

# DHS Science and Technology Directorate

## FIRST-Bomb Response

### Why it's Needed

At the time of a bomb threat, securing the location and the surrounding perimeter is critical to the safety of the responders and the public. In the past 32 years, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives has investigated over 25,000 bombings, more than 900 accidental explosions, and more than 21,000 incidents involving recovered explosives or explosive devices. Each of these incidents required critical on-scene management to keep civilians and first responders safe during incident investigation and response.

### How it Works

The Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate's First Responder Support Tool (FIRST)-Bomb Response smartphone application takes advantage of the public's widespread use of smartphones' information-sharing capabilities to provide a simple yet powerful bomb response tool. Available for the iPhone/iPad, Android, and Windows PC, FIRST-Bomb Response provides authorized first responders the information necessary to safely control incident locations. The application provides information such as stand-off distances, rough damage and injury contours, nearby areas of concern (e.g., schools, daycare centers, etc.), and suggested roadblocks that could help isolate an incident. FIRST-Bomb Response also provides IED and HAZMAT guidelines, reference information, and points of contact to call for questions and assistance. Application distribution is controlled to ensure only authorized personnel can access these capabilities.

FIRST-Bomb Response works with Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Evacuation and other commercial applications to provide necessary information to first responders. This information is then displayed on Google Maps for all supported platforms, ensuring consistency of display and functionality. First responders can also easily distribute incident details and annotated map images by email or text message.

### The Value

FIRST-Bomb Response provides the first response community with a dramatic increase in overall response and recovery capability and efficiency using current technologies. FIRST-Bomb Response does not require any training, provides ease of integration in community systems, and requires no special infrastructure.



FIRST-Bomb Response smartphone application

### Next Steps

With funding from S&T, FIRST-Bomb Response is currently available from Applied Research Associates, Inc. The DHS Office for Bombing Prevention, the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board, and municipal bomb squad commanders also participated in the design of the functionality requirements. FIRST-Bomb Response was made available for use by authorized personnel in September 2011.



**Homeland  
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To learn more about the FIRST-Bomb Response Initiative, contact Christine Lee, Program Manager, at [christine.lee@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:christine.lee@hq.dhs.gov)