U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Operational Intelligence Division
United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC)

2024

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

Source: https://www.latintimes.com/deadly-honolulu-fireworks-incident-570848

Scope

The *Annual Explosives Incident Report* reviews bombing and explosives related incidents from information reported to the United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC) through the Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) and open-source information collected through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP), Technical Resource for Incident Prevention (TRIP*wire*).

Table of Contents

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

The 2024 *Explosives Incident Report* (EIR) is an informational product prepared by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), United States Bomb Data Center (USBDC), in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Office for Bombing Prevention (OBP). This report examines the total number of explosives-related incidents (*explosions and bombings*, *recoveries*, *suspicious packages*, *bomb threats*, and *hoax incidents)* reported in ATF's Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) and open-source information collected through the CISA OBP Technical Resource for Incident Prevention (TRIP*wire*) during calendar year (CY) 2024.

BACKGROUND

BATS is a comprehensive Web-based arson and explosives incident repository, case management and reporting system containing more than 797,000 incidents documented by Federal law enforcement agencies, Department of Defense Explosive Ordnance Disposal units, public safety bomb squads, as well as fire and arson investigation units from participating Federal, State, local and Tribal agencies. In accordance with 18 USC § 846(b), Federal agencies are required to report incidents involving arson and the suspected criminal misuse of explosives to ATF, whereas State and local agencies may voluntarily report such incidents. The USBDC's mission is to collect, analyze and disseminate critical arson and explosives incident information and intelligence to Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement and public safety officials and military and international partners in an effort to increase regional, national and international situational awareness to better detect, deter and prevent future criminal and terrorist acts.

CISA OBP's TRIP*wire* is the Department of Homeland Security's secure, online, collaborative information-sharing resource portal for the Nation's security and emergency services professionals across the public and private sectors. It is a secure, restricted-access information-sharing platform containing explosives-related incidents reported through open sources to provide increased awareness of evolving improvised explosive device (IED) tactics, techniques, and procedures and support threat and incident-based crisis decision-making. TRIP*wire* combines expert analyses and reports with relevant documents, images, and videos gathered directly from extremist sources to help users anticipate, identify, and prevent IED incidents. CISA operates the OBP TRIP*wire* program pursuant to the authority provided in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended), including 6 USC § 652. To provide the most comprehensive explosives-related incident information, the USBDC collaborates with CISA OBP to collect explosives-related incidents not captured in BATS from TRIPwire.

DISCLAIMER

The data represented in this report has undergone an extensive quality assurance review process to clarify any ambiguities in incidents entered by the reporting agencies. The accuracy of the data is user-dependent; therefore, a small percentage may be incorrectly categorized. In addition, BATS is a dynamic incident management system and, as such, does not preclude the possibility that the statistics represented may differ slightly from previously reported data. This can occur, for example, when the owner of a specific record(s) updates or makes changes to the record, such as reclassifying the incident type or materials recovered. TRIP*wire* open-source reporting of explosives-related incidents in the United States and its territories is derived from news outlets and/or other multimedia channels and is verified to the extent possible. TRIP*wire* data does not include classified or law-enforcement sensitive information. Due to the nature of

open-source information collection, TRIP*wire* data may not reflect all explosives-related incidents or casualty figures during the stated period.

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

The CY 2024 *Explosives Incident Report* includes a total of 18,365 explosives-related incidents reported in BATS and TRIP*wire*. Combined, there were 827 explosions reported in BATS and TRIP*wire*, an increase of 7 percent since the prior year. Of the reported explosions, 353 were bombings. There was a total of 7,802 recoveries reported in BATS and TRIP*wire* in 2024, with the majority being explosives non-IEDs. There was a total of 6,227 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported in BATS and TRIP*wire* in 2024. Bomb threats decreased by 2 percent in 2024, with a total combined number of 3,148 reported incidents. Education, office/business, and assembly locations were the top three targets of bomb threats during 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD

The USBDC, in partnership with CISA OBP, will continue to collect, analyze, and disseminate information regarding arson and suspected criminal misuse of explosives to increase situational awareness in order to detect, deter and prevent criminal acts. For Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) inquiries regarding this product, please submit your request using the following link: https://www.securerelease.us/. For any specific questions or concerns regarding FOIA requests, please visit the ATF Freedom of Information Act website at https://www.atf.gov/resource-center/freedom-information-act-foia.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Office of Intelligence Operations
Operational Intelligence Division
United States Bomb Data Center

Explosions

1.1 Explosion Incidents, Summary, and Trends

Explosion Incidents are identified by the following categories: *bombings*, *accidental*, *undetermined*, *under investigation* and *not specified*. A *bombing* is defined as an explosion where an explosive (non-IED), improvised explosive device, or overpressure device was used criminally with intent to damage or cause harm. An *accidental* explosion is an explosion that was caused by an accident or there was no criminal intent. The *undetermined* explosion category is used when the investigation has concluded, but the cause of the explosion could not be identified to an acceptable level of certainty. The *under investigation* category is used when the cause of the explosion is still pending or awaiting laboratory results. Lastly, *not specified* indicates a subcategory was not selected.

Explosion Incidents include all incidents where explosive materials, chemicals, or ignitable mixtures were determined to be the primary cause of an explosion.

There were 827 Explosion Incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** during 2024 — a 7-percent increase from 2023.

