



UNITED STATES BOMB DATA CENTER (USBDC) EXPLOSIVES INCIDENT REPORT (EIR)

2014

The Annual Explosives Incident Report (EIR) reviews bombing and explosives related incidents and threats from data reported to the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC) through the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

The 2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR) is an analytical product generated by the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC), using data captured in the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) through case entry contributions of its 11,478 active users. This report examines the total number of *explosives incidents*, *bombings*, *recoveries*, *suspicious packages*, *bomb threats*, *hoaxes*, and *thefts/losses* that were reported into BATS for calendar year 2014. It is important to note that BATS is a real-time dynamic incident management system and is strictly user dependent; therefore, it is possible that the data represented in this report may differ slightly from previously reported data due to updates or changes made by the owner of the records.

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

This is a brief synopsis of the significant trends and/or findings covered within the 2014 EIR. From January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014, BATS captured a total of 912 *explosives incidents* and 642 *bombings* (5 church, 15 school bombings). There were 6,876 recoveries with the majority being explosives (non-improvised explosive device recoveries). California has the highest number of reported bombings and recoveries for 2014. There were a total of 4,404 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported during the 2014 calendar year. The States with the highest number of incidents include Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Tennessee and California. There has been a slight decrease in the overall number of bomb threats from 2013 to 2014. There were 1,724 bomb threats reported in 2013 and 1,693 in 2014. Education and office/business properties remain the most reported targets of bomb threats; however, there has been a notable 184-percent increase of bomb threats targeting residences since 2010.

LOOKING AHEAD

Over the past year, you may have noticed changes occurring in some of our business practices and functionality of the Bomb Arson Tracking System. Our main goal is to increase regional and national situational awareness so that law enforcement and public safety officials can better detect, deter and prevent future criminal and terrorist acts. This past year we released an update to BATS as well as Mobile BATS (*mBATS*), which allows users to quickly enter initial incident information in BATS or send notifications to those who need it, directly from any mobile device. This year, we also transitioned our offices from Washington, District of Columbia, to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. Currently we are working on a BATS Modernization project that is implementing many of the suggestions that we have received from our 2,500+ interagency partners and more than 11,000 BATS users. We look forward to the future as we continue to serve all who are involved in the fight against those who intend to do us harm.

Brandt A. Schenken
Director, USBDC

2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR)

EXPLOSIONS 2014

Explosions 2014

1.1 Explosion Incidents Summary and Trends

Explosion incidents include all incidents where explosive materials, chemicals, or ignitable mixtures were determined to be the primary cause of an explosion. There are three subcategories of “Explosion Incidents” in BATS: *bombings*, *accidental explosions* and *undetermined explosion incidents*. The *undetermined explosion* category is used in ongoing investigations where the cause was either unidentified, pending further investigation or awaiting laboratory results.

A total of 912 explosion incidents were recorded during 2014, the lowest number since 2010. Explosions decreased by 21 percent since 2013, while the total number of reported bombings dropped by approximately 30 percent from the previous year.

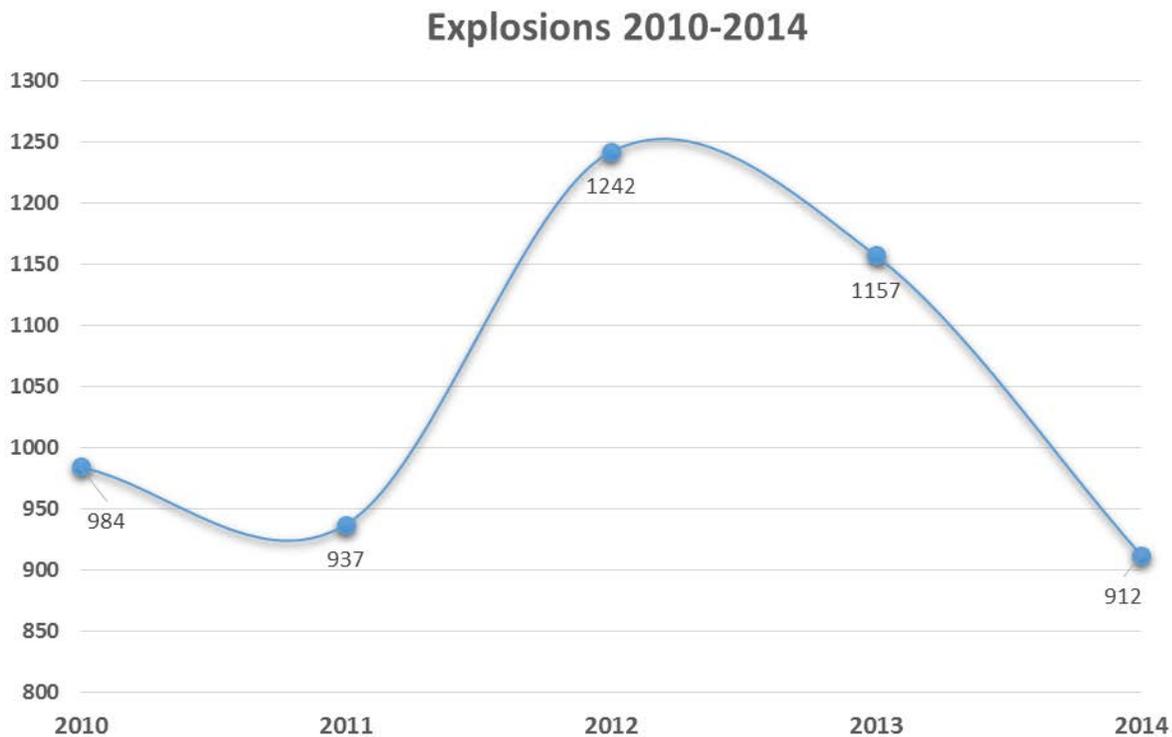


Figure 1. Explosions, 2010-14

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EXPLOSIONS 2014

1.2 Explosion incidents in which individuals were reported injured and/or killed

		Explosive (non-IED)	IED	Other Criminal	Over Pressure	Accidental	Undetermined	Total Casualties by Victim Type
Victims	Injured	24	11		18	173	211	437
	Killed	2	7			20	9	38
Suspects	Injured	5	4			8		17
	Killed	1	2					3
Law Enforcement	Injured		3				15	18
	Killed							
Fire Service	Injured						1	1
	Killed							
Total Casualties by Explosion Type		32	27		18	201	236	514

Figure 2. Explosion Incidents – Injured and Killed

1.3 Explosion Incidents, Type and Subtype

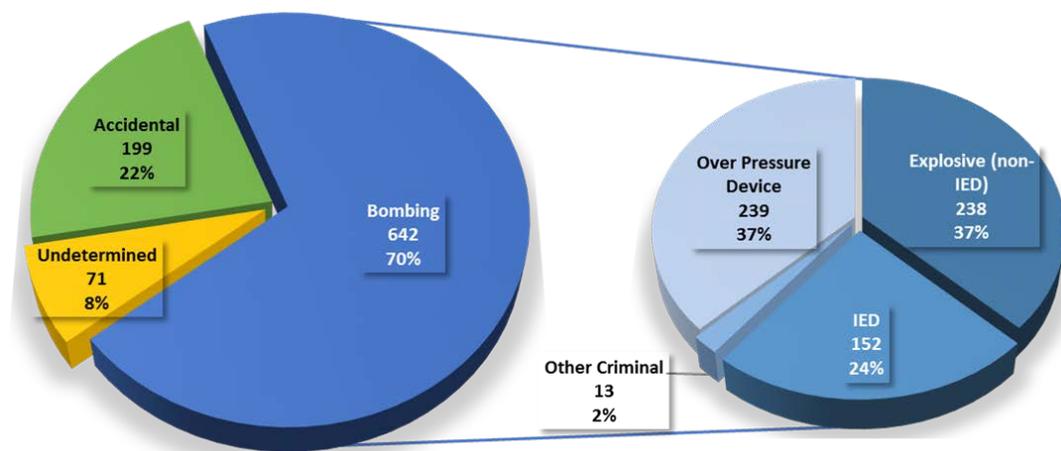


Figure 3. Explosion Incidents, Type and Subtype

Note: Although over pressure devices are categorized as *bombings* within BATS, they usually consist of a combination of chemicals or solutions that are enclosed in a container that expand as a result of chemical reactions causing an explosion. Additionally, explosive non-improvised explosive devices (non-IEDs) usually include commercial and military explosives, pyrotechnics/fireworks, homemade explosives and other crude low-grade explosives that have not been modified to make an IED.

