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How to Behave in a Terrorist Attack

Terrorism is a struggle that makes intentional use of violence against civilians to achieve political gains, using methods designed to undermine public morale. Terrorist organizations use every means at their disposal to stage deadly attacks intended to sow terror within a much larger segment of the population than the one that was targeted, affect the public agenda, and draw political and international attention to their ideological demands.

The use of terror is common both in conventional and unconventional warfare, and takes several forms: booby-trapping discarded objects ("[suspicious object](#)"), vehicles ("[car bomb](#)"), people ("[suspicious individual](#)"), and more.

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Suspicious Object

A suspicious object is an unfamiliar object that, because of its location, arouses suspicion, as it was placed to cause injury and destruction. Weapons and ammunition of unknown origin, "finds," seemingly innocent objects that look as if they have been forgotten – these might all be used for the purpose of sabotage.

What Do I Do If I've Identified a Suspicious Object?

If you see an ownerless bag, box, sack or any other objects lying in a public or private area – do not touch, open, look into or move it! The object is liable to explode at any second.

Do not ignore it, and do not hesitate – act at once!!!

- Do not approach the object, and do not join the crowd that may have gathered around it.
- Move away from the object, warn passers-by and ask them to move away from the object.
- Call the 100 police hotline.
- Ask another person to warn passers-by of the danger.
- Give the police the exact location of the object, and provide a precise description of it.

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Suspicious Vehicle

A car or truck packed with a large load of explosives that blows up in a place where a terrorist organization seeks to carry out an attack is another form of terrorism. The exploding of the vehicle is usually done by a suicide driver or by remote control. The car bomb is used not only to stage random attacks, but also to target specifically the life of a particular individual.

A suspicious vehicle, also known as a car bomb, has several advantages over other means of terrorism as it can hold a large amount of explosives and thereby obtain large numbers of casualties, is transportable (has the ability to ram through roadblocks, etc.), can inflict great damage to the surroundings, and can even bring about further destruction (through a building collapse, for example), and so preserve the memory of the attack for a long time to come.

When Is a Vehicle Defined as Suspicious?

- If the vehicle is parked in an atypical place.

- If the vehicle is parked for a long period of time in a no-parking zone.
- If the driver of the vehicle looks suspicious.
- If the driver is unfamiliar with the area and seems particularly nervous.
- If the vehicle seems particularly heavily loaded.
- Any other reason that would cast suspicion on the vehicle.

What Do I Do If I've Identified a Suspicious Vehicle?

If you have identified a vehicle as suspicious, treat the suspicious car or truck as if it contains weapons. Do not touch the vehicle, and do not attempt to open it. Make sure people move away from the vehicle, and close off access routes to the street to prevent people from entering the area. Inform the police immediately, give the exact location of the vehicle, and explain the reason(s) you consider it suspicious.

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Suspicious Individual (Suicide Attack)

A suspicious individual is a person whose demeanor arouses suspicion. This person's behavior is unusual, strange, and out of the ordinary. Signs that arouse suspicion include:

- The individual seems excited and/or nervous, or is perspiring more heavily than normal.
- The individual seems to be secretly cooperating and communicating with various people, making various signs and gestures in their direction.
- The individual's appearance is odd, and doesn't seem to fit his/her personality, or his/her clothing is not seasonal (e.g., wearing a heavy coat on a hot day).
- The individual gives the impression s/he is hiding weapons in his/her clothing.

What Do I Do If I've Identified a Suspicious Individual?

If you have identified a person as suspicious, maintain eye contact with him/her, and, in as unobtrusive a manner as possible, report your suspicion to security forces and/or people in charge (the administrator or guard of an institution, a driver or guard on public transportation).

To the extent possible, keep the suspicious individual away from others in the location, and try to keep a crowd from forming.

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