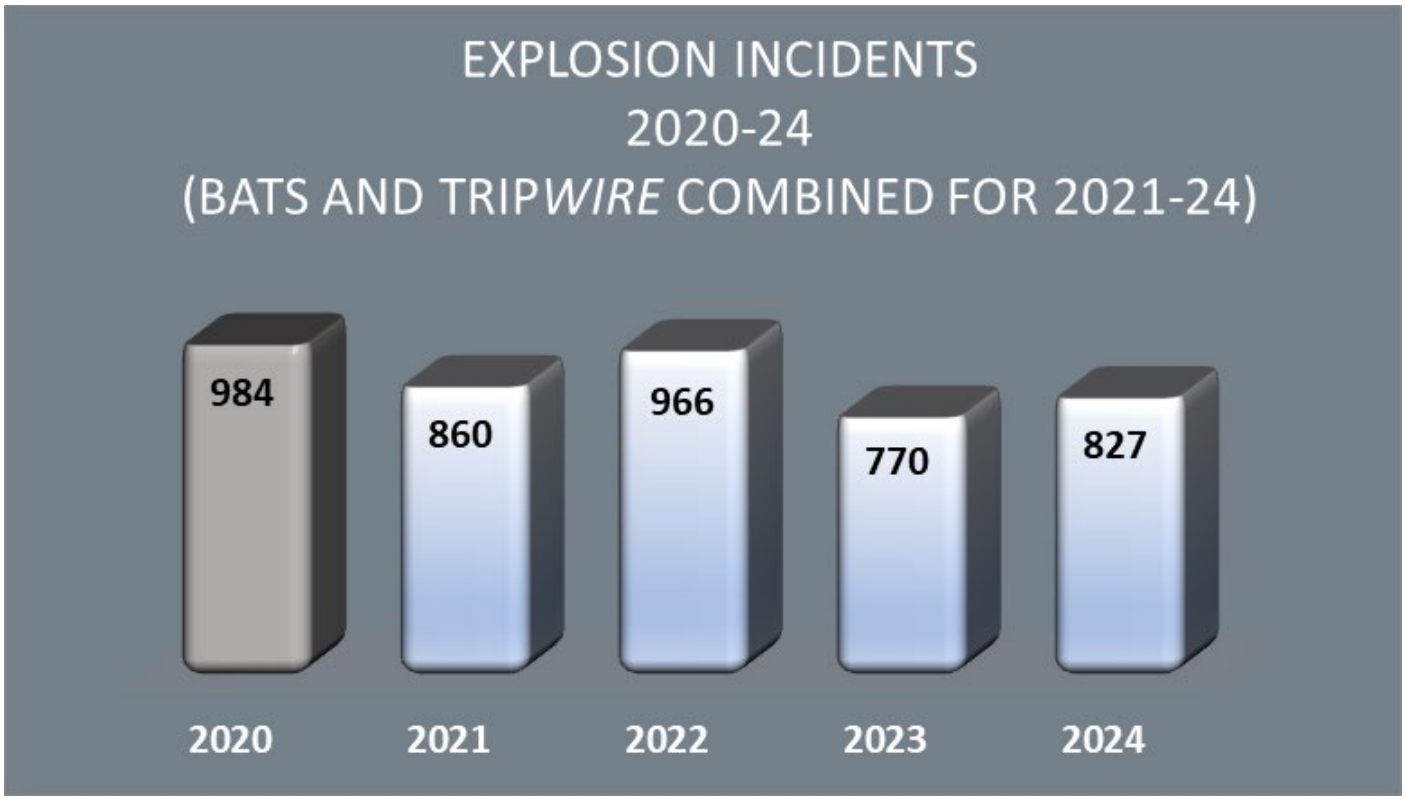

Figure 1. BATS Explosion Incidents, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

1.2 Explosion Incidents with Reported Injuries

The chart below identifies the number of reported injuries due to explosion-related incidents for the past 5 years. *Note: CYs 2021 through 2024 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIPwire**.*

Injuries					
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fire Service	3	8	0	5	14
Law Enforcement	5	1	4	1	2
Suspects	11	24	15	10	5
Victims	72	67	53	92	138
Total	91	100	72	108	159

Figure 2. BATS explosion incidents – Injuries, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

1.3 Explosion Incidents with Reported Fatalities

The chart below identifies the number of reported fatalities due to explosion-related incidents for the past 5 years. *Note: CYs 2021 through 2024 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIPwire**.*

Fatalities					
Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Fire Service	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	1	0	0	0	0
Suspects	1	2	6	4	1
Victims	11	25	26	23	34
Total	13	27	32	27	35

Figure 3. BATS explosion fatalities – Injuries, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

1.4 BATS and TRIP*wire* Explosion Incidents and Type of Bombing

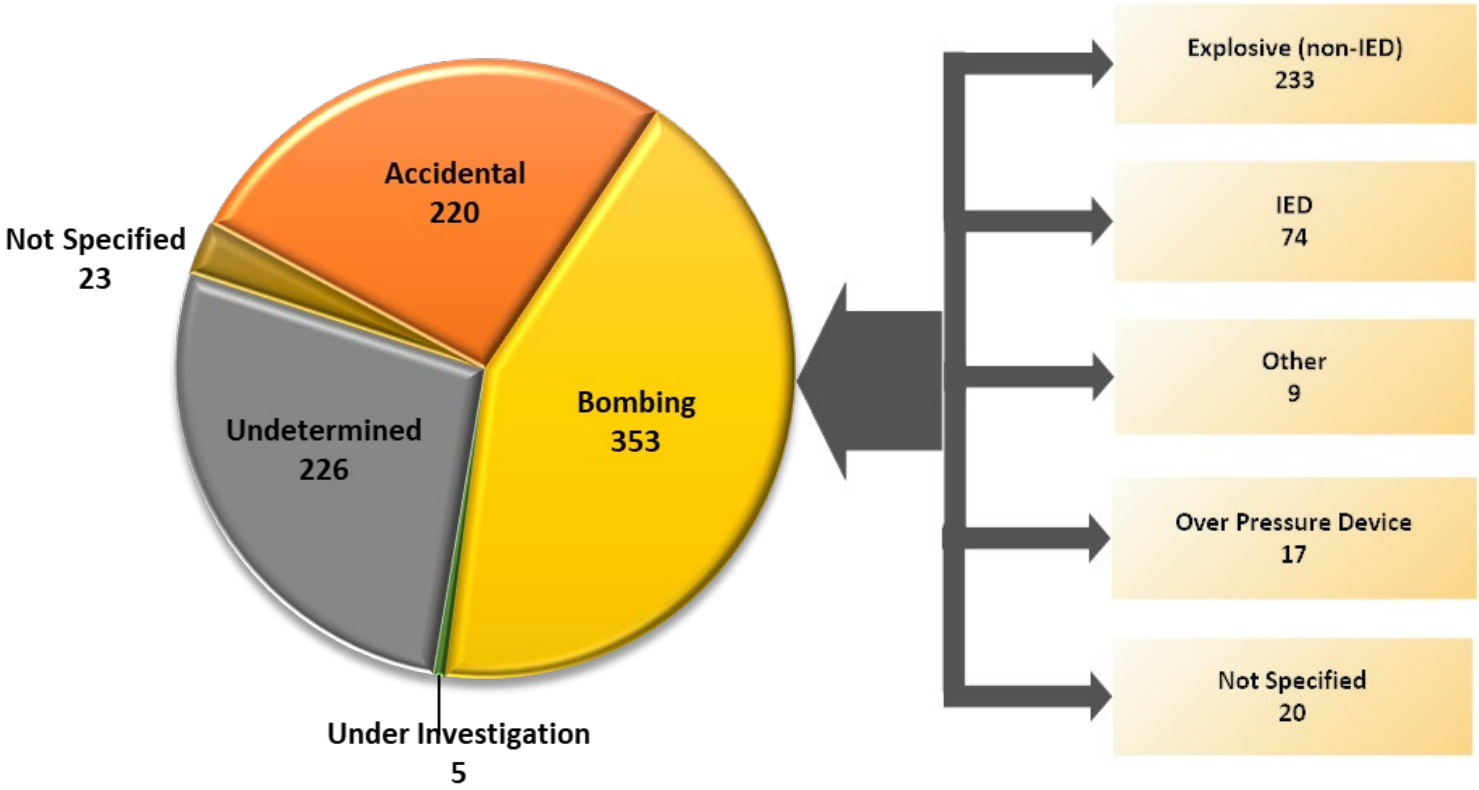

Figure 4. Explosion Incidents, Type and Subtype
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

1.5 Bombing Trends

There were 353 bombing incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2024. This is a 10-percent increase from the prior year. Bombings are broken down into the following categories: *IED*, *Over Pressure Devices*, *Other*, and *Explosive (non-IED such as commercial, military, fireworks, and homemade explosives HMEs))*.

