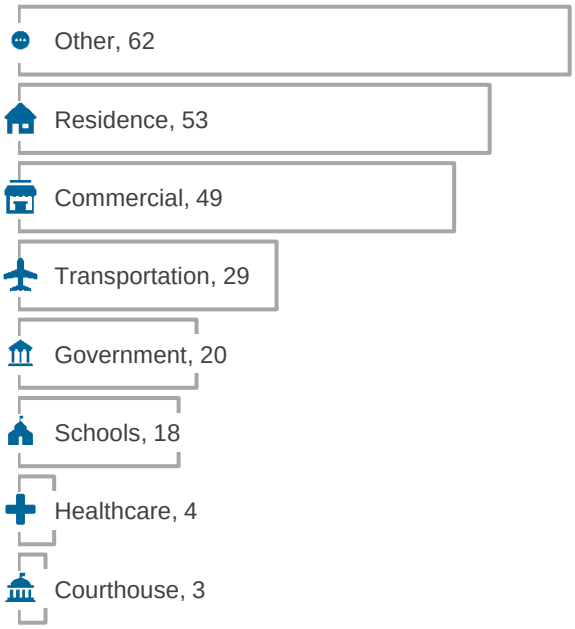
Region 3 experienced a substantial rise in device-related incidents (105.8%) which was far greater than the national average, 23.9%. Suspicious packages and bomb threats declined 51.8% and 68%, respectively. Region 3 experienced significantly more device-related incidents (60%) than the national average (47%). Region 3 also featured a higher casualty rate but a lower arrest rate compared to national averages.

Washington, DC, experienced significantly more incidents per capita than the rest of Region 3, relatively in line with historical trends due to the city serving as a focal point for protests and civil unrest.

2 Killed

37 Injured

67 Arrested



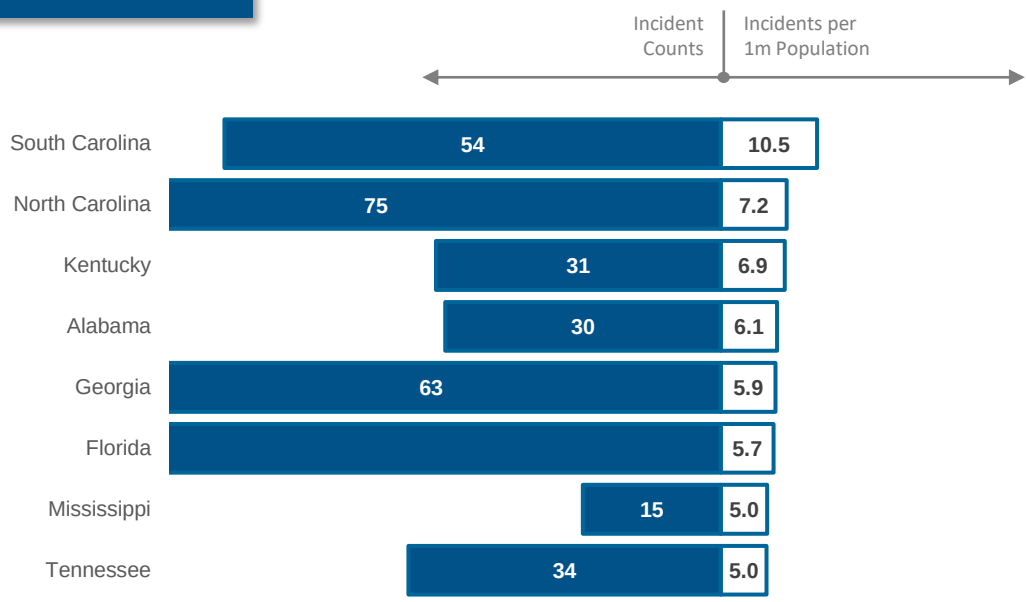
Region 3		National
238	Total Events	2,061
60%	Device Related	47%
1:6	Causality Rate	1:13
1:4	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 4

Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



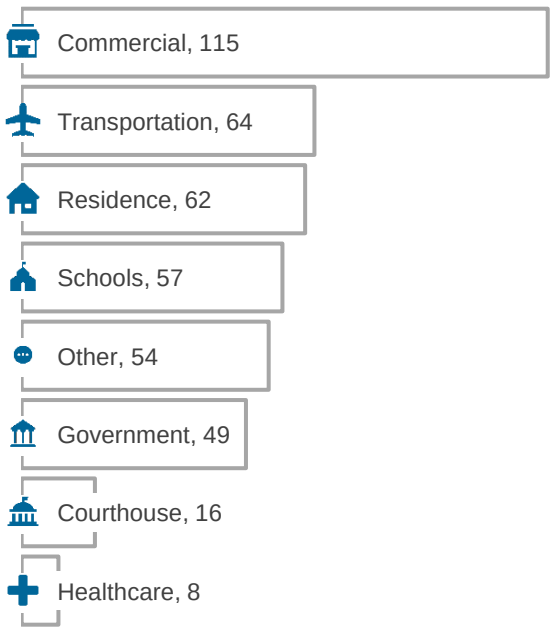
Region 4 remained the most active region in the United States but experienced a 19.4% decline in total incidents. All three categories mirrored nationwide trends. Device-related incidents increased by 28.2%, but still only composed 35% of all incidents in the region compared to the national average, 47%. Region 4's casualty rate was also below the national average.

Suspicious packages and bomb threats incidents fell by 54.5% and 41.2%, respectively.

1 Killed

17 Injured

132 Arrested



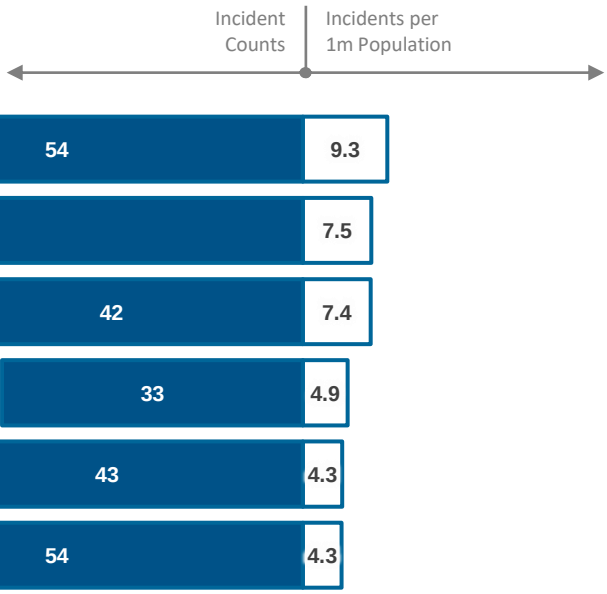
Region 4		National
425	Total Events	2,061
35%	Device Related	47%
1:24	Causality Rate	1:13
1:3	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 5

Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



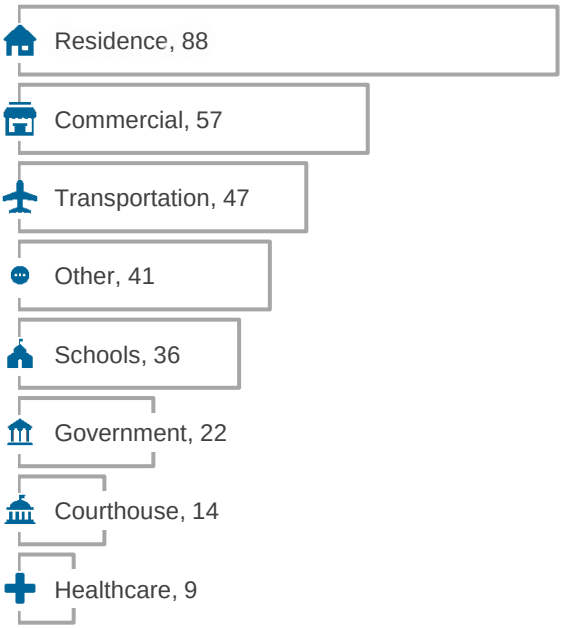
Region 5 continued to be the second-most active region in the country and broadly mirrored national trends, experiencing a 35.8% decline in total incidents. Device-related incidents increased 26.2%, and suspicious packages and bomb threats declined by 57.7% and 55.3%, respectively.

Region 5's casualty rate was substantially below the national average. The arrest rate, by contrast, was higher.

1 Killed

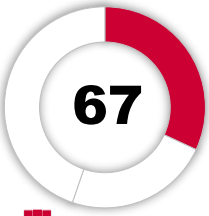
10 Injured

135 Arrested



Region 5		National
314	Total Events	2,061
52%	Device Related	47%
1:29	Causality Rate	1:13
1:2	Arrest Rate	1:3