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EXPLOSIONS 2014

1.4 Bombing Trends

A total of 642 bombing incidents were reported in 2014. Approximately 44 percent of all bombing targets were residential in nature. In addition, there were 5 reported church bombings, 15 school bombings and 15 bombing incidents where Federal, State, county or city government structures were targeted. During 2014, bombings resulted in approximately \$145,000 in reported damages.

- Church Bombing Targets:** Of the five (5) church bombings, two (2) were categorized as *over pressure devices*, two (2) were *IEDs* and one (1) was categorized as an *explosive non-IED*. Furthermore, one (1) of the aforementioned IEDs was identified as a *cardboard tube containing explosive materials* while the other was identified as a *“sparkler bomb”*. In both cases, overall damages were minimal.
- School Bombing Targets:** Three (3) of the 17 school bombings were reported as *IEDs*, while the rest were either categorized as *explosive non-IEDs* or *over pressure devices*. The three IEDs were further identified as a *“cricket bomb”*, *“pyrotechnics”* and a *“pipe bomb”*.
- Federal, State, County and City Bombing Targets:** There were four (4) reported IED bombings, while the rest were either categorized as *overpressure devices*, *explosive non-IEDs* or *other*.

Improvised explosive device (IED) bombings account for 24 percent of the total number of reported bombings, but are the cause of 75 percent of all reported bombing deaths and 100 percent of all reported law enforcement bombing injuries.

California remains the State with the highest number of reported bombings. Five States with the most reported bombing incidents are shown below.

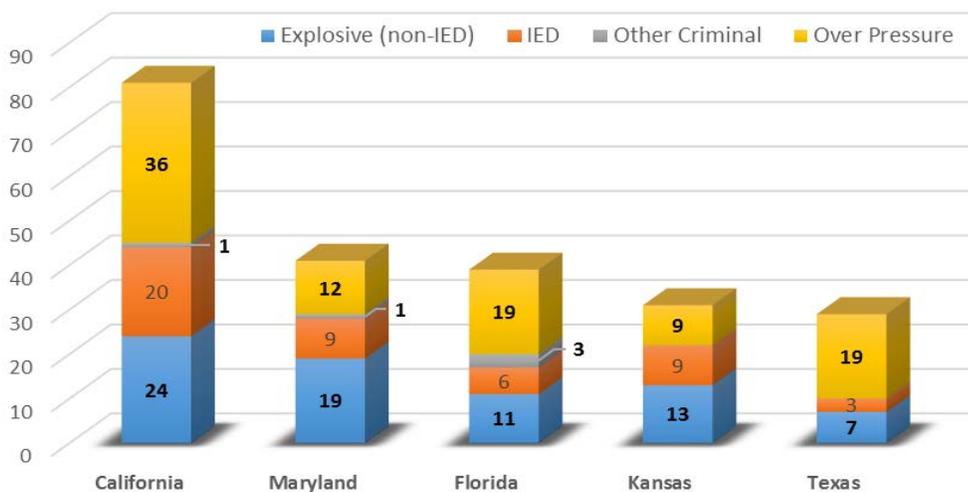


Figure 4. Bombing Types (Top Five States)

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EXPLOSIONS 2014

1.5 Explosion/Bombing Device Main Charges

The most common device main charges have remained virtually unchanged over the last decade and include readily available materials such as pyrotechnics/fireworks, flash powder/pyrotechnic mixtures, black powder and binary explosives, which include exploding target mixtures. The numbers below do not represent the actual quantity of main charges but rather represent the number of reported incidents where at least one of those main charges were identified.

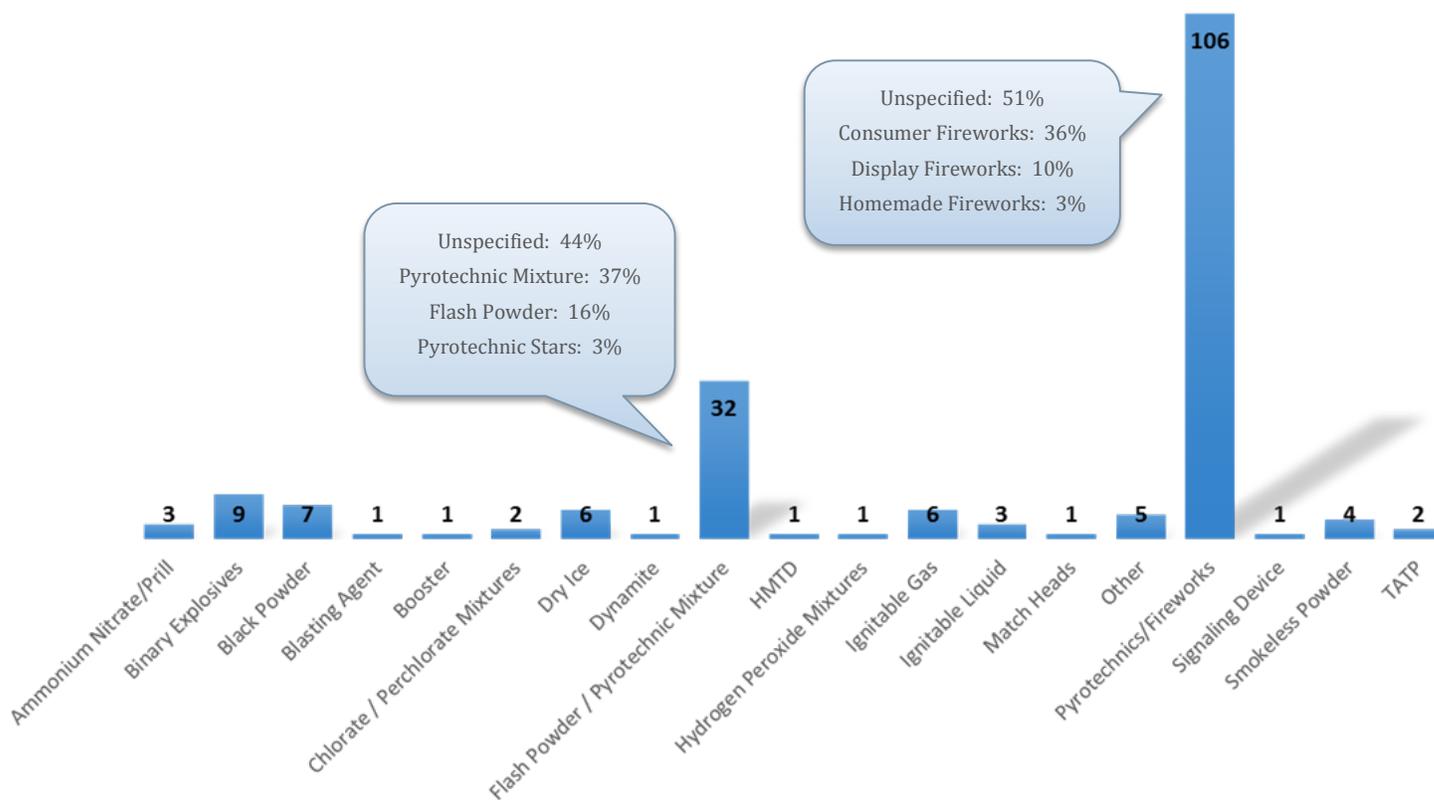


Figure 5. Explosion/Bombing Device Main Charges

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EXPLOSIONS 2014

1.6 Explosion/Bombing Device Containers: The container numbers represented below are also associated with the number of reported bombing incidents. They do not represent the actual quantity of identified containers. For example, if a pipe bomb was identified, the numbers below do not show if there were 5 pipe bombs taped together with 10 end caps, but rather they show at least 1 pipe and 1 end cap associated with that incident.

