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

2022

The Annual Explosives Incident Report (EIR) 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 Protection (TRIPwire).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2022

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

(U) The 2022 *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). The EIR uses incident data 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*). BATS currently has **2,004** interagency partners and **7,965** active users. This report examines the total number of explosives related incidents reported in both BATS and TRIP*wire* for calendar year (CY) 2022. These incidents include *explosions and bombings*, *recoveries*, *suspicious packages*, *bomb threats*, *hoaxes*, and explosives *thefts/losses*. It is important to note that BATS is a real-time dynamic incident management system that 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 individual records. 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. 18 USC section 846(b.)

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

(U) From January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, there was a total of **14,627** *explosives related incidents* reported in **BATS**. Combined, there were **966** explosions reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire***. Of the reported explosions, **334** were *bombings*. There was a total of **6,979** *recoveries* reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2022, with the majority being explosives (non-improvised explosive devices (IEDs)). There was a total of **5,567** *suspicious/unattended package* incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** in 2022. Bomb threats increased by 35 percent in 2022 with a total combined number of **2,358** reported incidents. *Assembly*, *education*, and *office/business locations* were the top three targets of bomb threats during 2022.

LOOKING AHEAD

(U) 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 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.

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

1.1 Explosion Incidents, Summary and Trends

(U) Explosion Incidents are identified by the following categories: *bombings*, *accidental, undetermined,* and *under investigation*. There may be some that were left blank or unspecified. The *undetermined explosion* category is used when the investigation has concluded, but the explosion type was unidentified. The *under investigation* category is used when the cause of the explosion is still pending or awaiting laboratory results.

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

(U) There were 889 Explosion Incidents reported in **BATS** and an additional 77 reported in **TRIP*wire*** during 2022 — a 12-percent increase from 2021.

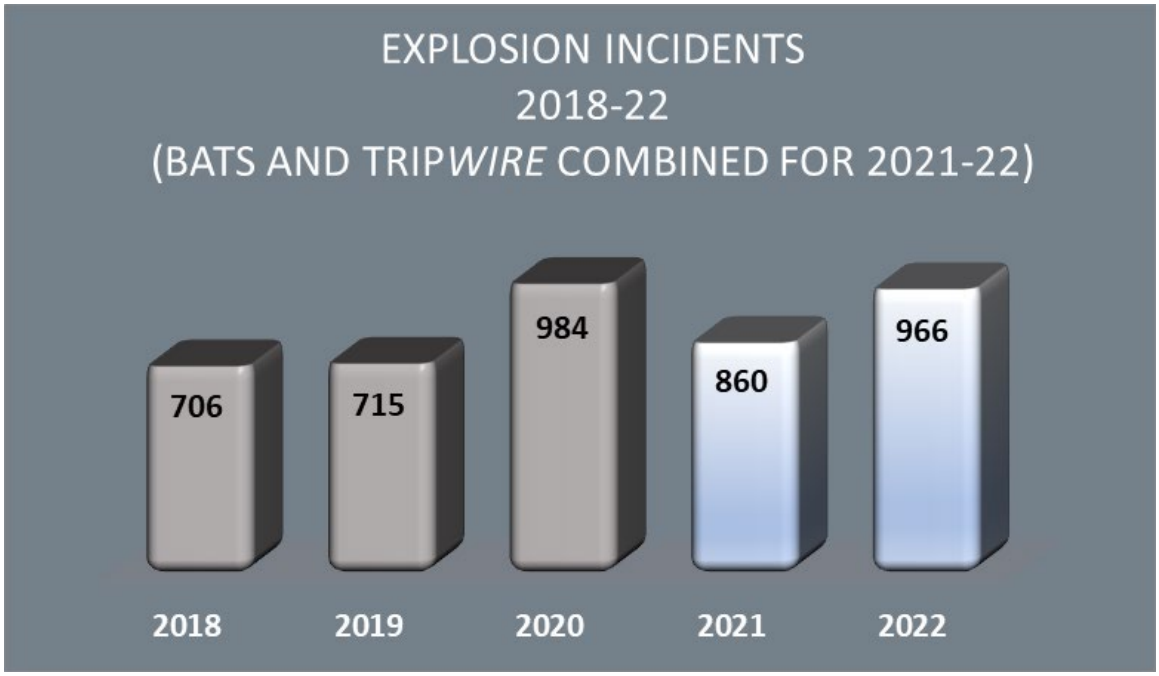


Figure 1. BATS Explosion Incidents, 2018–22
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

1.2 Explosion Incidents with Reported Injuries

(U) The chart below identifies the number of reported injuries as a result of explosion related incidents for the past 5 years. Note: CYs 2021 and 2022 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIP*wire***.