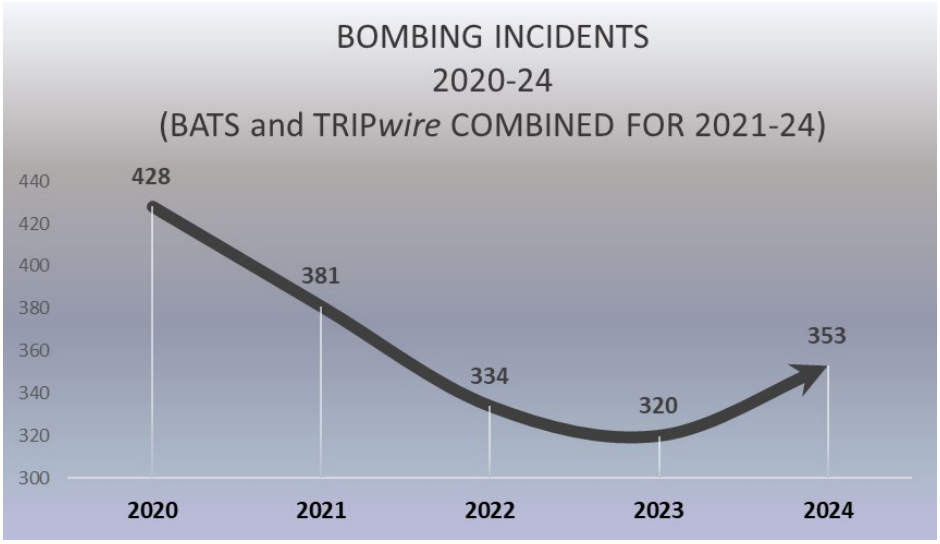

Figure 5. BATS Bombing Incidents, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

Figure 6 breaks down the total number of bombing incidents by State during CY 2024.

STATES	TOTAL	STATES	TOTAL
ALABAMA	2	MONTANA	2
ALASKA	1	NEBRASKA	5
ARIZONA	4	NEW JERSEY	12
ARKANSAS	1	NEW MEXICO	5
CALIFORNIA	66	NEW YORK	12
COLORADO	15	NORTH CAROLINA	5
CONNECTICUT	2	NORTH DAKOTA	1
DELAWARE	1	OHIO	14
FLORIDA	18	OKLAHOMA	1
GEORGIA	6	OREGON	7
HAWAII	3	PENNSYLVANIA	15
IDAHO	1	RHODE ISLAND	2
ILLINOIS	3	SOUTH CAROLINA	5
INDIANA	6	SOUTH DAKOTA	2
IOWA	5	TENNESSEE	7
KANSAS	10	TEXAS	16
LOUISIANA	2	UTAH	11
MARYLAND	17	VERMONT	3
MASSACHUSETTS	8	VIRGINIA	1
MICHIGAN	6	WASHINGTON	26
MINNESOTA	6	WEST VITGINIA	4
MISSOURI	8	WISCONSIN	5
		WYOMING	1

Figure 6. Bombings by State – Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

1.6 Explosions, All Devices and Materials – Main Charges

Figure 7 provides the number of main charges reported in **BATS** related to Explosion Incidents for the past 5 years.

Note: Unknown or N/A located at the bottom of the chart indicates that no main charge was identified or that the main charge was unknown at the time of the record entry.

Explosion - Main Charges						
Material Subtype Description	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Total**
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	3	4	3	5	3	18
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	7	6	3	4	6	26
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	11	12	17	15	9	64
Ignitable Gas	5	8	2	9	8	32
Ignitable Liquid	1	4	10	4	3	22
Ignitable Solid	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other (Not identified)	7	5	8	10	5	35
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	0	2	2	2	0	6
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	2	0	0	0	0	2
Commercial Explosives - Binary	4	9	6	3	4	26
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	2	2	1	1	0	6
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	2	1	0	0	1	4
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	2	1	0	0	1	4
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	1	0	0	2	0	3
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	4	7	7	7	14	39
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnics/Fireworks	82	87	81	59	61	370
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	5	0	0	5
Special Purpose Devices	0	0	0	1	0	1
Military Explosives - Propellants	0	0	1	1	0	2
Unknown or N/A	67	95	79	101	73	415
Grand Total	**200**	**243**	**225**	**224**	**189**	**1,081**

Figure 7. Explosion – Main Charges, 2020–24
Source: BATS

1.7 Explosion – Device Containers

Figure 8 provides the number of containers by type reported in explosion incidents in **BATS** in 2024.

Note: Unknown and N/A are respectively selected when either a container was not known at the time of entry or there was no container associated with the device.

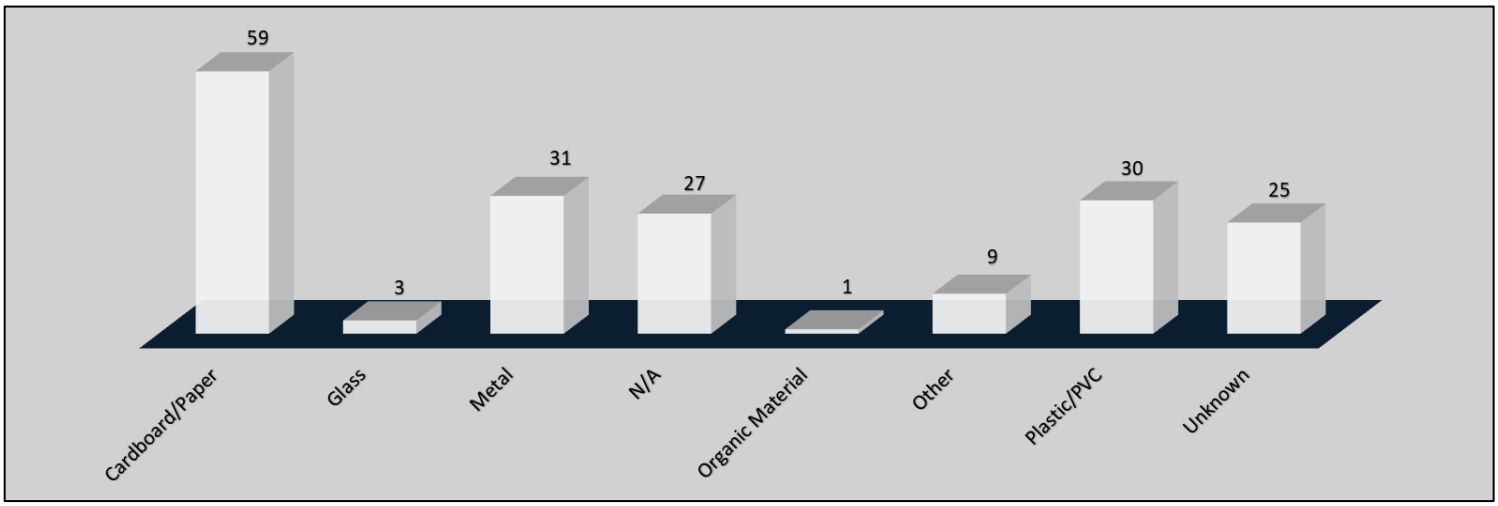

Figure 8. Explosion Device Containers – 2024
Source: BATS

1.8 Explosion – Switches

Figure 9 shows the total number of switches reported in **BATS** during an explosion incident for CY 2024. Time–Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse) switches were the highest reported switch type during 2024.