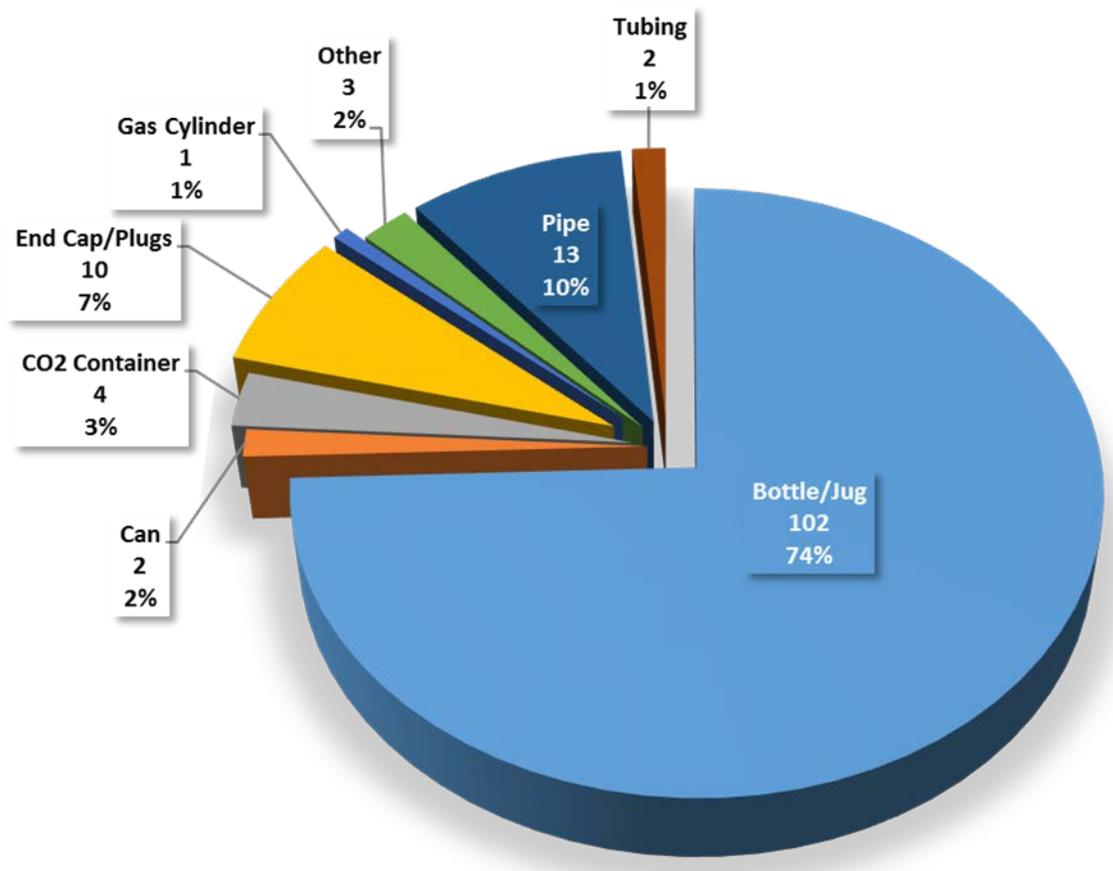


Figure 6. Explosion/Bombing Device Containers

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RECOVERIES 2014

Recoveries 2014

2.1 Recovery Incidents Summary and Trends

Reported recovery incidents have steadily increased since 2010 (see figure 7), while the largest recovery type and subtype categories have remained fairly consistent. Once again, explosives (non-IED) recoveries represent the majority, with commercial explosives recoveries and pyrotechnic recoveries in the lead, while ammunition and inert military recoveries dominate the *other* recovery category. Moreover, there has been no significant change in the number of recovered improvised explosive devices, homemade explosives or precursor chemicals recorded over the course of 2014.

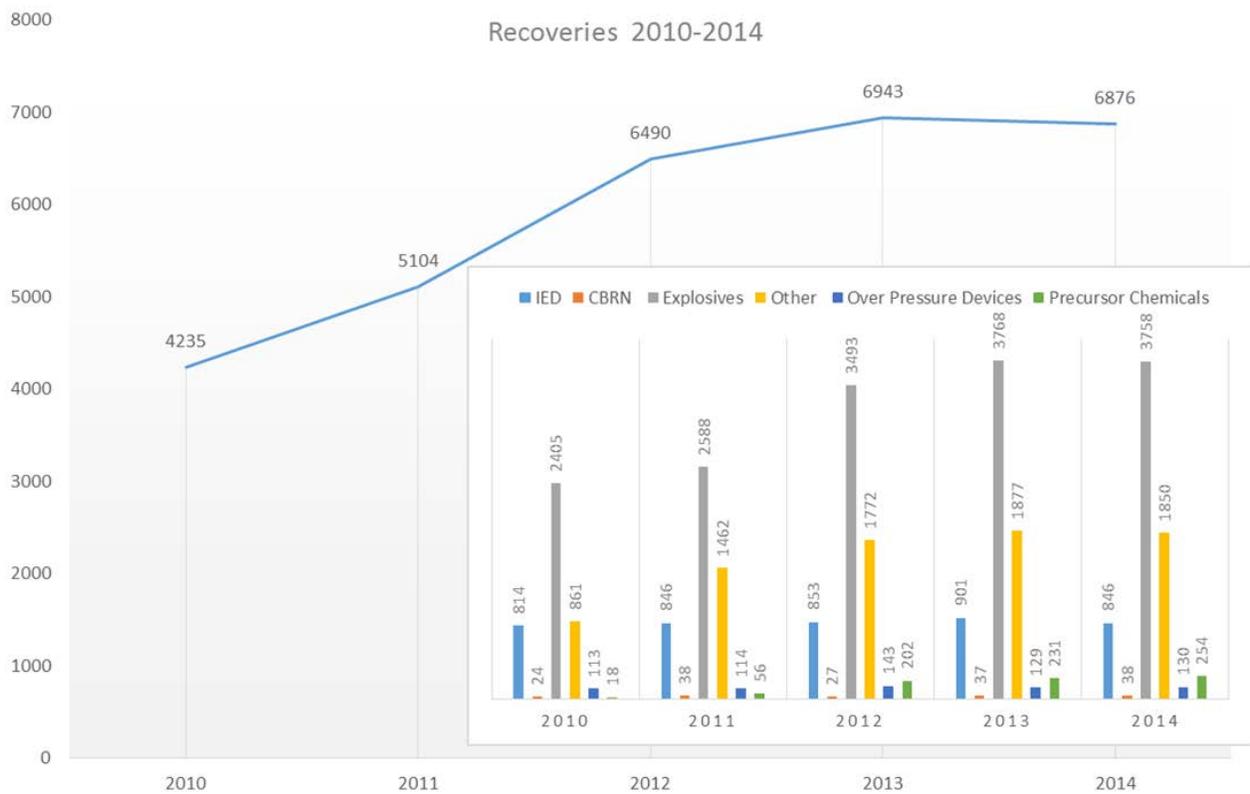


Figure 7. Recovery Types, 2010-14

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RECOVERIES 2014

2.2 Recovery Incidents by State (top 10):

California remains the State with the highest number of reported recoveries, and its 2014 totals are 62 percent higher than those of the second busiest State, New York. The top 10 States with the highest number of reported recoveries are shown in figure 8.