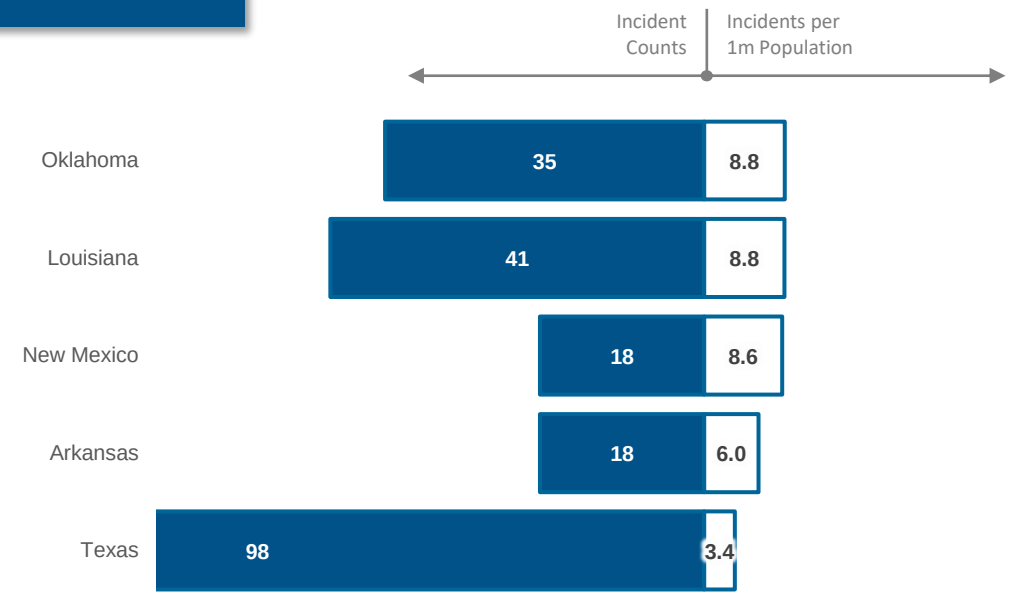
REGION 6



Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat

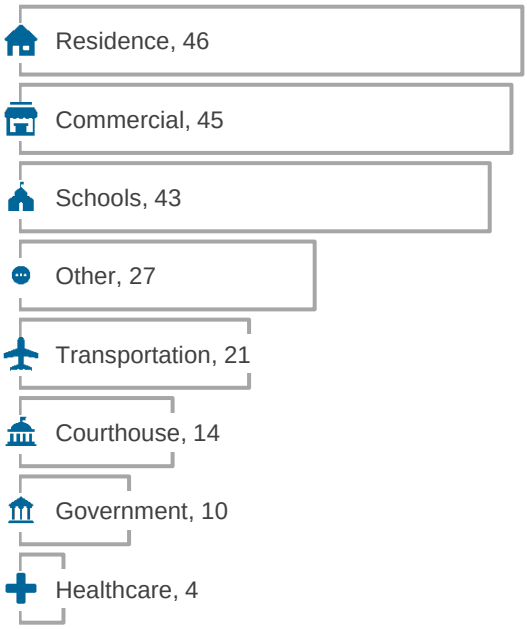


Region 6's incident total declined 33.3% compared to 2019. The region mirrored national trends for suspicious packages (-40.2%) and bomb threats (-42.3%). In contrast to national trends for device-related incidents, Region 6 experienced a slight increase of 6.3% compared to a national increase of 22.7%. Region 6 also experienced proportionally fewer device-related incidents (32%) compared to the national average (47%).

0 Killed

7 Injured

75 Arrested



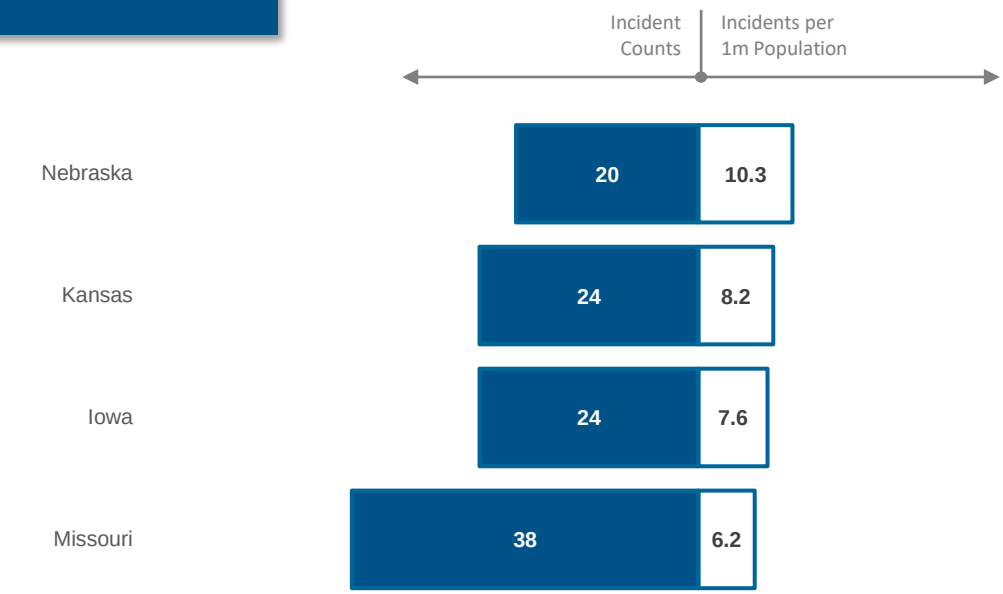
Region 6		National
210	Total Events	2,061
32%	Device Related	47%
1:30	Causality Rate	1:13
1:3	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 7

Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



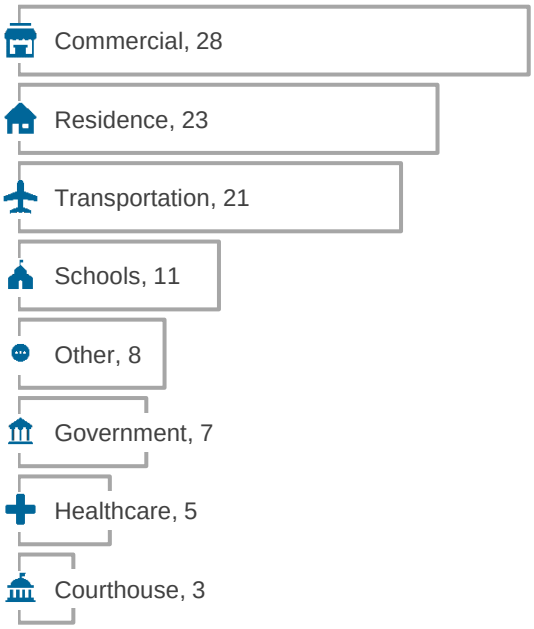
Region 7 experienced a 66.3% decline in total incidents. It is the only region to feature a decline in device-related incidents (-10.7%). Suspicious package incidents declined 57.1% and bomb threat incidents declined slightly to 18%, a much smaller decline than the national average of 49%.

Region 7 experienced a lower casualty rate but a higher arrest rate compared to national averages.

1 Killed

3 Injured

61 Arrested



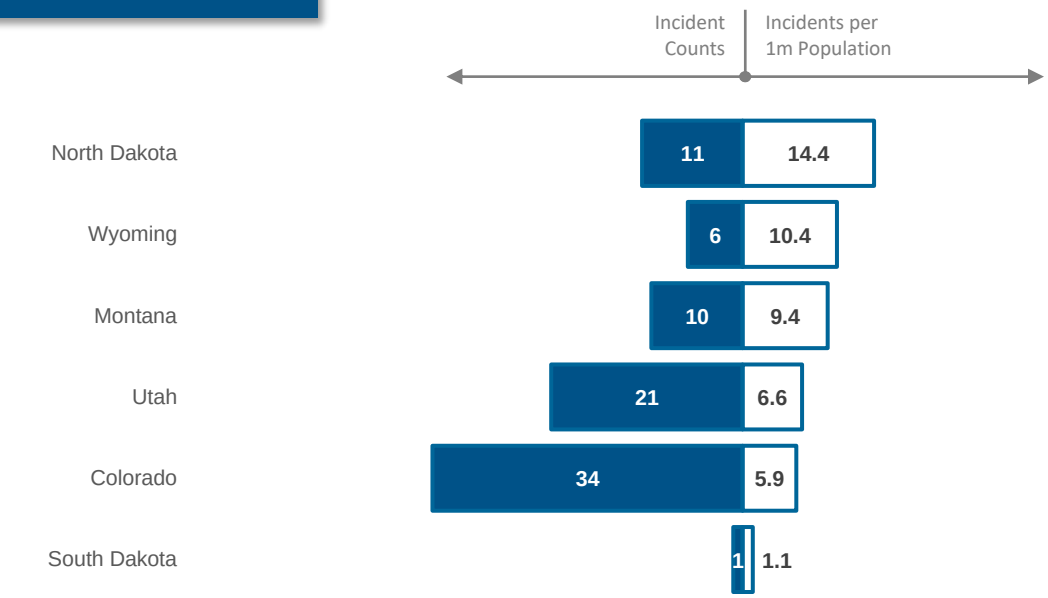
Region 7		National
106	Total Events	2,061
47%	Device Related	47%
1:27	Causality Rate	1:13
1:2	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 8

Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat



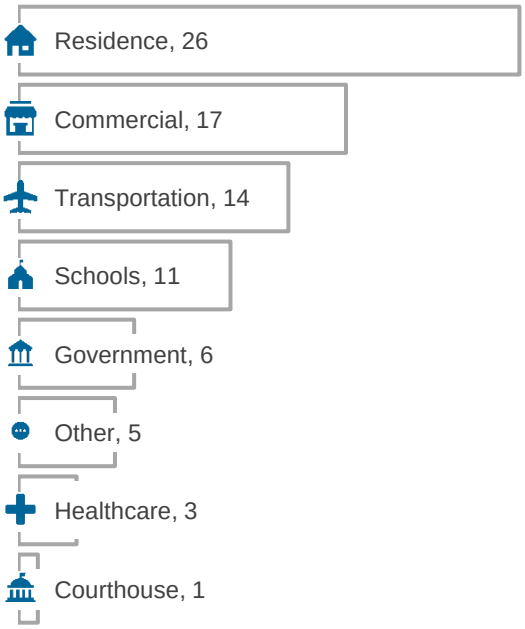
Region 8's incident total declined 37.6% compared to 2019. Device-related incidents increased 25.8% while reported suspicious packages and bomb threats declined 40% and 63.5%, respectively.

Region 8 experienced a lower casualty rate but higher arrest rate compared to national averages.

0 Killed

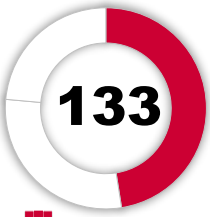
5 Injured

34 Arrested



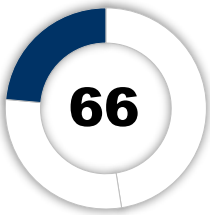
Region 8		National
83	Total Events	2,061
47%	Device Related	47%
1:17	Causality Rate	1:13
1:2	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 9

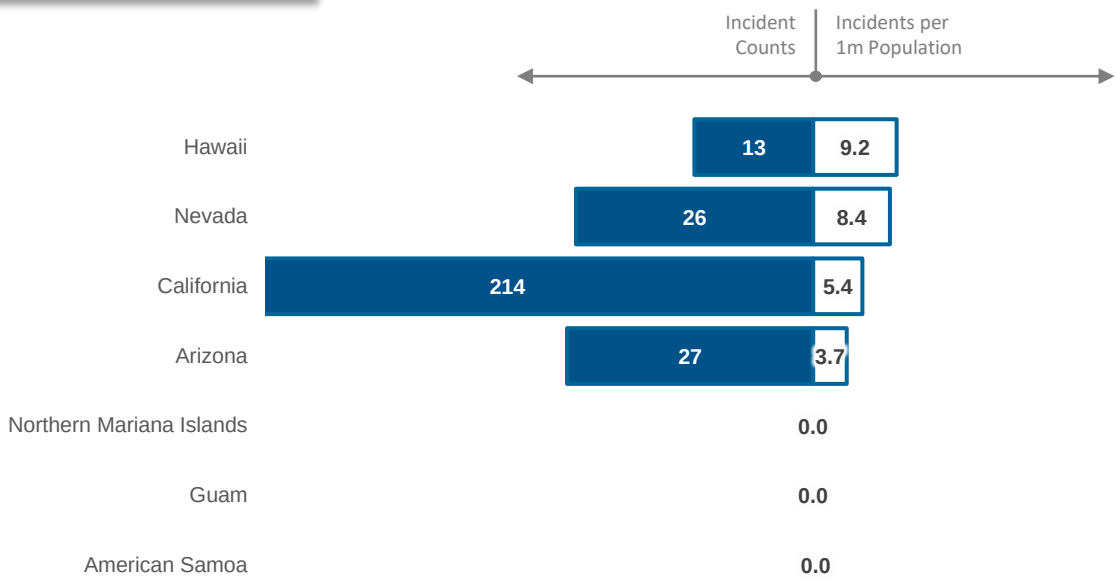


Device Related

Suspicious Package



Bomb Threat



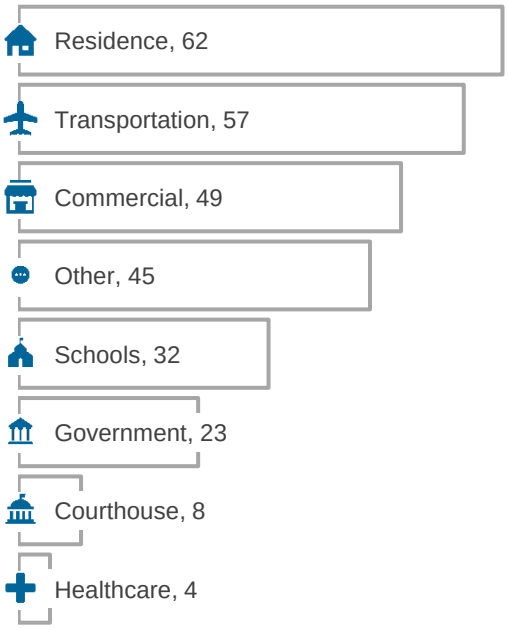
Region 9's incident total declined 19.8% compared to 2019. Device-related incidents increased 16.7% while reported suspicious packages and bomb threats declined by 36.7% and 32.7%, respectively.