Note: Unknown or N/A is selected when either a switch was not known at the time of entry or there was no switch associated with the device.

Switch Type	
Command - Radio Controlled	1
Time - Mechanical (Clock Mechanism, Displacement)	1
Time - Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse)	3
Unknown or N/A	101
Grand Total	**106**

Figure 9. Switches Related to Explosions – 2024
Source: BATS

Recoveries

2.1 Recovery Incidents, Summary and Trends

A recovery, as used within the context of this report, is defined as a recovery of explosives, to include the following: non-improvised explosive devices (non-IEDs) – commercial explosives, military explosives, fireworks, and homemade explosives (HMEs); chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN); IEDs; incendiary devices; over pressure devices; precursors; ammunition; bomb-making information; as well as inert commercial and inert military explosives. There were 7,802 reported recovery incidents in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2024 – an increase of 4 percent since 2023.

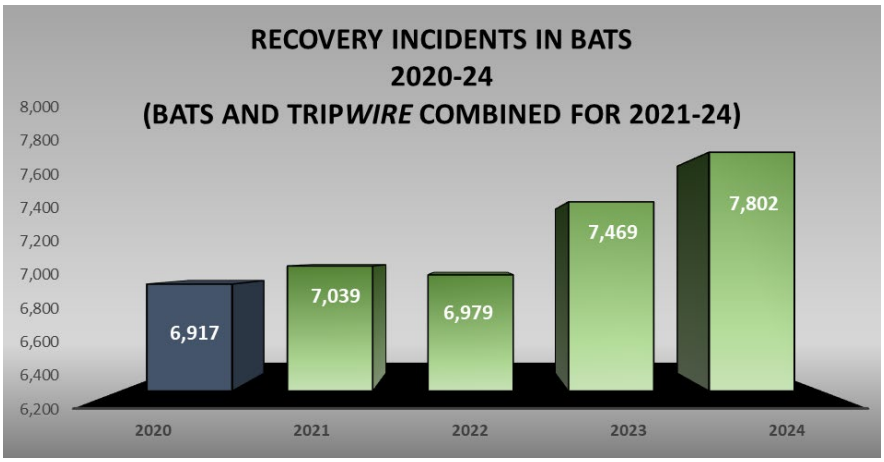

Figure 10. BATS Recovery Incidents, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* Recovery Incidents (CYs 2021–24)

2.2 Recovery Types

Overall, the largest recovery type and subtype categories remain unchanged. Explosives (non-IED) recoveries represent the majority of recoveries during 2024, as reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire***. This is followed by the "Other" category, which includes the following subtypes: Ammunition, Bomb-Making Information, Inert–Commercial, and Inert–Military. Of those subtypes, Ammunition (1,265) and Inert–Military (1,154) were the most reported. (See figures 11 and 12.)

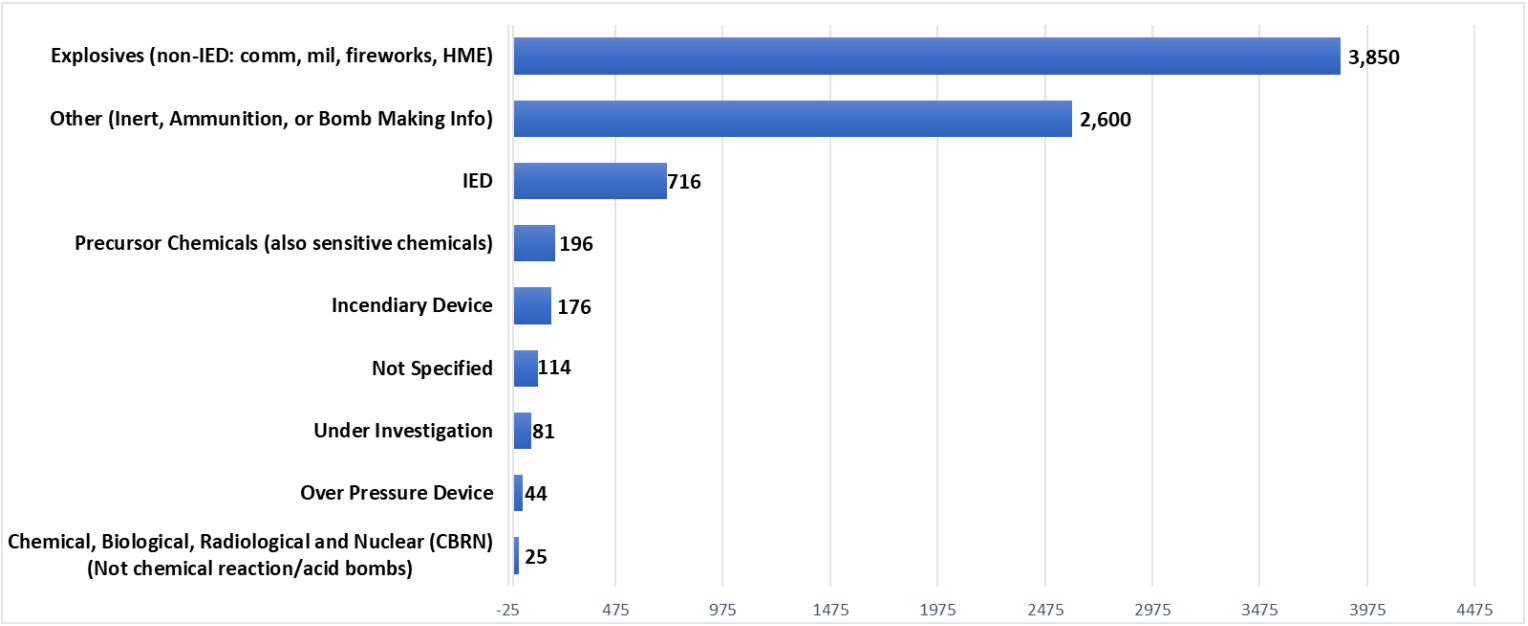

Figure 11. Recovery Types – 2024
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

