

Department of the Treasury

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms



# ATF NEWS



Washington, DC

24 Hour Telephone: (202) 927-8864

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## **Explosive Devices Detonate At Area Lowe's Home Improvement Stores**

Charlotte, North Carolina - On Wednesday, September 22, 1999, at 5:50 p.m., an improvised explosive device detonated in the paint department of Lowe's Home Improvement Store at 207 Faith Road, Salisbury, North Carolina. Several employees and customers that were in the vicinity of the explosion were treated for minor injuries and released from local medical facilities.

On the same day at approximately 5:52 p.m., an improvised explosive device detonated in the paint department of Lowe's Home Improvement Store at 1120 E. Dixie Drive, Asheboro, North Carolina. A customer that was in the vicinity of the explosion suffered 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree burns and was airlifted to the Chapel Hill Burn Unit for treatment and her condition is stable.

The investigation into these incidents is a joint effort with ATF, the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, the Salisbury Police and Fire Departments, and the Asheboro Police and Fire Departments. There is currently no evidence to link the two incidents, however, the investigation is continuing. Lowe's is cooperating fully in the investigation.

The Special Agent in Charge of the ATF Charlotte Division, Richard C. Fox, activated the Division Response Team (DRT) to each crime incident to assist in processing the scene. The ATF DRT is staffed by arson and explosives experts from offices throughout both North and South Carolina. Mr. Fox stated, "Indiscriminate bombings like these are heinous crimes that reveal the cowardice of the individual(s) responsible. We take

these incidents very seriously and will dedicate whatever resources necessary to solve and prosecute these cases."

Anyone having information that may be useful in helping to solve these bombings is encouraged to contact any of the investigating agencies. ATF's 24 hour telephone number is 1-888-ATF-BOMB or 1-888-283-2662.

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