Both the casualty and arrest rates were similar or identical compared to national averages.

1 Killed

16 Injured

81 Arrested



Region 9		National
280	Total Events	2,061
48%	Device Related	47%
1:16	Causality Rate	1:13
1:3	Arrest Rate	1:3

REGION 10

Device Related

Suspicious Package

Bomb Threat

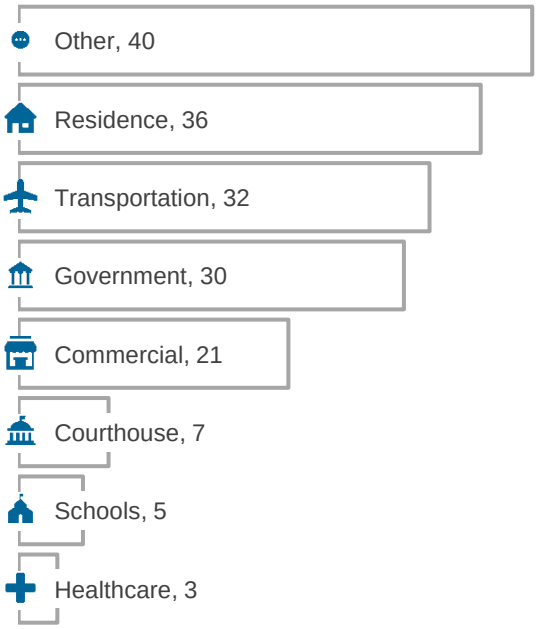
Region 10's total incidents increased 20.8%, the only region to experience more incidents in 2020 than 2019. This increase was likely caused by a high number of device-related incidents perpetrated by violent extremists and opportunists during periods of civil unrest that occurred in Oregon and Washington during summer 2020. Supporting this conclusion, 69% of the region's incidents were device-related, far higher than the national average.

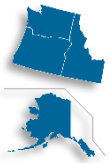
The number of reported suspicious packages remained unchanged from 2019, the only region not to experience a decline. Bomb threats declined 59.6%, mirroring national trends.

3 Killed

38 Injured

75 Arrested





Region 10		National
174	Total Events	2,061
69%	Device Related	47%
1:4	Causality Rate	1:13
1:2	Arrest Rate	1:3

2020 TRIP*wire* REPORTS

The following TRIP*wire* products were published in calendar year 2020 and provide additional information to augment the significant trends and TTPs referenced in this report. TRIP*wire* open-source reports and related products are available at no cost to registered TRIP*wire* users. To register for an account, go to the TRIP*wire* login page at **tripwire.dhs.gov** and select "**Register Now**."

Extremist Threat Reports (ETRs)

- **DVE's Explosives-Related Tactics Influenced by COVID-19 and Increasing Internationalization of TTPs and Networks** examines the influence of several factors on DVEs' behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic: DVEs seeking to advance their cause by attacking COVID-19-related targets; the increasing internationalization of DVE networks and tactics; and the re-emergence of conspiracy theories about government actions in DVE circles. The pandemic has inspired plots as well as a wave of calls for action by DVEs on social media, so the product focuses on calls for attacks using IED-related TTPs to attack critical infrastructure and soft targets/crowded places.
- **DVEs Sharing HME and IED Instructions Online to Increase Capabilities** provides awareness for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial (FSLTT) first responders and LE by highlighting potential risks posed by DVEs sharing instructions on HME synthesis and IED construction via encrypted messaging systems, online forums, and the Dark Web.
- **The Al-Saqri Foundation for Military Sciences: Explosive Water-Timer** provides summary information and analysis on a one-page guide distributed by the Al-Saqri Foundation that provides a list of materials and instructions on how to make a time displacement firing switch with readily available items. This guide was produced in English and appears to be republished and rebranded from a book that contains instructions for manufacturing explosives. This ETR is part of a series summarizing and analyzing the Al-Saqri Foundation's various publications.
- **The Book of Terror: A Guide to Strike Terror in the Hearts of the Kuffar of the West** provides summary information and analysis of a 2015 ISIS-aligned how-to manual for "lone wolf" attackers in Western countries, which was republished in April 2019. The manual acknowledges CISA's Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) and its explosives-related awareness campaign for the private sector. This ETR provides FSLTT first responders and LE with information on how would-be attackers might implement best practices to evade detection.
- **Wolves of Manhattan: Holiday Threat in the Time of COVID-19** provides followers in the West with attack suggestions during the holidays that capitalize on restrictions in place to combat the spread of COVID-19. This ETR is intended to highlight the incendiary- or explosives-related TTPs called for in the Wolves publication for CISA and FSLTT stakeholders, as they may be faced with similar TTPs in the course of their duties.