2.3 Recovery Subtypes

CBRN (Not chemical reaction/acid bombs)	**25**
Explosives (non-IED: comm, mil, fireworks, HME)	**3,850**
Commercial Explosives	905
HME	123
Military Explosives	531
Military Ordnance (not Inert)	850
Pyrotechnics (non-military)	1,199
Not Specified	242
IED	**716**
Incendiary Device	**176**
Other (Inert, Ammunition, or Bomb Making Info)	**2,600**
Ammunition (not ordnance)	1,265
Bomb Making Information	14
Inert - Commercial	73
Inert - Military	1,154
Not Specified	94
Over Pressure Device	**44**
Precursor Chemicals (also sensitive chemicals)	**196**
Under Investigation	**81**
Not Specified	**114**

Figure 12. Recovery Subtypes – 2024
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

2.4 Recovery Incidents by Target Type

Of the recovery incidents where a target was reported in both **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** during 2024, the majority took place at Residential structures (29 percent), Detention/Corrections/Government (9 percent), and Outside/Special Properties (6 percent). *Note: The majority of recovery incidents at Detention/Corrections/Government and Law Enforcement/Emergency offices do not indicate that a specific device was recovered after being placed at the location; rather, it is most likely due to explosives material turn-ins.* (See figure 13 for a complete list of all recoveries by location.)

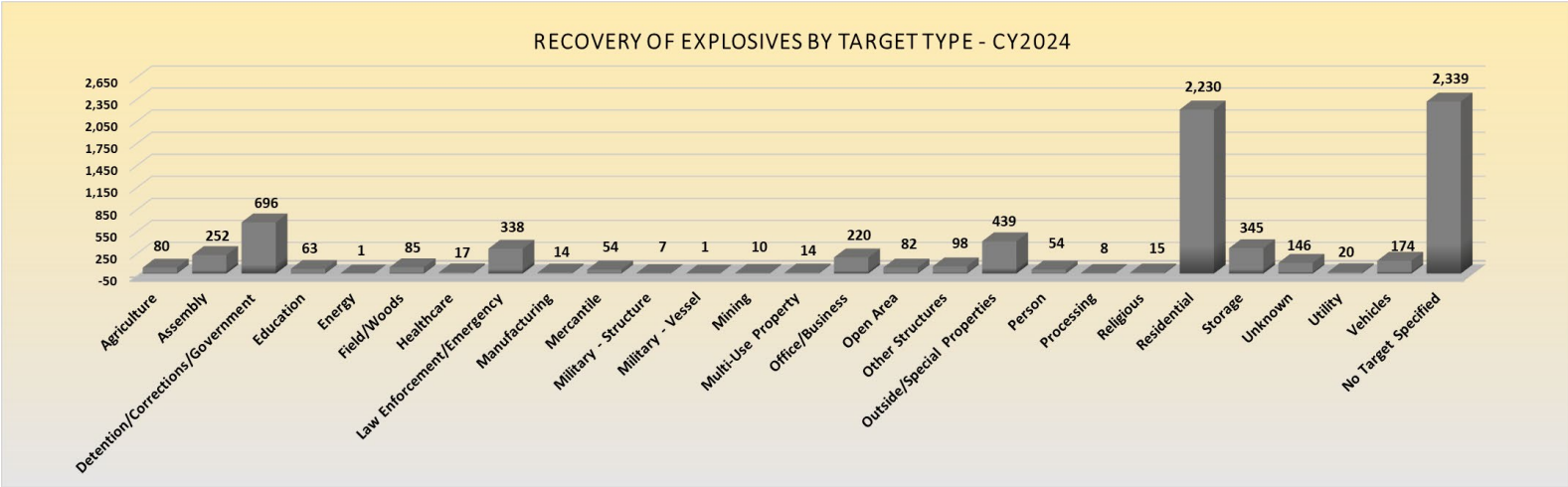

Figure 13. Recovery Incidents by Target Type – 2024
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

2.5 Recovery – All Devices and Materials - Main Charges

Figure 14 provides the number of main charges by type reported as recovered in **BATS** for the past 5 years.

Note: Unknown or N/A (located at the bottom of the chart) indicates there was no main charge identified or the main charge was unknown at the time of the record entry.

Recovery Main Charges						
Material Type	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**Grand Total**
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	39	25	32	17	19	132
Commercial Explosives - Binary	54	59	57	82	53	305
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	45	49	22	44	37	197
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	25	15	16	19	23	98
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	51	47	50	34	46	228
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	99	112	87	84	83	465
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	2	1	1	6	2	12
Commercial Explosives - Plastic Explosives	12	11	14	14	12	63
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	186	196	170	199	175	926
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnic Fireworks	486	458	558	418	416	2,336
Commercial Explosives - Shaped Charge	13	2	1	8	7	31
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	2	4	4	3	1	14
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	46	0	0	46
Ignitable Gas	7	9	9	15	9	49
Ignitable Liquid	34	59	30	45	31	199
Ignitable Solid	15	7	10	17	19	68
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	30	52	23	88	39	232
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	47	90	54	104	70	365
Lab Use Only	2	2	2	0	2	8
Military Explosives - Demolition Materials	17	28	24	25	20	114
Military Explosives - Incendiaries	11	18	14	19	11	73
Military Explosives - Munitions/Ordnance	54	89	69	98	61	371
Military Explosives - Propellants	3	10	6	12	3	34
Other	0	72	53	89	43	257
Special Purpose Devices	18	22	19	29	30	118
Unknown or N/A	534	703	709	755	702	3,403
Grand Total	**1,786**	**2,140**	**2,080**	**2,224**	**1,914**	**10,144**

Figure 14. Recovery – Main Charges, 2020–24
Source: BATS

2.6 Recovery – Switches

The majority of recovered switch types reported in **BATS** in 2024 included Time–Pyrotechnic Delay (safe/time or hobby fuses) and Command–Pull switches. Time–Pyrotechnic Delay switches decreased by 44 percent. Command–Pull switches increased from 10 incidents in 2023 to 13 in 2024. (See figure 15 for a breakdown of switch types with the corresponding total number of incidents.)