Injuries					
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fire Service	2	1	3	8	0
Law Enforcement	2	3	5	1	4
Suspects	9	6	11	24	15
Victims	59	76	72	67	53
Total	72	86	91	100	72

Figure 2. BATS Explosion Incidents – Injuries, 2018–22
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

1.3 Explosion Incidents with Reported Fatalities

(U) The chart below identifies the number of reported fatalities as a result of explosion related incidents for the past 5 years. Note: CYs 2021 and 2022 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIP*wire***.

Fatalities					
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Fire Service	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	0	1	0	0
Suspects	1	3	1	2	6
Victims	15	13	11	25	26
Total	16	16	13	27	32

Figure 3. BATS Explosion Incidents – Fatalities, 2018–22
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

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

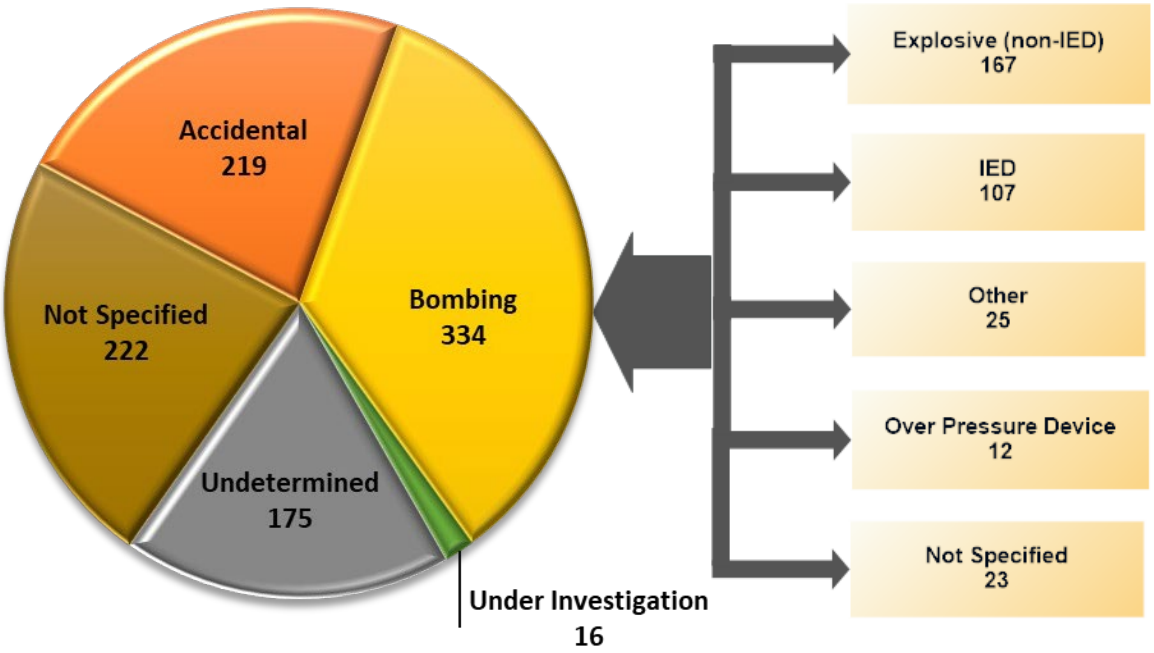


Figure 4. Explosion Incidents, Type and Subtype
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

1.5 Bombing Trends

(U) There were 275 bombing incidents reported in **BATS** and an additional 59 incidents reported in **TRIP*wire***, for a combined total of 334 bombing incidents in 2022. Combined, this is a slight decrease from last year. Bombings are broken down into the following categories: *IED*, *Over Pressure Devices*, *Other Criminal*, and *Explosive* (non-IED such as commercial, military, fireworks, and homemade explosives (HMEs)).