Emergency Responder Notes (ERNs)

Emergency Responder Notes (ERNs) are designed to serve as reference aids and are intended to increase situational awareness for those who may encounter potentially hazardous devices, compounds, and/or chemicals.

- **AN – Ammonium Nitrate**
- **ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate/Fuel Oil**
- **AN/Al – Ammonium Nitrate/Aluminum Powder**
- **UHP – Urea Hydrogen Peroxide**

TRIP*wire* Awareness Bulletins (TABs)

TRIP*wire* Awareness Bulletins (TABs), a new report format released in 2020 by the TRIP*wire* OSINT Team, seek to inform the TRIP*wire* community, LE, first responders, and State and local authorities on explosives and explosives-related TTPs.

- **December 2020 Nashville VBIED Attack: Incident Snapshot and Security Considerations** provides information on the VBIED incident that occurred in Nashville, Tennessee, on 25 December 2020. This report is intended to provide FSLTT and private sector partners with information on the incident, its impacts, and relevant OBP resources.
- **Explosives-Related Extortion Attempts: January 2018 – April 2020** provides situational awareness to CISA and FSLTT stakeholders on device-related and bomb threat incidents that occurred January 2018 – April 2020 and were linked to threats in exchange for financial gains.
- **IED, IID, Pyrotechnic Incidents During Nationwide Protests: May – June 2020** provides situational awareness to CISA and FSLTT stakeholders on IED, IID, and pyrotechnic-related incidents from 25 May 2020 to 30 June 2020 during mass demonstrations across the United States that began in Minneapolis, Minnesota, following the death of an African-American man in police custody on 25 May.
- **IED, IID, Pyrotechnic Incidents During Nationwide Protests: July – September 2020** provides information on IED, IID, and pyrotechnic-related incidents from 1 July 2020 through 30 September 2020 during mass demonstrations across the United States that began in Minneapolis, Minnesota, following the death of an African-American man in police custody on 25 May. This is the follow-up to the earlier TAB that covered IED/IID/pyrotechnic incidents from 25 May 2020 to 30 June 2020.
- **IED Incident Report: January 2016 – December 2019** provides information and analysis on TTPs used by malicious actors in domestic and international explosives-related incidents. This product is intended to provide situational awareness to CISA and FSLTT stakeholders and covers IED incidents from January 2016 through December 2019 with a focus on synthesized HME incidents captured within open-source reporting.
- **Violent Opportunists and Violent Extremists Seeking to Leverage Civil Unrest in the United States** is designed as a complement to the TAB "IED-IID-Pyrotechnic Incidents During Nationwide Protests" and is intended to provide CISA and FSLTT stakeholders information on violent extremists and violent opportunists using or calling for the use of civil unrest as cover for IED, IID, or pyrotechnics-related attacks against LE and critical infrastructure targets.

Requests for Information (RFIs)

Submit a request for information (RFI) to the TRIP*wire* OSINT Team directly through TRIP*wire*. This feature is available to all registered users, who can request tailored C-IED-related information in multiple formats.

RFI Form: **tripwire.dhs.gov/contact-us/ask-expert-request-information-form**

INDEX

The Incident Types used in this report are defined as follows:

- **Bomb-Making Material**: Materials commonly associated with IEDs, but which were not assembled into a functional device at the time of discovery; this category includes both discoveries and thefts.
- **Bomb Threat**: An intentionally false claim of the presence of a bomb at a certain location.
- **Device Discovered**: The discovery of a hazardous device before the device was emplaced at the targeted location.
- **Device Emplaced**: The discovery of a hazardous device emplaced at a targeted location.
- **Device Functioned**: A hazardous device functioned.
- **Suspicious Package Discovered**: The discovery/examination of an ultimately non-hazardous package.