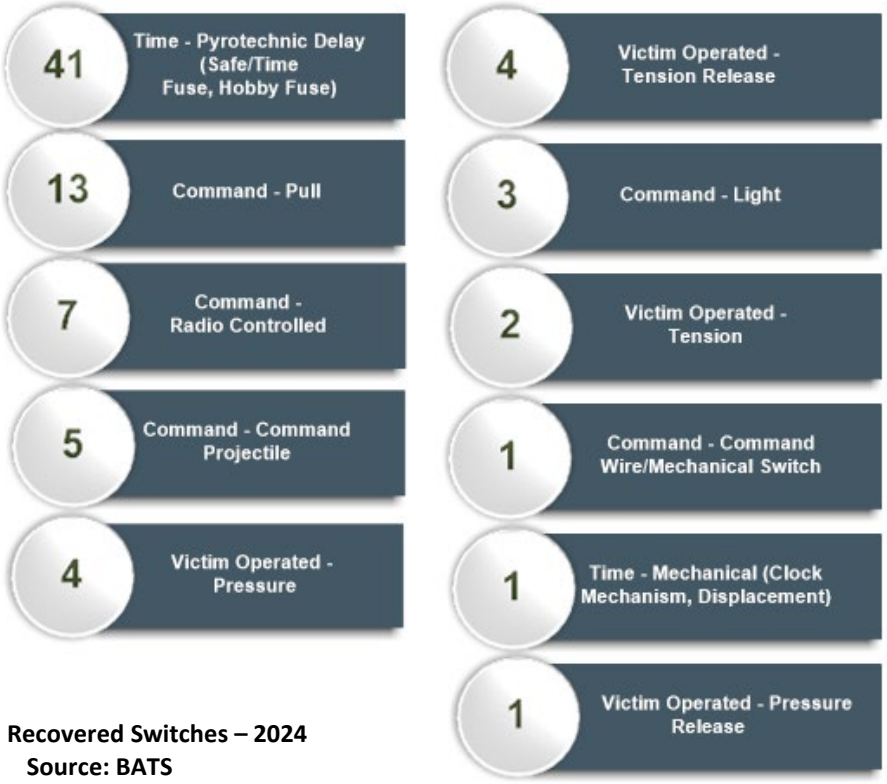

Figure 15. Recovered Switches – 2024
Source: BATS

2.7 Recovery – Containers

Figure 16 provides the number of containers by type reported as recovered in **BATS** in 2024.

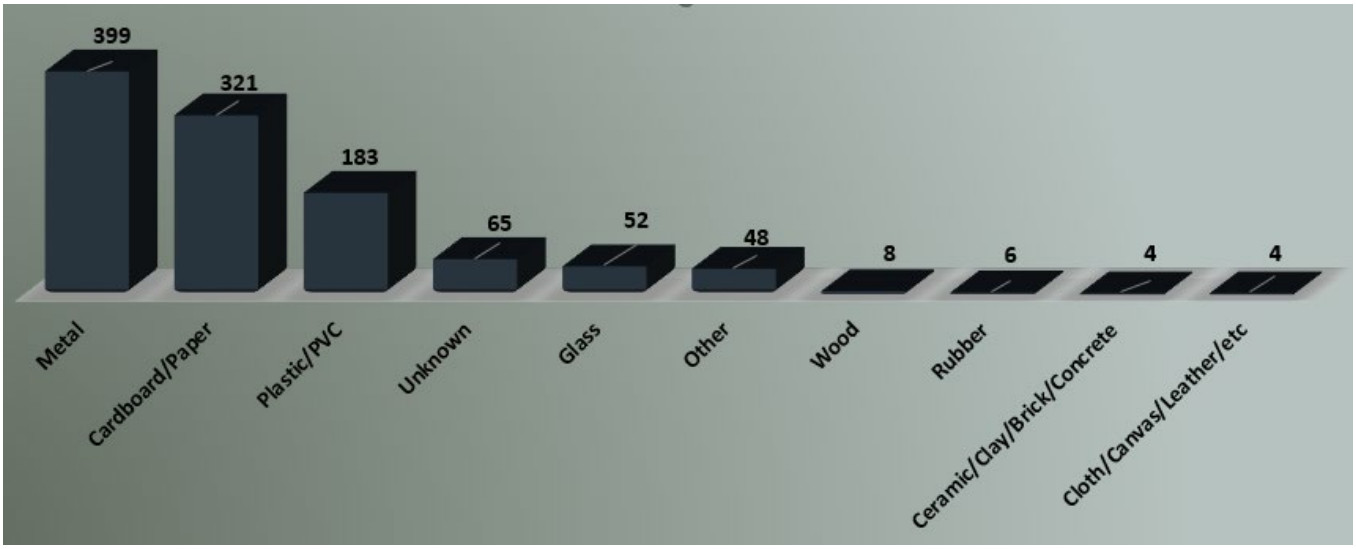

Figure 16. Recovery of Containers – 2024
Source: BATS

Suspicious Packages

2.8 Suspicious Packages, Summary, and Trends

There were 6,227 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** during the 2024 calendar year, a slight decrease since 2023.

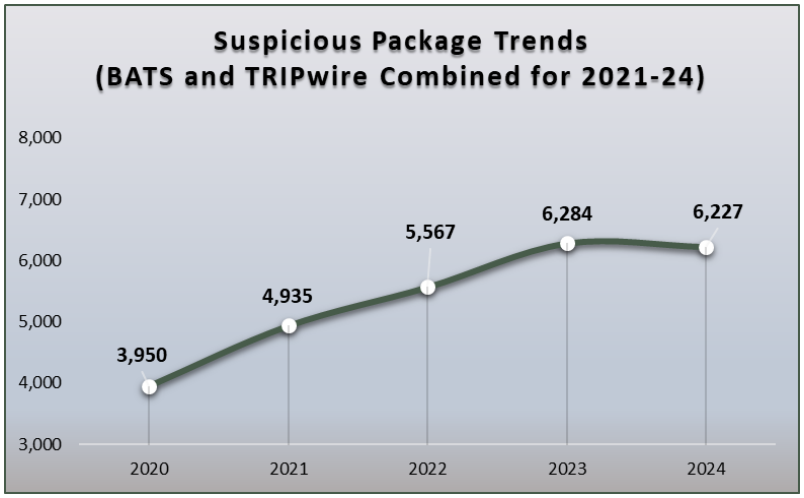

Figure 17. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Packages, 2020–24
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

There was a decrease in Luggage/Briefcase, Book Bag/Purse, and Suspicious Container; however, there was an increase in the Suspicious Persons category. *Note: Unattended Baggage is a new category in BATS for CY 2024.* Unattended baggage prior to CY 2024 was generally reported in the Luggage/Briefcase category. *The creation of the Unattended Baggage category in CY 2024 led to a decrease in the selection of the Luggage/Briefcase category in CY 2024.* (See figure 18 for a comparison of suspicious package types between 2023 and 2024.)

Type	2023	2024	Difference
Book Bag / Purse	1,007	866	-141
Cargo (commercial)	34	36	2
Letter / Envelope	182	164	-18
Luggage / Briefcase	2,041	1,619	-422
Other	900	939	39
Package / Parcel	794	681	-113
Person	64	79	15
Powder (Without Envelope)	36	39	3
Suspicious Container	961	901	-60
Unattended Baggage	0	649	649
Vehicle	206	196	-10
Not Identified	59	58	-1

Figure 18. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Package Incident Types, 2024
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

Bomb Threats

3.1 Bomb Threats, Summary, and Trends

There were 3,148 reported bomb-threat incidents in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2024 – a decrease of 2 percent since the prior year.