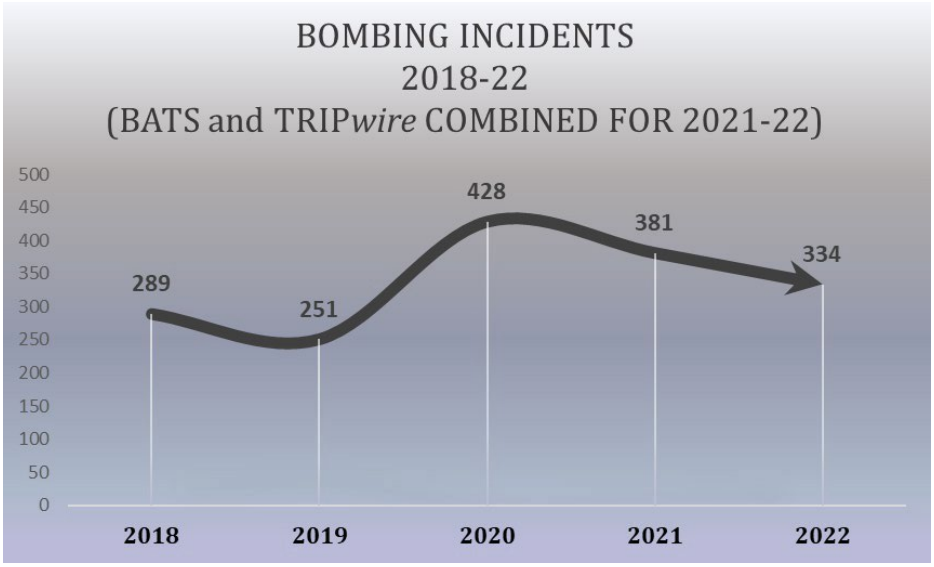


Figure 5. BATS Bombing Incidents, 2018–22
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

(U) Figure 6 breaks down the total number of bombing incidents by State during CY 2022.

Bombings by State CY2022			
STATES	TOTAL	STATES	TOTAL
ALABAMA	2	NEVADA	1
ALASKA	2	NEW HAMPSHIRE	2
ARIZONA	9	NEW JERSEY	3
ARKANSAS	4	NEW MEXICO	1
CALIFORNIA	59	NEW YORK	8
COLORADO	7	NORTH CAROLINA	5
CONNECTICUT	1	NORTH DAKOTA	1
DELAWARE	1	OHIO	12
FLORIDA	7	OKLAHOMA	2
GEORGIA	5	OREGON	13
IDAHO	1	PENNSYLVANIA	23
ILLINOIS	17	SOUTH CAROLINA	8
INDIANA	7	SOUTH DAKOTA	1
IOWA	2	TENNESSEE	5
KANSAS	18	TEXAS	6
KENTUCKY	2	UTAH	1
LOUISIANA	4	VERMONT	2
MARYLAND	36	VIRGINIA	3
MICHIGAN	6	WASHINGTON	21
MINNESOTA	3	WISCONSIN	3
MISSOURI	12	WYOMING	1
NEBRASKA	7		

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

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

1.6 Explosions, All Devices and Materials – Main Charges

(U) Figure 7 displays an overall view of main charges reported in **BATS** related to Explosion Incidents for the past 5 years. These numbers do not represent the actual quantity of main charges but rather the number of reported incidents where at least one or more main charges were identified.

(U) 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.

Explosion - Main Charges

Material Subtype Description	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Ammonium Nitrate/Prills	1	0	0	0	0	1
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	0	6	3	4	3	16
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	1	8	7	6	3	25
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	43	14	11	12	17	97
Ignitable Gas	11	8	5	8	2	34
Ignitable Liquid	4	9	1	4	10	28
Ignitable Solid	0	1	0	0	0	1
Other (Not identified)	7	5	7	5	8	32
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	2	3	0	2	2	9
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	0	0	2	0	0	2
Commercial Explosives - Binary	3	7	4	9	6	29
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	0	2	2	2	1	7
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	0	0	2	1	0	3
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	0	0	2	1	0	3
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	0	0	1	0	0	1
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	23	13	4	7	7	54
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnics/Fireworks	59	66	82	87	81	375
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	0	0	5	5
Military Explosives - Propellants	0	1	0	0	1	2
Unknown or N/A	69	80	67	95	79	390