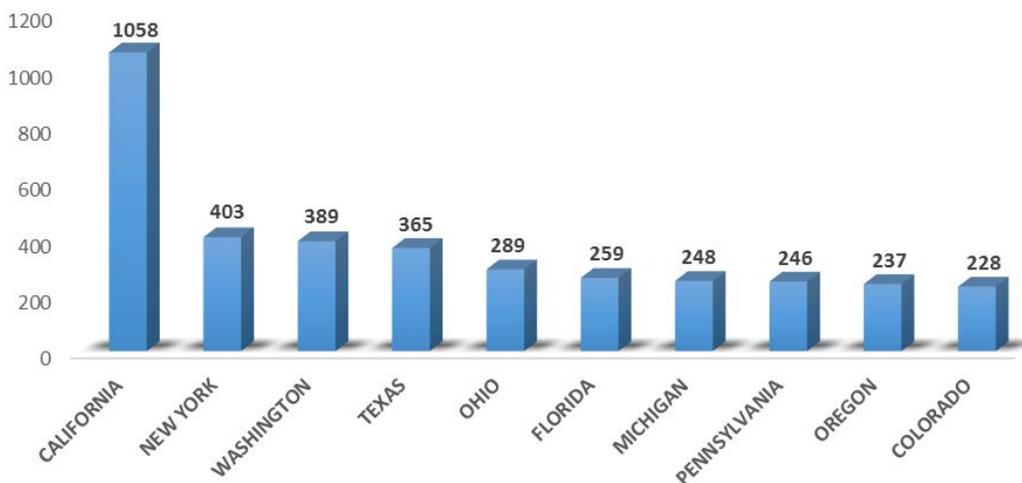


Figure 8. Recovery Incidents (Top 10 States)

2.3 Recovery Incidents, Type and Subtype

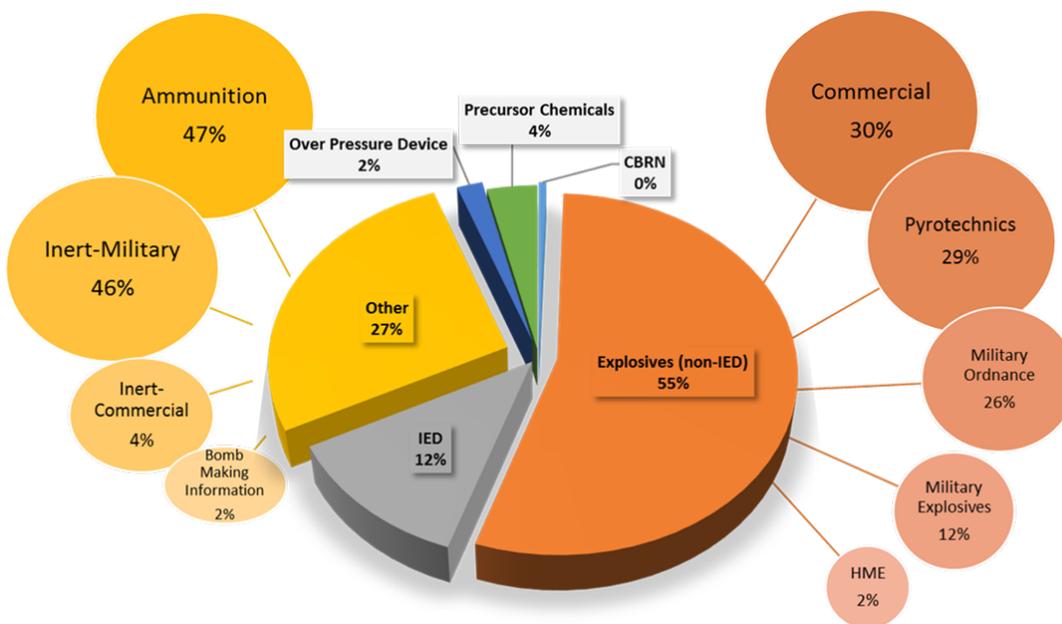


Figure 9. Recovery Incidents, Type and Subtype

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RECOVERIES 2014

2.4 Recovery Device Main Charges

Recovery device main charges closely resemble those of explosion/bombing main charges and emphasize the use of readily available materials such as black powder and black powder substitutes, flash powder/pyrotechnic mixtures, smokeless powder, pyrotechnics/fireworks and ignitable liquids. Once again, recovery device main charges have remained virtually unchanged since the late 1990s/early 2000s. These statistics do not represent the exact quantity of main charges that were recovered, but rather provide a baseline for every incident associated with a main charge.

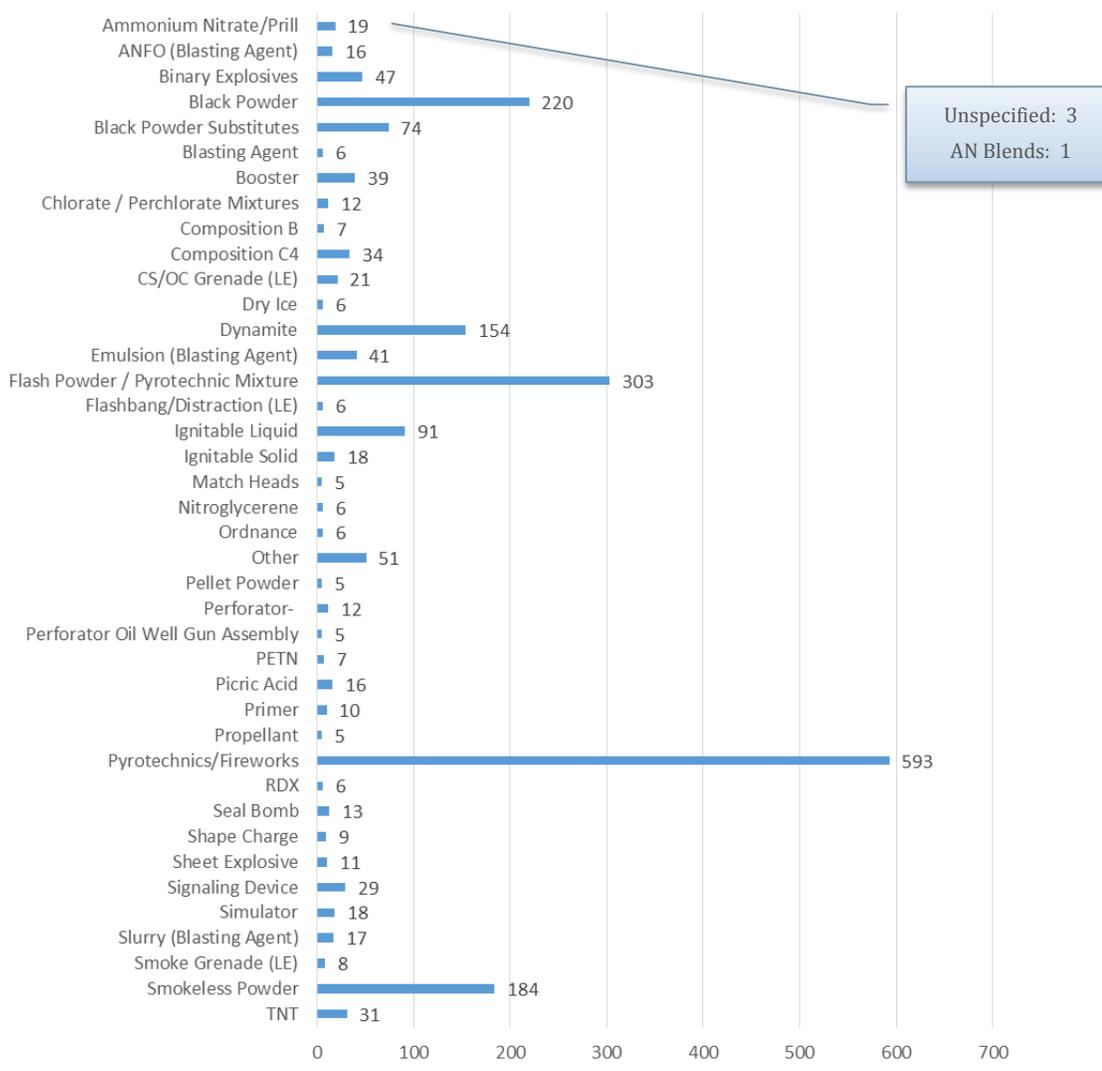


Figure 10. Recovery Device Main Charges

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RECOVERIES 2014

2.5 Recovery Containers

Figure 11 provides an overview of all container types that were recovered in 2014. These statistics do not represent the exact quantity of containers that were recovered, but rather provide a baseline for reference purposes. For example, an incident may have had 5 pipe bomb devices recovered with 5 pipes and 10 end caps/plugs. The numbers below only show an incident where a pipe and an end cap were recovered.