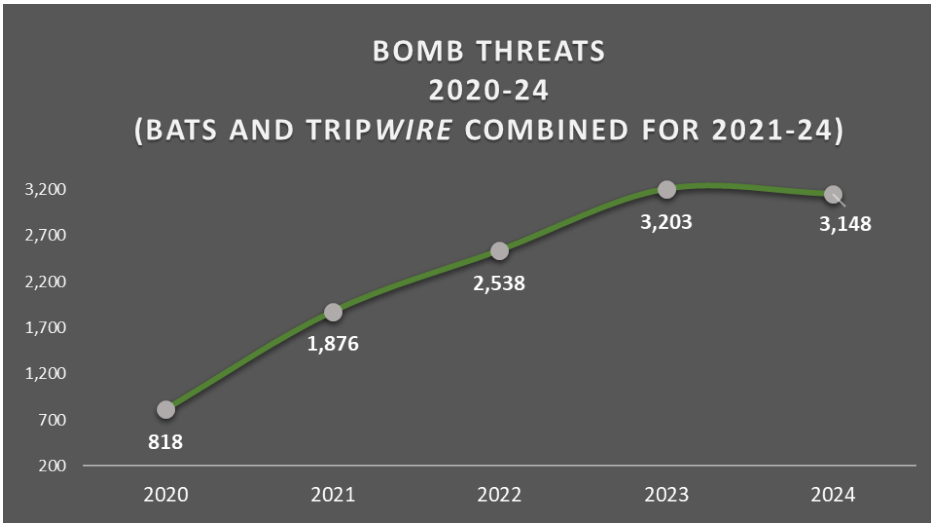

Figure 19. BATS Bomb Threats, 2020–24
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

3.2 Bomb Threats by Target

Education facilities (1,037), Assembly (407), and Office/Business (327) locations were the **top three** targets of bomb threats in 2024.

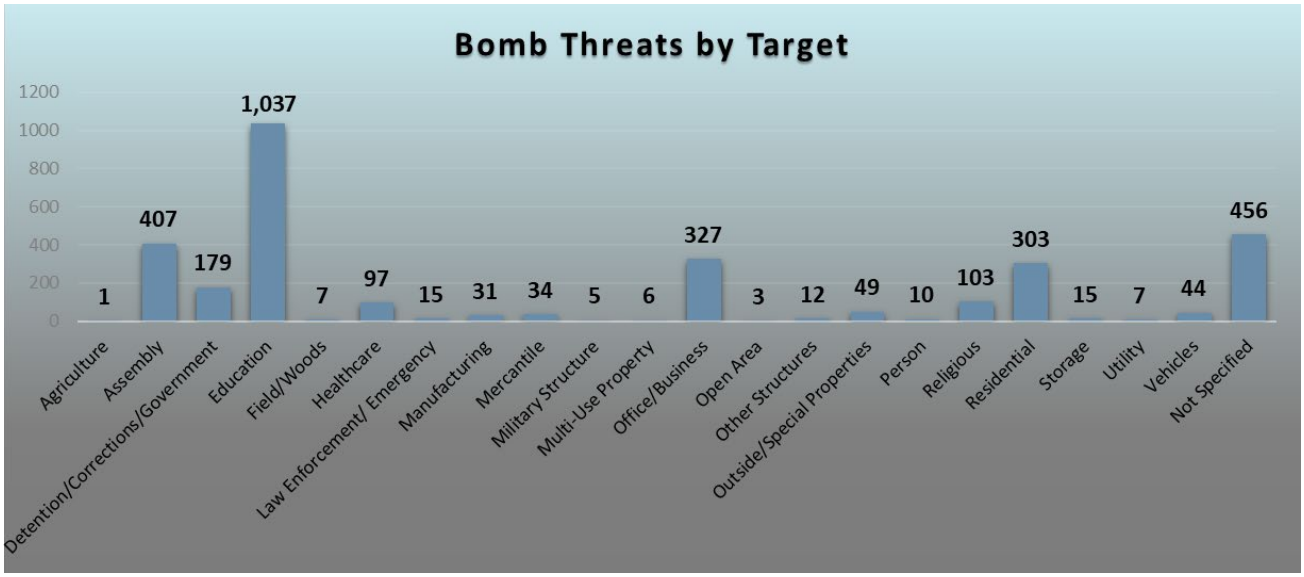

Figure 20. BATS Bomb Threats by Target – 2024
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

Hoaxes

4.1 Hoax Device Incidents, Summary, and Trends

There were 361 hoax device incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2024. Ninety-two (92) percent of the reported hoax devices were IED-type hoax devices. California, Texas, and Florida had the most reported hoax devices.

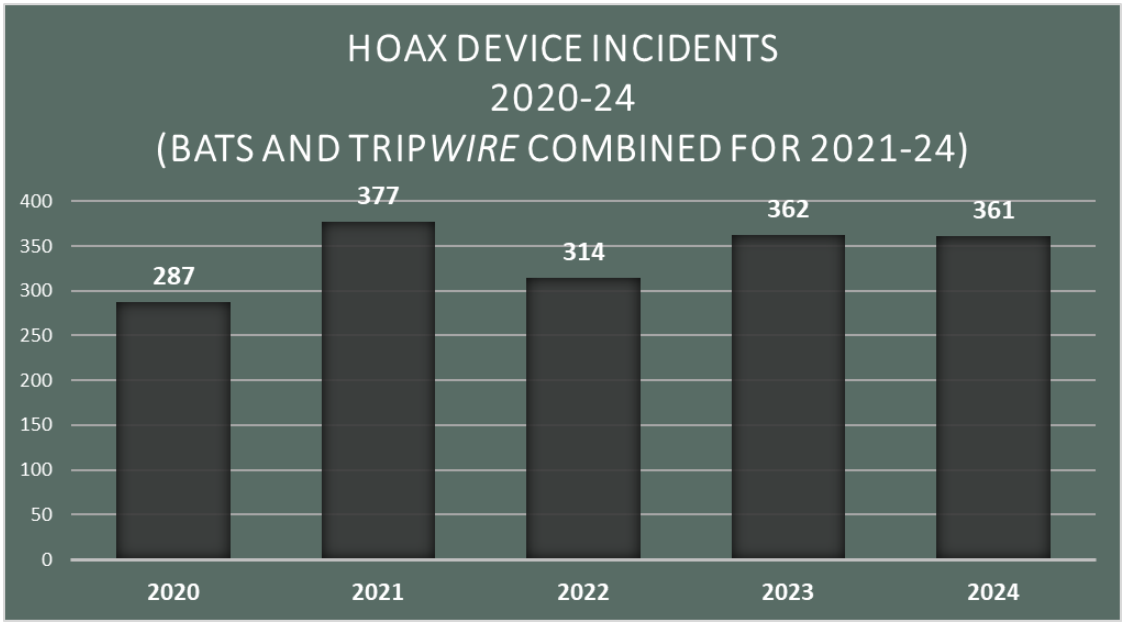

Figure 21. BATS Hoax Device Incidents, 2020–24
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

4.2 Hoax Incidents by Incident Type

The most commonly reported hoax devices in 2024 were IEDs. Thirty-four (34) of the 361 hoax incidents did not specify a type.