Figure 7. Explosion – Main Charges, 2018–22
Source: BATS

EXPLOSIONS – 2022

1.7 Explosion – Device Containers

(U) The data represented in figure 8 illustrates the number of *explosives incidents* reported in **BATS** for each container type and does not represent the actual quantity of identified containers. For example, if there were multiple pipe bombs with end caps discovered in the same incident, the numbers below would represent one pipe and one end cap associated with that incident. However, if there were two identical container types recovered in the same incident but both consisted of independent material subtypes, then both are counted. *Note: Unknown or N/A is selected when either a container was not known at the time of entry or there was no container associated with the device.*

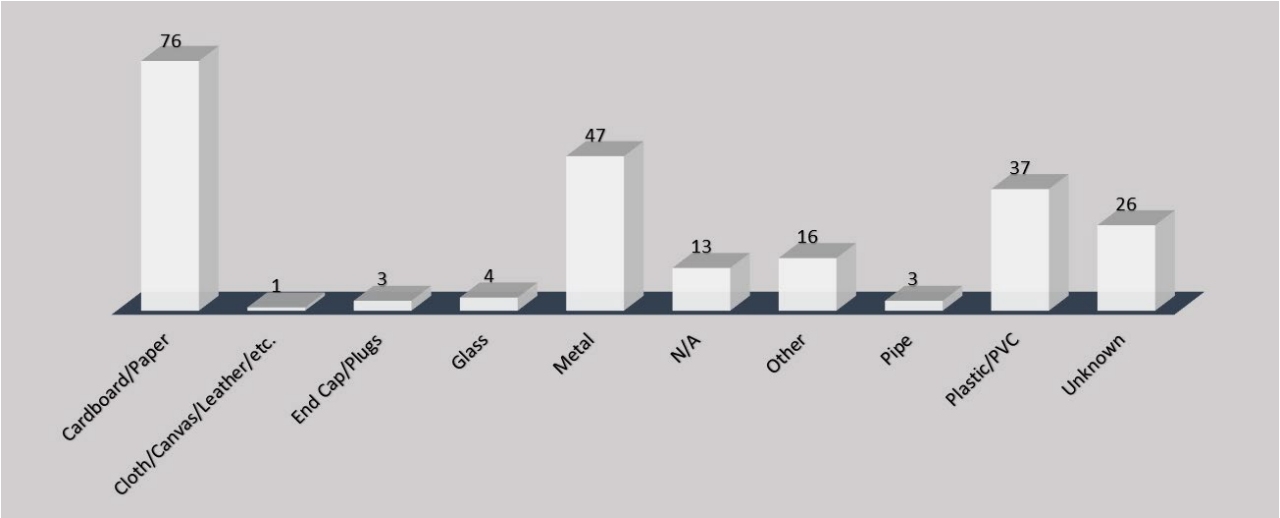


Figure 8. Explosion Device Containers – 2022
Source: BATS

1.8 Explosion – Switches

(U) Figure 9 shows the total number of switches reported in **BATS** during an explosion incident for CY 2022. Time–Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse) switches were among the highest reported during 2022. *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	2
Command - Light	1
Command - Pull	1
Time - Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse)	3
Unknown or N/A	93
Grand Total	100

Figure 9. Switches Related to Explosions – 2022
Source: BATS

RECOVERIES – 2022

2.1 Recovery Incidents, Summary and Trends

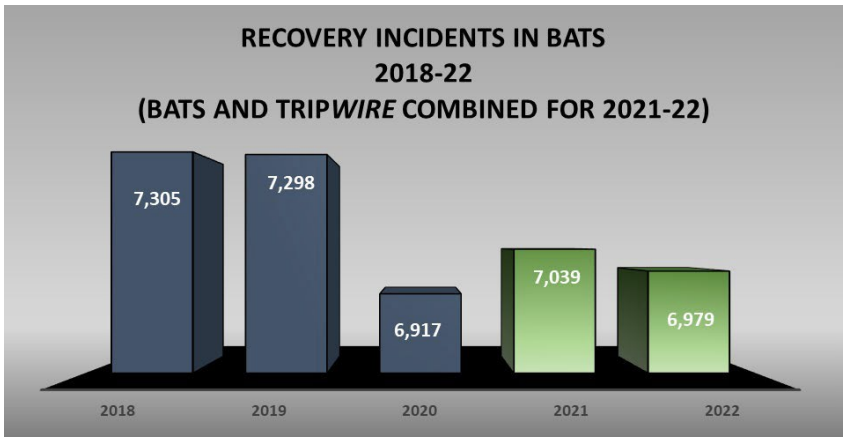


Figure 10. BATS Recovery Incidents, 2018–22
BATS and TRIPwire Recovery Incidents (CYs 2021–22)

