



# Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center

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<b>TITLE</b> WRTAC Request for Increased Vigilance in SAR Reporting	<b>SERIES NUMBER</b> 2010-192
May 26, 2010	Private and Government Sector SAR Partners

**WRTAC is asking all private and government sector SAR partners to increase their vigilance and report all suspicious activities and behaviors, no matter how insignificant it may seem at the time.**

**Background:** On May 1, 2010, a New York City Times Square street vendor observed a suspicious vehicle parked in a no-standing zone with its hazard lights on and the engine running. He reported the suspicious activity (SAR) to police who responded to the scene. Police observed smoke billowing from vents of the vehicle, popping noises, and the smell of gunpowder. The vehicle was found to contain a vehicle-borne improvised incendiary device (VBIID).

**In the District, SARs that pose an immediate threat to life or property should be immediately reported to police via 9-1-1.**

SARs that do not pose an immediate threat should be reported using the attached SAR email form to [SAR@dc.gov](mailto:SAR@dc.gov) or by calling 1-877-YOU-WATCH. (1-877-968-9282)

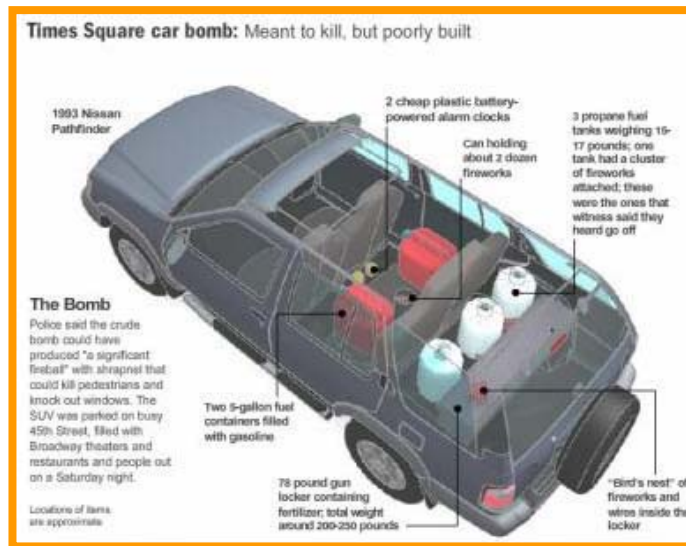
Alert citizens and business officials could avert a potential terrorist or criminal incident by observing and reporting a suspicious vehicle. In 2007, an ambulance crew saw smoke coming from a green Mercedes, near the Tiger Tiger nightclub in London and reported the vehicle to police. Investigators discovered a considerable amount of explosive material and material intended to be shrapnel in the vehicle. Often times vehicle bombs or vehicle borne improvised explosive devices (VBIED) display outwardly visible indicators.

**WRTAC SAR partners should be aware of the following indicators of a VBIED: (Anyone who observes these indicators should immediately call 9-1-1)**

1. Vehicles that appear to have an unusually heavy load in the trunk should be considered suspicious.
2. Smoke, fumes, or strong odors emanating from the vehicle.
3. Propane tanks, gas cans, wires, timing devices, or other unusual cargo in the passenger compartment of a vehicle. \*Additionally, unauthorized vehicles parked in restricted areas should immediately be investigated and removed.

**Examples of suspicious activity, which may indicate a potential threat or planning of a VBIED, include:**

1. Acquisition or theft of explosives or chemicals
2. Rental of self-storage units and the delivery of chemicals to such units
3. Chemical fires, toxic odors, brightly colored stains, or rusted metal fixtures in apartments, hotels rooms, or self-storage units
4. Theft of truck or van with minimum one (1) ton carrying capacity
5. Modification of smaller capacity vehicles to accept a minimum one (1) ton load
6. Small test explosions in rural or wooded areas
7. Treated/untreated chemical burns or missing hands and/or fingers
8. Physical surveillance
9. Purchase of, or illicit access to, blue prints of the targeted facility
10. Fixed or mobile surveillance, which may or may not include the use of communications equipment, video cameras, night-vision devices, GPS devices, and cellular phones.



***Watch for and report all suspicious activity to:***

**WRTAC at 202-481-3007 (Day) / 1-877-YOU-WATCH (1-877-968-9282) (Night & Weekend)**

**Suspicious Activity Reporting: [SAR@dc.gov](mailto:SAR@dc.gov)**

***Crime Tip line: 1-888-919-CRIME (2746) or text to 50411***



**About WRTAC:** The Washington Regional Threat & Analysis Center is the District of Columbia's fusion center. The WRTAC was formed in 2007 in order to facilitate prevention, response, and mitigation to criminal and terrorist activities, as well as man-made and/or natural disasters by collecting, analyzing, and disseminating diverse intelligence information and intelligence products.

WRTAC supports multidisciplinary, proactive, risk-based, and community-focused problem solving. WRTAC provides a continuous flow of information and intelligence to officials to assist in developing a depiction of evolving threats and mitigation strategies.