Type of reported hoax devices	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
IED	257	307	286	305	300
CBRN (Not chemical reaction/acid bombs)	3	35	1	10	11
Incendiary Device	18	13	13	13	16
Not Specified	9	22	14	34	34
Total	287	377	314	362	361

Figure 22. Hoax Incident Types and Subtypes, 2020–24
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–24)

Thefts and Losses of Explosives

5.1 Explosives Thefts, Summary, and Trends

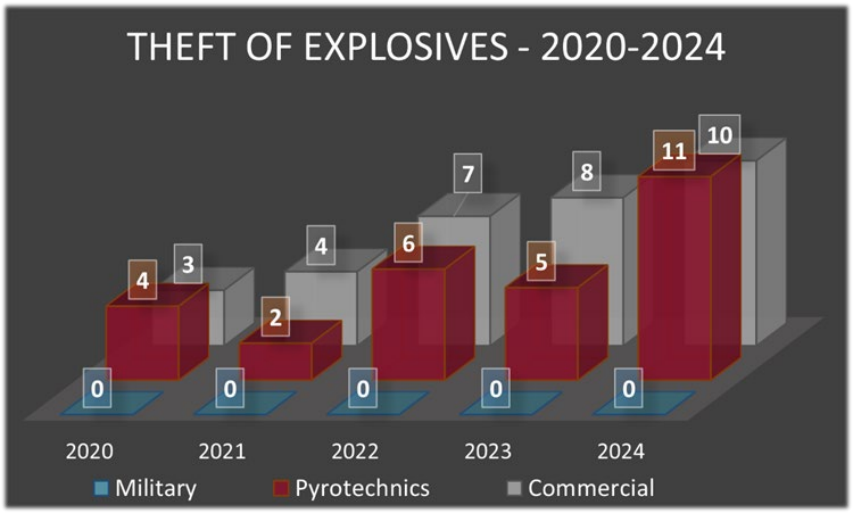

Figure 23. Explosives Theft Types, 2020-24
Source: BATS

There were 21 reported thefts of explosives from Federal explosives licensees in 2024. Pyrotechnic explosives were the most stolen explosive type. These numbers do not represent the quantity of explosives reported as a theft but rather the number of reported incidents.

Note: ATF does not regulate military explosives. Therefore, there is no requirement for the military to report lost or stolen explosives to ATF.

5.2 Explosives Theft Types per State

Figure 24 identifies States where explosives thefts were reported in 2024.

State	Commercial	Military	Pyrotechnics	Total
CA			2	2
CO	1			1
IA			2	2
ID	1			1
MI			1	1
MO			1	1
NC	1			1
NM	1			1
NV	1			1
NY	1			1
OH			1	1
PA			4	4
TN	1			1
VA	1			1
WV	2			2
Grand Total	**10**	**0**	**11**	**21**

Figure 24. Explosives Theft Types State - 2024
Source: BATS

5.3 Explosives Losses, Summary and Trends

There were 134 incidents of explosives losses reported during 2024, a 9-percent increase from the previous year. The majority of explosives losses were commercial explosives (93 percent). These numbers do not represent the quantity of explosives reported as a loss but rather the number of reported incidents.

The typical reasons given for the loss of explosives is improper documentation/recordkeeping or the explosives were deemed irretrievable after a misfire.

Of these 134 reported incidents, there was one (1) partial reconciliation and eight (8) full reconciliations reported.

- A full reconciliation is when all explosives previously reported as a loss have been recovered.
- A partial reconciliation is when some (but not all) explosives previously reported as a loss have been recovered.

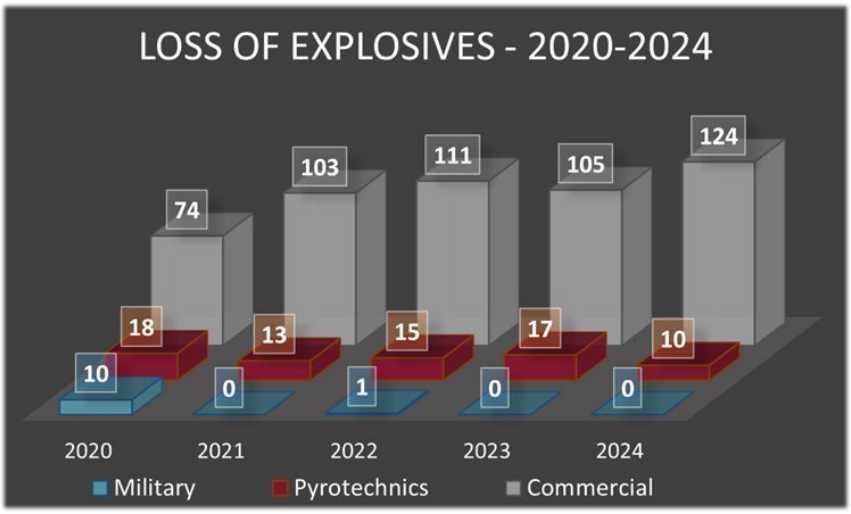

Figure 25. Explosives Loss Types, 2020–24
Source: BATS

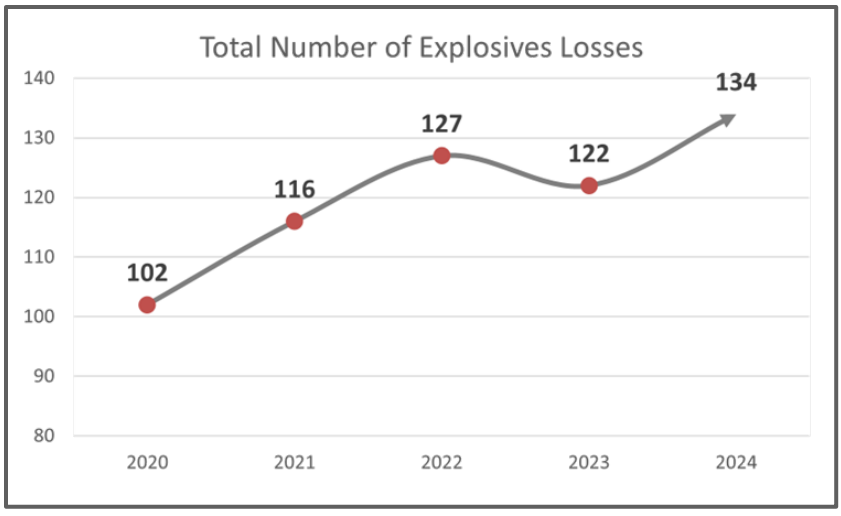

Figure 26. Total number of Explosives Losses, 2020–24
Source: BATS

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