2.2 Recovery Types

(U) Overall, the largest recovery type and subtype categories remain unchanged. Explosives (non-IED) recoveries represent the majority of recoveries during 2022 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 (1,246) and Inert–Military (842) were the most reported. (See figures 11 and 12.)

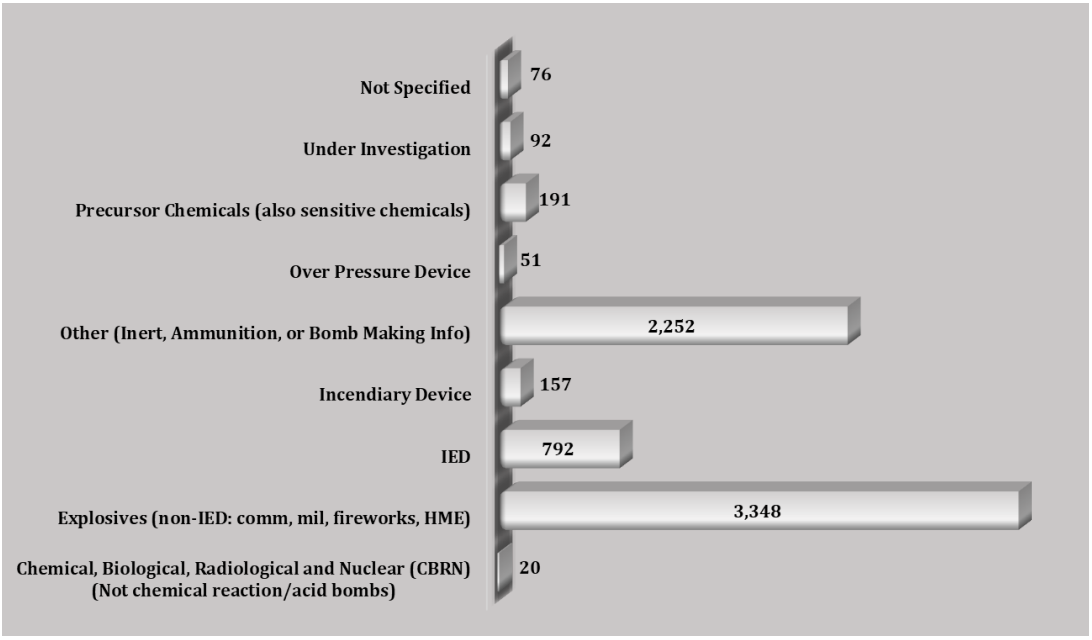
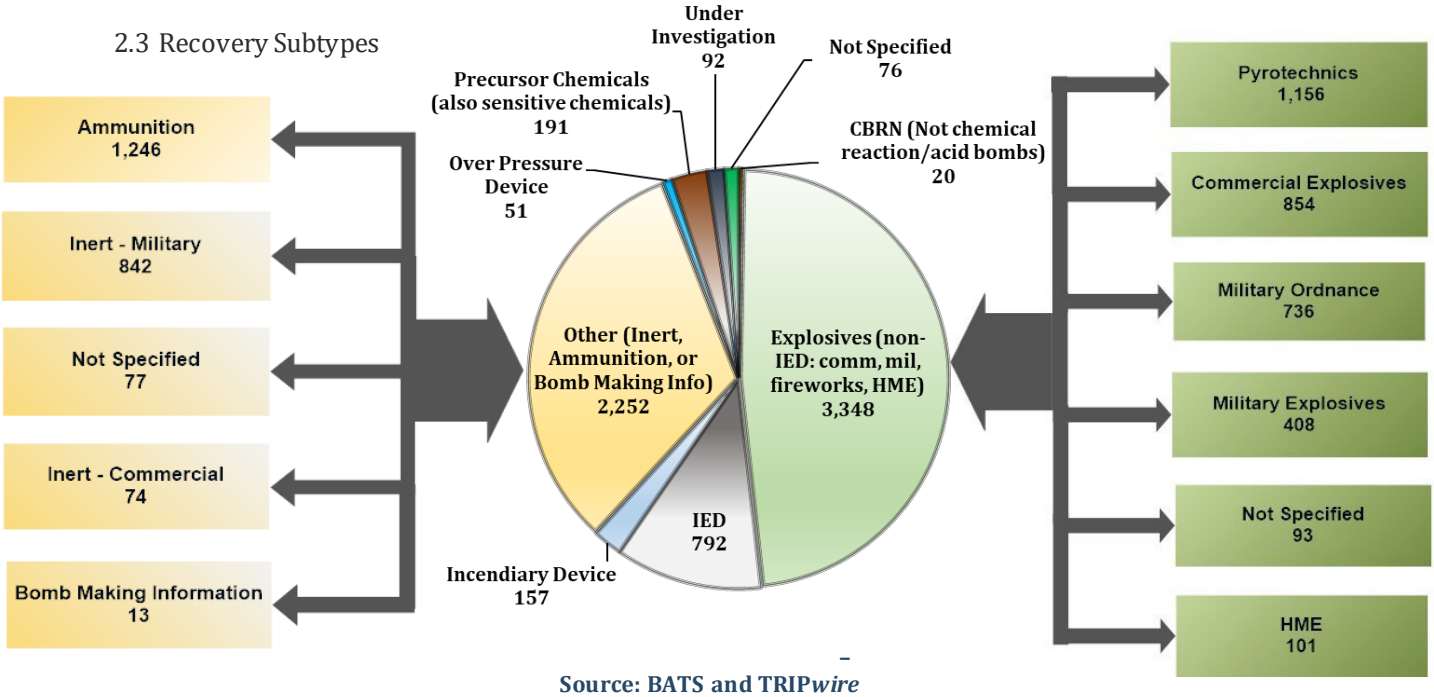