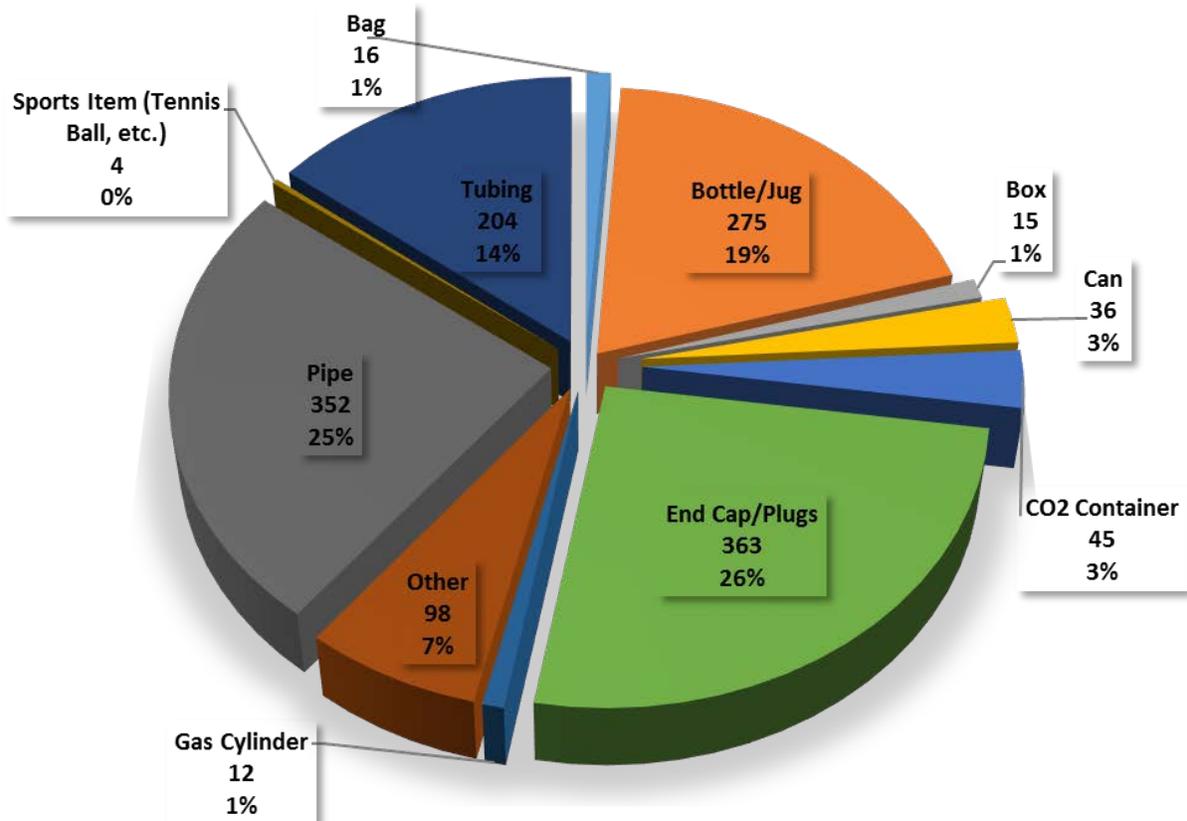


Figure 11. Recovery Device Containers

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SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES 2014

Suspicious Packages 2014

3.1 Suspicious Packages Summary and Trends

There were 4,404 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported during the 2014 calendar year, a 10-percent decrease from the previous year. The most common suspicious package types remained virtually unchanged. The top three most commonly reported package types were package/parcel, luggage/briefcase and book bag/purse. Moreover, the top targets of suspicious packages remain almost identical to those from previous years, with the top five being outside/special properties, open areas, assembly areas, residential structures and office/business locales. States with the most incidents of reported suspicious/unattended packages were Maryland, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Tennessee and California.

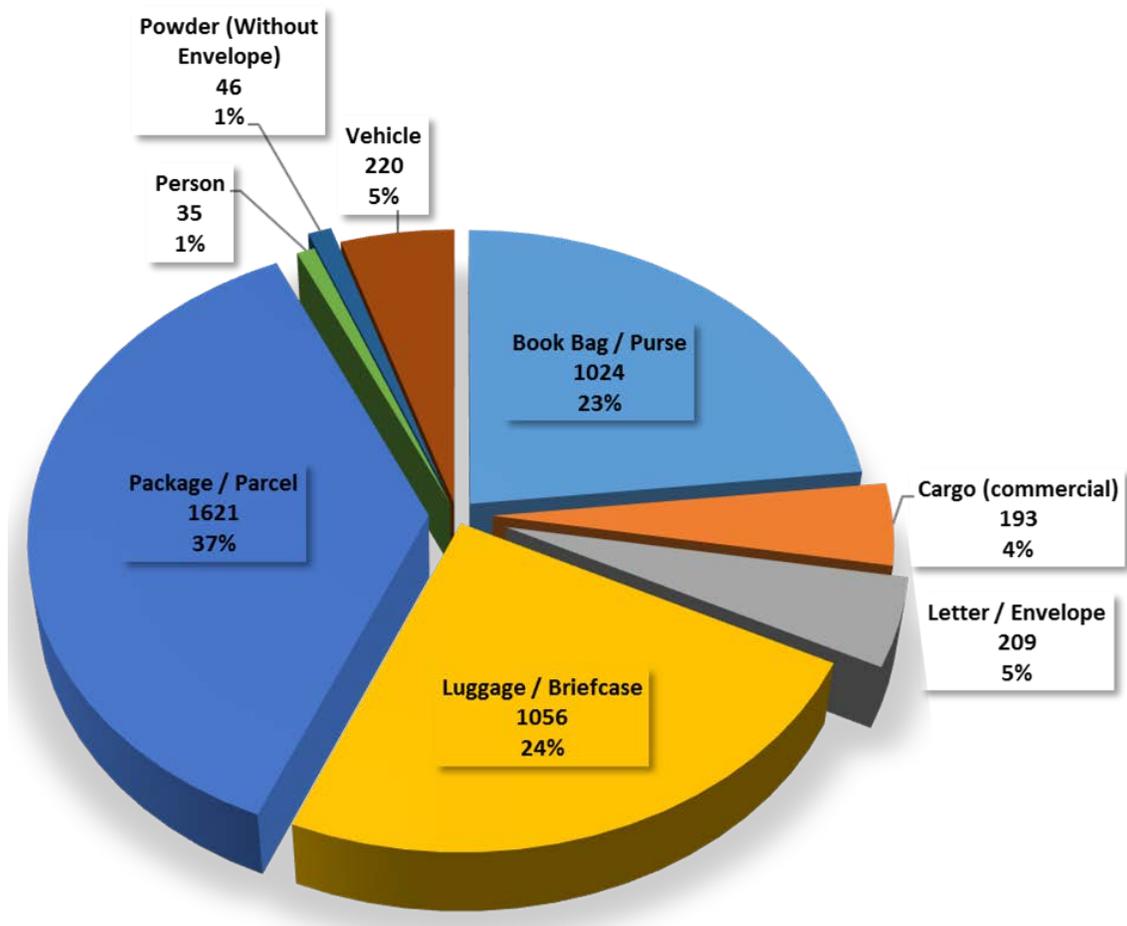


Figure 12. Suspicious/Unattended Package Incident Types

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BOMB THREATS 2014

Bomb Threats 2014

4.1 Bomb Threat Summary and Trends

A total of 1,693 bomb threat incidents were reported in 2014, a decrease of 2 percent from the previous year. Overall, bomb threat reporting has remained consistent over the last few years. Texas, Florida, Maryland and Virginia had the highest reported bomb threats in 2014. Education, office/business and residential structures remain the most reported target types. Moreover, the residential target category continued its multiyear upsurge and has recorded a 184-percent increase since 2010.

