



## Fact Sheet



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March 2012  
[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

### U.S. BOMB DATA CENTER

#### Purpose

The U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) serves as the national repository for explosives and arson related incident data, having been established by the Federal Explosives Laws and Attorney General designation. Its purpose is to collect data and to provide bomb technicians and investigators with analytical products to assist in the investigation of the criminal misuse of explosives and acts of arson.

#### Authority

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has been collecting, storing and analyzing records on explosives and arson incidents since 1976. ATF, through the U.S. Department of the Treasury, was mandated by Congress pursuant to Public Law 104-208, the 1997 Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, to establish a national repository for incidents involving arson and the criminal misuse of explosives. This authority was later transferred with ATF to the authority of the Attorney General of the United States with the passage of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. (*ref: 28 CFR 0.131(e), implementing 18 USC 846b*).

#### Mission

The mission and goals of the USBDC are to collect, analyze and disseminate timely information and relevant technical intelligence products to ATF investigators as well as state, local, other federal, tribal, military and international partners. These products include not only analyses of current trends and patterns, but also an attempt to forecast future criminal activities to assist field elements in preventing the criminal misuse of explosives.

In 2004, the Attorney General mandated that “all of the Department’s arson and explosives incident databases [be consolidated] into a single database,” which is now known as the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS). This was reinforced in 2010 by the Deputy Attorney General’s Office. The USBDC contains information on more than 247,000 explosives and arson related incidents investigated by ATF and other federal, state and local law enforcement and public safety agencies.

ATF developed BATS to provide State/local agencies a system for the simple reporting of explosives and arson related incidents to the national database. It also provides them with optional no-cost case management technology to simplify and standardize investigative reporting methodology and track related administrative tasks. BATS includes the capability to profile improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and serves as law enforcement's direct link to the USBDC and all the information that is maintained there. Bomb technicians and investigators can use BATS to perform trend analysis and compare incidents for similarities in motives, device construction, suspects and crime methodologies for possible investigative leads nationwide. Images of post-blast scenes, IEDs, and crime scenes can be shared through the BATS secure web connection. BATS also includes a functionality to use the program as a case management system, allowing users to build their investigation in BATS and collaborate with other agencies, while maintaining operational security.

Federal law requires that any person who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any "explosive materials" from their stock must report such theft or loss within 24 hours of discovery to ATF and to appropriate local authorities. Through ATF's explosives licensing authority, the USBDC maintains the National Explosives Tracing Center (NETC) which is responsible for tracing and maintaining the official records for the theft and recovery of foreign and domestic commercial explosives, military explosives and ordnance and other munitions. Through its strong partnerships with the Department of Defense (DoD) and the commercial explosives industry, the USBDC can trace stolen and recovered explosives to their origin, including movement in interstate and international commerce for the purpose of aiding law enforcement officials in identifying suspects involved in criminal violations, establishing stolen status, and proving ownership. (*ref: 27 CFR § 555, implementing Title 18, USC, Chapter 40*)

ATF serves as the Secretary for the International Bomb Data Center Working Group (IBDCWG) and the co-representative for the Americas. ATF also serves as the Administrator for the IBDCWG Portal (developed and maintained by the USBDC). Significant ATF partners at the USBDC include the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Capitol Police and the DoD NAVEOD Tech staff.

### **Explosives Incidents in the United States**

The following statistics are based upon explosives incidents reported to the USBDC, including bombings, attempted bombings, incendiary bombings and stolen explosives and other categories.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Incidents</b>	<b>Number of Injuries</b>	<b>Number of Fatalities</b>
2011	5,219 explosives incidents	36	5
2010	4,897 explosives incidents	99	22
2009	3,886 explosives incidents	57	4
2008	3,558 explosives incidents	118	23
2007	2,772 explosives incidents	60	15
2006	3,445 explosives incidents	135	14
2005	3,722 explosives incidents	148	18
2004	3,790 explosives incidents	263	36

For more information on the USBDC or other ATF programs, go to [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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