Figure 11. Recovery Types– 2022
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

RECOVERIES – 2022

2.3 Recovery Subtypes



Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

2.4 Recovery Incidents by Target Type

(U) Of the recovery incidents where a target was reported in both **BATS** and **TRIP*wire*** during 2022, the majority took place at Residential structures (31 percent), Detention/Corrections/Government (10 percent), and Law Enforcement/Emergency offices (5 percent). The majority of recovery incidents at Law Enforcement/Emergency offices does 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, etc. (See figure 13 for a complete list of all recoveries by location.)

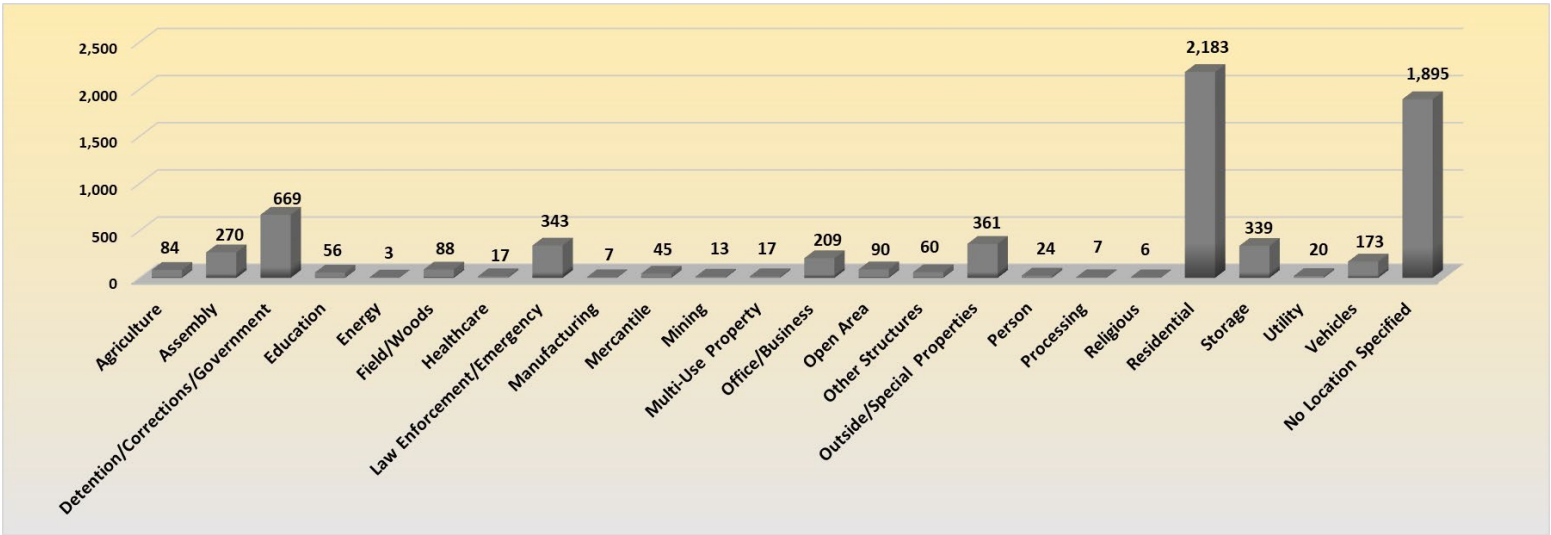


Figure 13. Recovery Incidents by Target Type – 2022
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

RECOVERIES – 2022

2.5 Recovery – All Devices and Materials - Main Charges

(U) Figure 14 displays an overall view of main charges related to recovery incidents reported in **BATS** for the past 5 years. These numbers do not represent the actual quantity of main charges but rather the number of reported incidents where at least one or more main charges were identified.

(U) 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	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Ammonium Nitrate/Prill	21	0	0	0	0	21
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	11	33	39	25	32	140
Commercial Explosives - Binary	35	67	54	59	57	272
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	37	39	45	49	22	192
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	24	17	25	15	16	97
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	0	51	51	47	50	199
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	73	88	99	112	87	459
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	3	6	2	1	1	13
Commercial Explosives - Plastic Explosives	10	21	12	11	14	68
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	435	228	186	196	170	1,215
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnic Fireworks	339	414	486	458	558	2,255
Commercial Explosives - Shaped Charge	8	9	13	2	1	33