4.2 Bomb Threats by Target

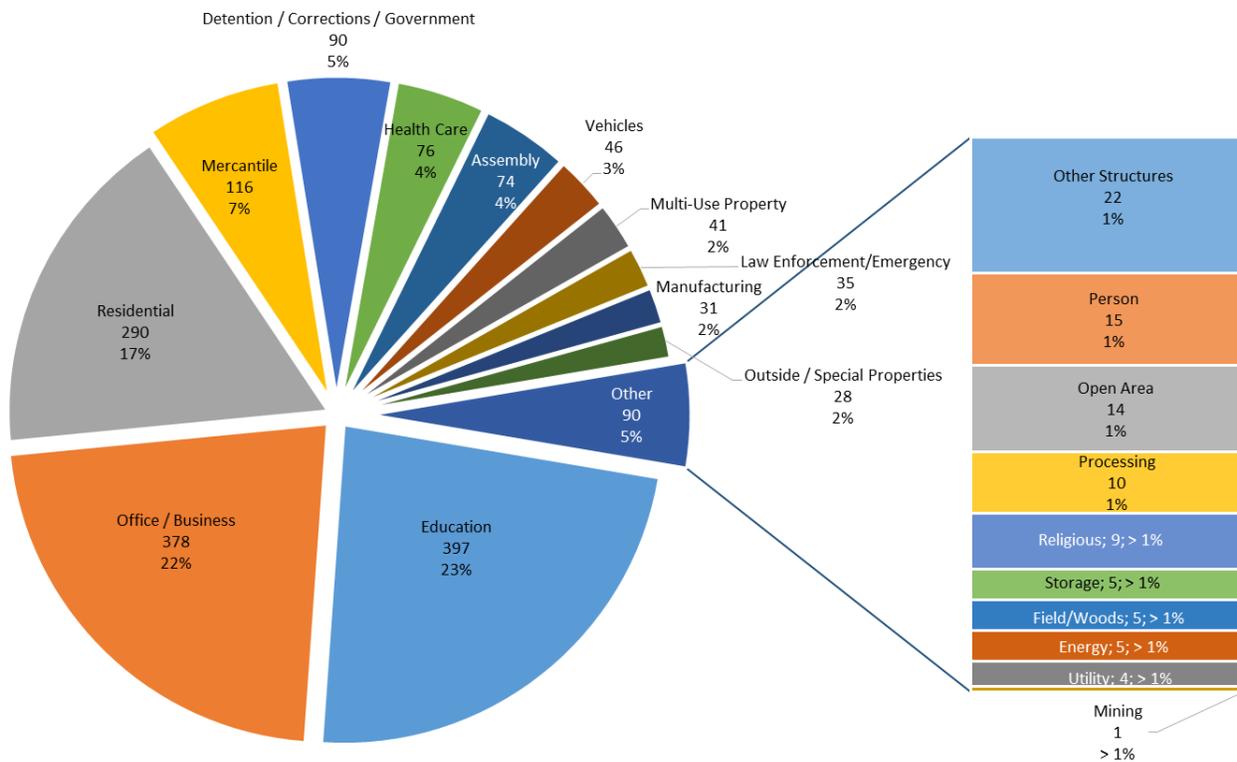


Figure 13. Bomb Threats by Target

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BOMB THREATS 2014

4.3 Top Three Bomb Threat Target Types and Subtypes

Education	397	Office / Business	378	Residential	290
High School / Junior High / Middle School	311	Other	146	1 (Single Family) or 2 Family Dwelling	209
Elementary School	36	Department / Discount Store	95	Multifamily Dwelling	42
College / University	29	Bank	34	Hotel / Motel	25
Career or vocational training	9	Convenience Store	39	Other	8
Other	7	Shopping / Strip Mall	25	Boarding / Rooming House	3
Adult education	4	Grocery Store	17	Dormitory / Sorority / Fraternity House	3
Preschool or daycare	1	Household Goods Store	11		
		Recreational / Hobby / Pet Store	8		
		Post Office	3		

Figure 14. Bomb Threat Target Types (Top Three) and Subtypes

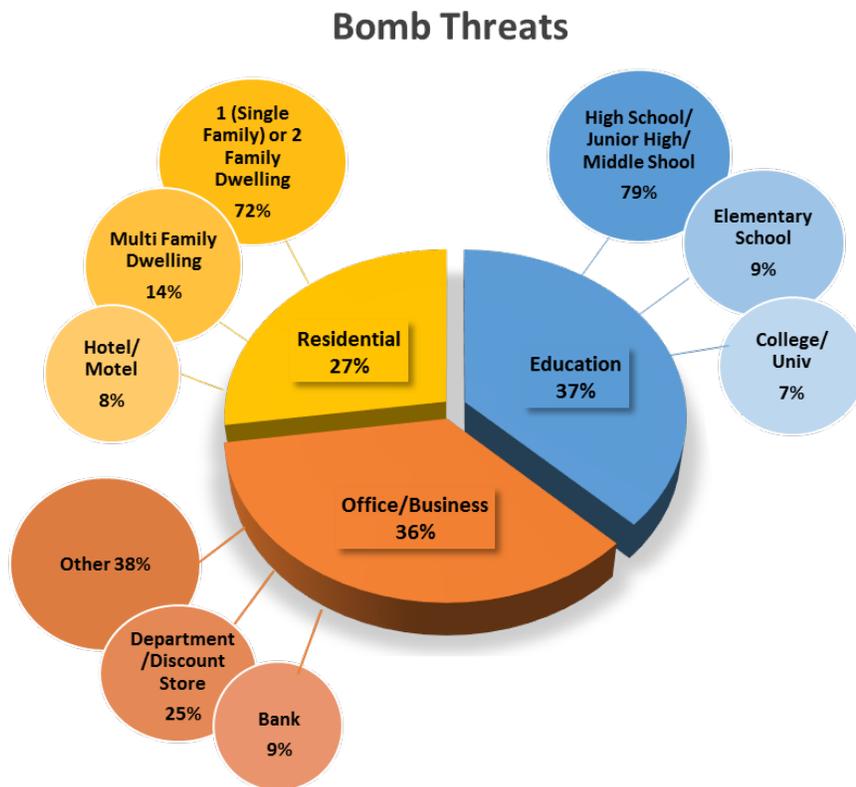


Figure 15. Bomb Threat Target Types (Top Three) and Subtypes (Top Three)

2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR)**HOAX 2014****Hoax 2014**

5.1 Hoax Device Incidents Summary and Trends

There were 632 hoax device incidents reported in 2014, a decrease of 7 percent since 2013. Hoax devices remain the most reported IED type. Residential structures were the target of most reported hoax devices, a 6-percent increase since 2013. Notably, hoax device incidents targeting educational institutions increased by 40 percent (see figure 18). Over the past 3 years, hoax device reporting has remained consistent; however, over a 5-year period there has been an increase of 38 percent.

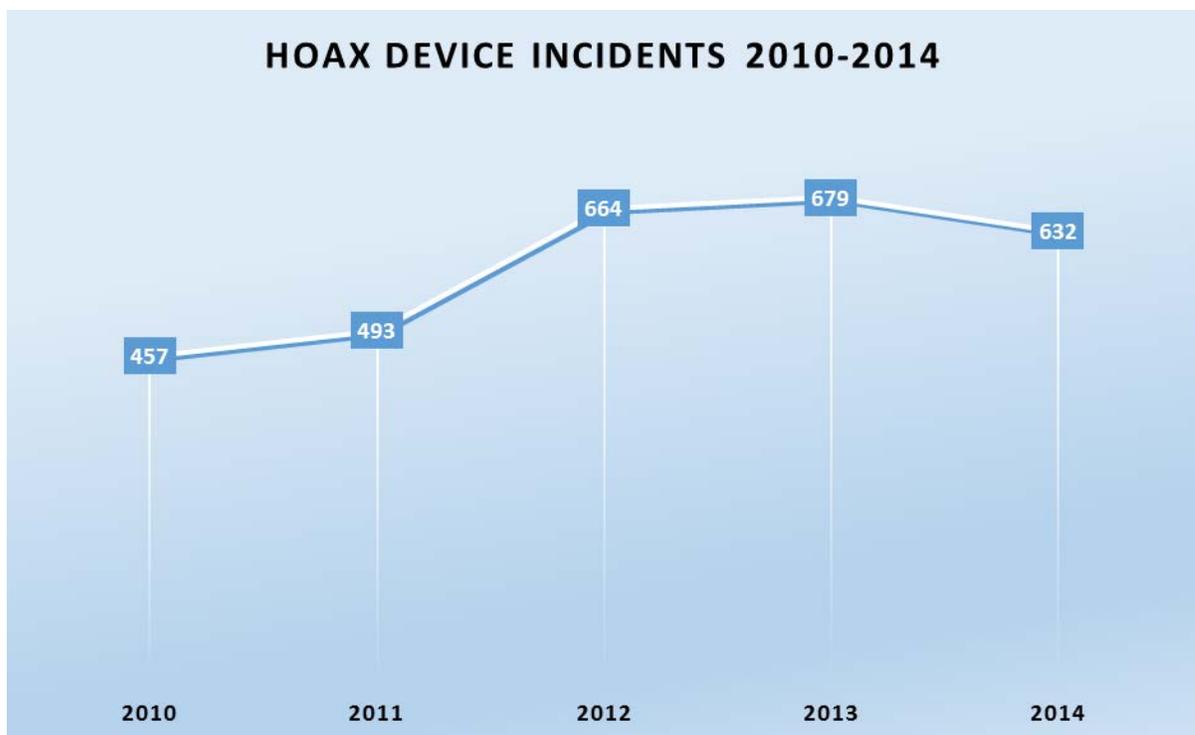


Figure 16. Hoax Device Incidents, 2010-14

2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR)

HOAX 2014

5.2 Hoax Incidents by Incident Type

The most commonly reported hoax devices in 2014 were IEDs, incendiary devices and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN).

