



ROLL CALL RELEASE

In Collaboration with the ITACG



1 July 2010

(U) Pressure Cookers as IED Components

(U//FOUO) Rudimentary improvised explosive devices (IEDs) using pressure cookers to contain the initiator, switch, and explosive charge (typically ammonium nitrate or RDX) frequently have been used in Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. Pressure cookers are common in these countries, and their presence probably would not seem out of place or suspicious to passersby or authorities. Because they are less common in the United States, the presence of a pressure cooker in an unusual location such as a building lobby or busy street corner should be treated as suspicious.

(U) Examples of Recent Attacks Involving Pressure Cooker Devices

- (U//FOUO) One of the three devices used in the 1 May 2010 attack in Times Square incorporated a pressure cooker containing approximately 120 firecrackers.
- (U//FOUO) In March 2010, terrorists used a remotely detonated pressure cooker bomb in an attack on World Vision International in Pakistan.

(U) Indicators of Pressure Cooker Devices

(U//FOUO) Terrorists can exploit the innocuous appearance of easily transportable items such as pressure cookers to conceal IED components. Placed carefully, such devices provide little or no indication of an impending attack. Alertness and quick reaction to discovery of such concealment devices in unusual locations or circumstances can improve chances of early detection and prevention of an attack. Potential indicators of a pressure cooker configured as an IED include:

- (U) Protruding wires or fuses.
- (U) Unusual smells such as chemical odors.
- (U) Wetness or unusual stains on a container.
- (U) Apparent abandonment of a pressure cooker in a high traffic or otherwise strategic location.



(U//FOUO) Pressure Cooker IEDs.

(U) DHS provides detailed information for law enforcement on improvised explosive devices at TRIPwire.dhs.gov or the TRIPwire Community Gateway (<http://cs.hsin.gov>). For further information on TRIPwire and bombing prevention, contact the DHS Office for Bombing Prevention at obp@dhs.gov.

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(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Homeland Counterterrorism Division, the FBI/Directorate of Intelligence, and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, and private sector first responders in developing deterrence, prevention, preemption, or response strategies.

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