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	1	1	2	4	4	12
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	0	0	46	46
Ignitable Gas	4	9	7	9	9	38
Ignitable Liquid	30	33	34	59	30	186
Ignitable Solid	4	15	15	7	10	51
Ignition Mix	3	0	0	0	0	3
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	20	22	30	52	23	147
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	275	50	47	90	54	516
Lab Use Only	0	0	2	2	2	6
Military Explosives - Demolition Materials	43	25	17	28	24	137
Military Explosives - Incendiaries	1	12	11	18	14	56
Military Explosives - Munitions/Ordnance	74	90	54	89	69	376
Military Explosives - Propellants	1	11	3	10	6	31
Match Heads	5	0	0	0	0	5
Other	50	71	0	72	53	246
PETN	19	0	0	0	0	19
Primer	1	0	0	0	0	1
Special Purpose Devices	27	23	18	22	19	109
TNT	16	0	0	0	0	16
Unknown or N/A	579	508	534	703	709	3,033
Grand Total	**2,149**	**1,843**	**1,786**	**2,140**	**2,080**	**9,998**

Figure 14. Recovery – Main Charges, 2018–22
Source: BATS

RECOVERIES – 2022

2.6 Recovery – Switches

(U) The majority of recovered switch types reported in **BATS** in 2022 included Time–Pyrotechnic (safety/time or hobby fuses) and Command - Pull switches. Time–Pyrotechnic switches increased by 38 percent. Command - Pull Switches decreased from 14 incidents in 2021 to 11 in 2022. (See figure 15 for a breakdown of switch types with corresponding total number of incidents.)

Figure 15. Recovered Switches – 2022
Source: BATS

2.7 Recovery – Containers

(U) Figure 16 provides the number of incidents where a container was reported as recovered in 2022 in **BATS**. The statistics represented in this chart include a count of every time the specific container type was reported as recovered but does not represent the exact quantity of containers that were recovered. For instance, if one incident reported a recovery of two pipes, four end caps/plugs, and two bottles/jugs, it would be represented in the graph below as one incident. However, if there were two identical container types recovered in the same incident, but both consisted of independent material subtypes, then both would be counted.