Type of hoax devices reported (2011-2014)	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
IED	420	450	613	627	579
CBRN (Not chemical reaction/acid bombs)	12	20	13	19	18
Incendiary Device	25	23	38	33	35
Total	457	493	664	679	632

Figure 17. Hoax Incident Types

5.3 Hoax Incidents by Target Type

The most commonly reported hoax incident target types in 2014 were residential, office/business and education.

- There were nine (9) hoax incidents that targeted detention/corrections/government structures. This was a decrease of 57 percent from 2013.
- Healthcare hoax incidents also dropped, by 43 percent, as there were eight (8) reported incidents.
- Finally, there were seven (7) hoax incidents reported on religious institutions; this was a decrease of 12 percent from 2013.

Target Type	2013	2014	% Change
Residential	178	189	6% ↑
Office / Business	113	107	5% ↓
Education	48	67	40% ↑

Figure 18. Hoax Incident Target Types

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HOAX 2014

5.4 Hoax Incidents by State

California had the highest number of reported hoax incidents. See figure 19 for a State-by-State breakdown.

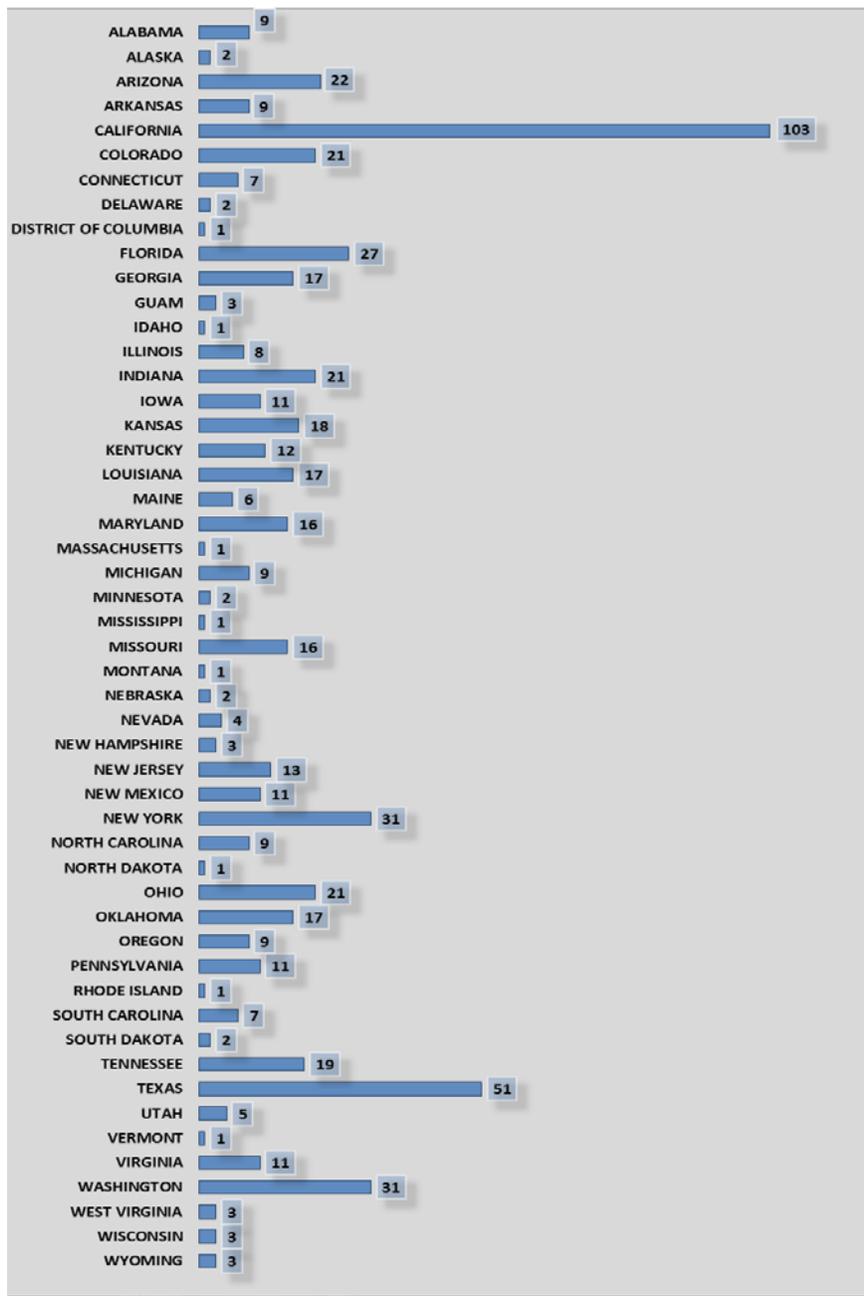


Figure 19. Hoax Incident by State

2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR)

EXPLOSIVES THEFT/LOSS 2014

Explosives Theft/Loss 2014

6.1 Explosives Theft Summary and Trends

There were 17 thefts of explosives from Federal Explosive Licensees/Permittees reported in 2014. Commercial explosives remain the most commonly stolen and make up 59 percent of all explosives thefts for 2014.