The Infrastructure Categories listed in this report are primarily derived from the Critical Infrastructure Sectors. They are as follows:

Chemical
Commercial/Retail
Communications
Critical Manufacturing
Dams
Defense Industrial Base
Emergency Services
Energy
Food and Agriculture
Financial Services

Government Facilities
- Courthouse
- Federal
- State
- Local
- National Monuments
- Parks
- Schools

Healthcare and Public Health
Information Technology
Nuclear
Transportation Systems
Water
Non-Critical Infrastructure
- Other (e.g., faith-based facilities)
- Postal and Shipping
- Private Residence

The Federal Regions used I this report are as follows:

Region 1	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Region 2	New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands
Region 3	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia
Region 4	Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
Region 5	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin
Region 6	Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
Region 7	Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
Region 8	Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming
Region 9	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, American Samoa, Guam, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
Region 10	Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

GLOSSARY

- **Anti-Government Extremist:** A person or group that facilitates or engages in unlawful acts of violence directed at federal, state, or local law enforcement, other government officials, critical infrastructure, or government facilities in order to affect the conduct of a government or influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion, in response to their belief that their liberties are being taken away by the perceived unconstitutional or otherwise illegitimate actions of government officials or law enforcement.

- **Bomb-Making Materials (BMM):** Components that are 1) part of an IED or improvised weapon system; 2) tools required to produce the components; or 3) precursors to the manufacture of IED components, to include explosives.

- **Boogaloo:** A term used by some domestic terrorist actors to refer to the start of a second Civil War driven by perceptions of Government overreach, including related to firearms legislation, or a race war driven by white supremacist extremism. Domestic terrorist actors who may adhere to this idea include some militia extremists, white supremacist extremists, and other anti-government extremists.

- **Chemical Pressure Bomb:** Uses overpressure based on a chemical reaction to create an explosive effect, e.g., bottle bomb and Drano bomb.

- **Commercial Explosives:** Produced and used for commercial, industrial, or recreational applications, e.g., C4 and dynamite.

- **Domestic Violent Extremist (DVE):** An individual based and operating primarily within the United States or its territories without direction or inspiration from a foreign terrorist group or other power who seeks to further political or social goals wholly or in part through unlawful acts of force or violence.

- **Explosive Precursor Chemicals (EPCs):** Chemicals that can be used, through blending or chemical reaction, to produce HMEs.

- **Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO)*:** Foreign organizations that are designated by the Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended.

- **Hoax Device:** Device specifically fabricated to resemble and intended to simulate an IED, or a false warning of the presence of an IED, in order to elicit a response.

- **Homegrown Violent Extremist (HVE):** A person of any citizenship who has lived and/or operated primarily in the United States or its territories who advocates, is engaged in, or is preparing to engage in ideologically motivated terrorist activities in furtherance of political or social objectives promoted by an FTO, but is acting independently of direction by an FTO

- **Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** A device fabricated in an improvised manner that incorporates destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and is designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract, which may incorporate military equipment or ordnance but is normally devised from non-military components.

- **Improvised Incendiary Device (IID):** A device with chemical mixtures and flammable liquids that is designed to cause fire or start fires, e.g., Molotov cocktails and firebombs.

GLOSSARY

- **Militia Extremist:** Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at federal, state, or local government officials or infrastructure in response to their belief that the government is deliberately stripping Americans of their freedoms and is attempting to establish a totalitarian regime.

- **Ordnance:** Military-grade munitions that include projectiles, grenades, rockets, etc.

- **Person-Borne IED (PBIED):** A device that is worn, carried, or housed by a person, either willingly or unwillingly, and includes suicide vests/belts, etc.

- **Pipe Bomb:** An IED concealed or confined within a sealed tube, such as PVC or metal piping or cardboard tubing.

- **Pyrotechnic Device:** A device composed of materials capable of undergoing self-contained and self-sustained chemical reactions to produce heat, light, gas, smoke, and/or sound, e.g., fireworks and flares.

- **Racially/Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism (RMVE):** Encompasses the potentially unlawful use or threat of force or violence, in furtherance of political and/or social agendas, which are deemed to derive from bias—often related to race or ethnicity—held by the actor against others, including a given population group.

- **Unknown:** Unidentified event that is not a suspicious package or bomb threat.

- **Vehicle-Borne IED (VBIED):** An IED integrated into a vehicle with an intent to strike external targets.

- **White Supremacist Extremist (WSE):** Groups or individuals who facilitate or engage in acts of unlawful violence directed at the Federal Government, ethnic minorities, or Jewish persons in support of their belief that Caucasians are intellectually and morally superior to other races and their perception that the government is controlled by Jewish persons.

Explosives-related definitions are derived from the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Technical Exploitation Lexicon, 5th Edition, 15 May 2017

Extremist-related definitions are derived from the DHS Lexicon Terms and Definitions, 2017 Edition – Revision 2, 16 October 2017

**Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) is derived from the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism definition*

CONTACT

Questions, feedback, and/or comments regarding the 2020 Regional Domestic OSINT IED Report can be directed to the TRIP*wire* Help Desk at tripwirehelp@dhs.gov or by selecting the "Contact Us" tab at the top of the TRIP*wire* homepage.