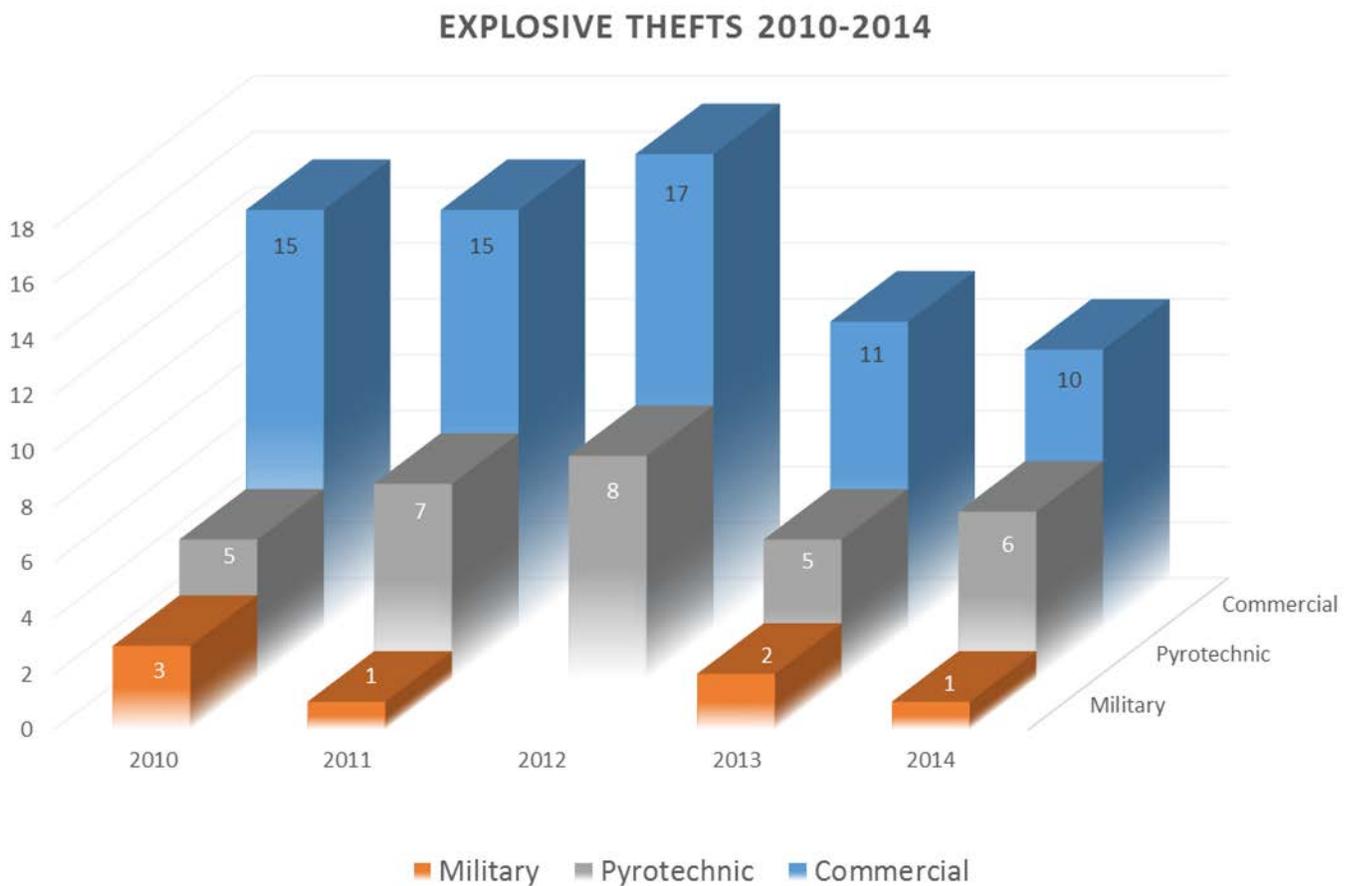


Figure 20. Explosives Theft Types, 2010-14

2014 Explosives Incident Report (EIR)

EXPLOSIVES THEFT/LOSS 2014

6.2 Explosives Theft Types per State

Figure 21 identifies States where explosives thefts were reported in 2014.

	Commercial	Military	Pyrotechnics	Total
ARIZONA	2			2
ARKANSAS	3			3
FLORIDA		1		1
IDAHO	1			1
LOUISIANA			1	1
MISSOURI			1	1
MONTANA	1			1
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1		1	2
OREGON	1			1
PENNSYLVANIA			2	2
TEXAS	1		1	2
Total	10	1	6	17

Figure 21. Explosives Theft Types per State

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EXPLOSIVES THEFT/LOSS 2014

6.3 Explosives Loss Summary and Trends

There were 116 instances of explosives losses reported during 2014, the majority being commercial explosives (72 percent commercial explosives; 25 percent pyrotechnics; 3 percent military explosives).

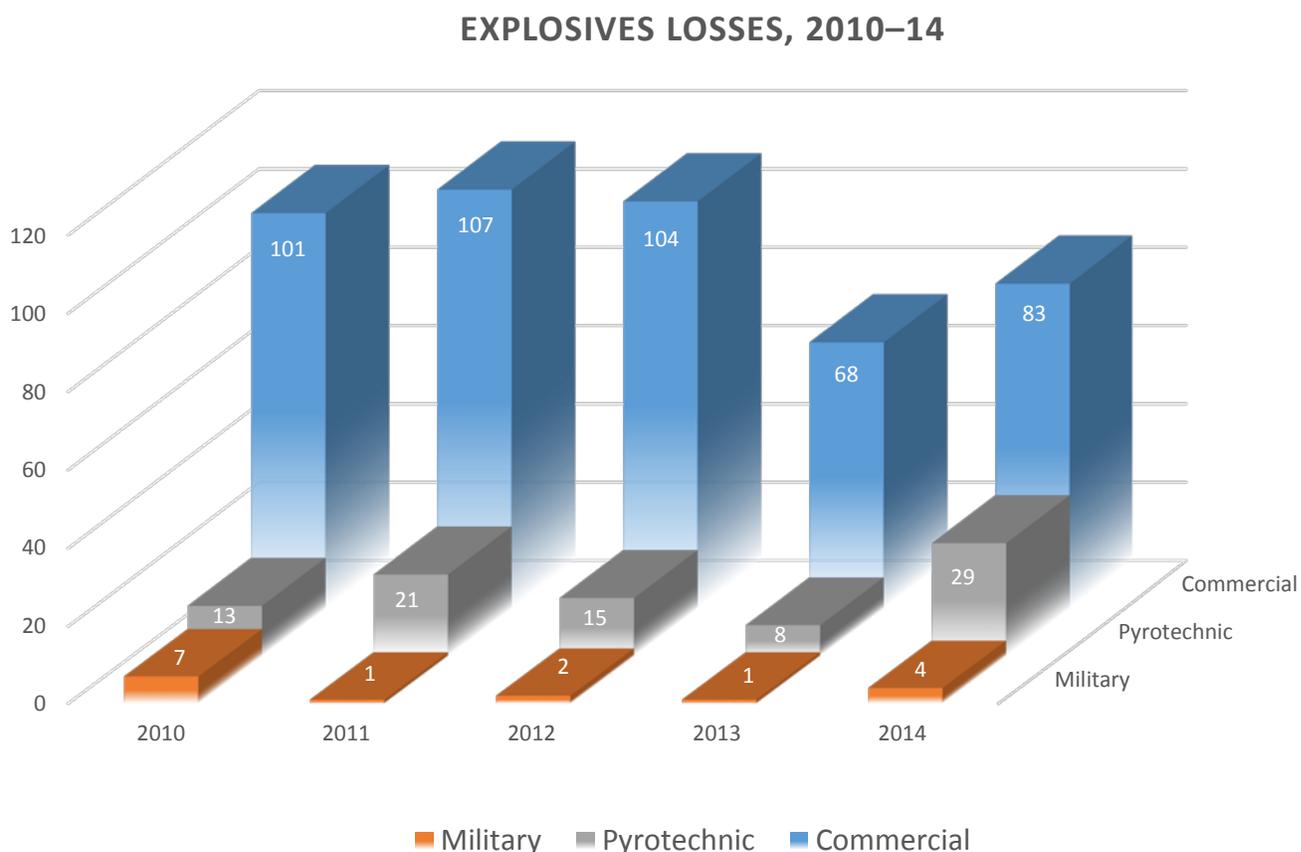


Figure 22. Explosives Loss Types, 2010–14

It should be noted that a vast majority of reported explosives losses are the result of a discovery made during an ATF compliance inspection of Federal explosives licensees or permittees. The typical reason given for the loss of explosives by most reporting entities is improper documentation when issued, used, or they were not retrievable after a failed shot.

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EXPLOSIVES THEFT/LOSS 2014

6.4 Explosives Loss Reported by State

	Commercial	Military	Pyrotechnics	Total
ALABAMA	1			1
ALASKA	2			2
ARIZONA	4		2	6
ARKANSAS	3			3
CALIFORNIA	7		1	8
COLORADO	3		1	4
CONNECTICUT	3			3
FLORIDA	1		2	3
GEORGIA	1			1
ILLINOIS	2		1	3
INDIANA	1	1	3	5
KANSAS	2			2
KENTUCKY	3		1	4
LOUISIANA	1			1
MARYLAND			1	1
MICHIGAN			4	4
MINNESOTA	1			1
MISSOURI	4			4
NEBRASKA	1			1
NEVADA	2			2
NEW HAMPSHIRE			2	2
NEW JERSEY	1			1
NEW MEXICO	1			1
NEW YORK	2		2	4
NORTH CAROLINA	1			1
NORTH DAKOTA	2			2
OHIO	4			4
OKLAHOMA	4	1		5
OREGON	1			1
PENNSYLVANIA	4		2	6
PUERTO RICO		2		2
TENNESSEE	2			2
TEXAS	10		1	11
UTAH	1		1	2
VERMONT	1			1
VIRGINIA	2			2
WASHINGTON			3	3
WEST VIRGINIA	4			4
WISCONSIN	1		1	2
WYOMING			1	1
Grand Total	83	4	29	116

Figure 23. Explosives Loss Types per State

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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