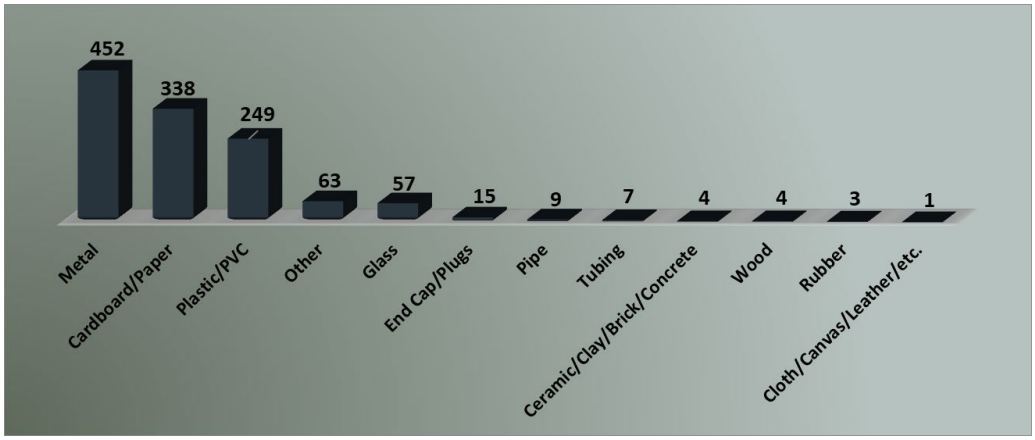


Figure 16. Recovery of Containers – 2022
Source: BATS

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES – 2022

3.1 Suspicious Packages, Summary and Trends

(U) There were 5,344 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported in **BATS** and an additional 223 incidents reported in **TRIP*wire*** during the 2022 calendar year. Combined (5,567), this is a 13-percent increase since last year.

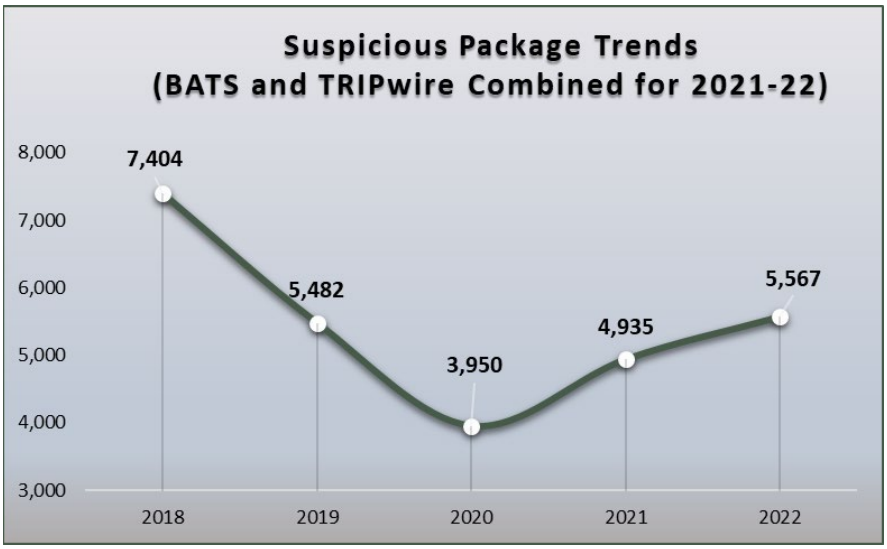


Figure 17. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Packages, 2018–22
BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

(U) Luggage/Briefcase suspicious packages saw a significant increase since last year. The majority of the remaining categories decreased. (See figure 18 for a comparison of suspicious package types between 2021 and 2022.)

Type	2021	2022	Difference
Book Bag / Purse	931	811	-120
Cargo (commercial)	113	54	-59
Letter / Envelope	105	97	-8
Luggage / Briefcase	697	1,883	1,186
Other	878	844	-34
Package / Parcel	948	798	-150
Person	40	33	-7
Powder (Without Envelope)	53	45	-8
Suspicious Container	906	782	-124
Under Investigation	0	1	1
Vehicle	173	127	-46
Not Identified	91	92	1

Figure 18. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Package Incident Types, 2022
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

BOMB THREATS – 2022

4.1 Bomb Threats, Summary and Trends

(U) There were 1,306 reported bomb-threat incidents in **BATS** and an additional 1,232 incidents reported in **TRIP*wire*** for a combined total of 2,538 incidents in 2022.

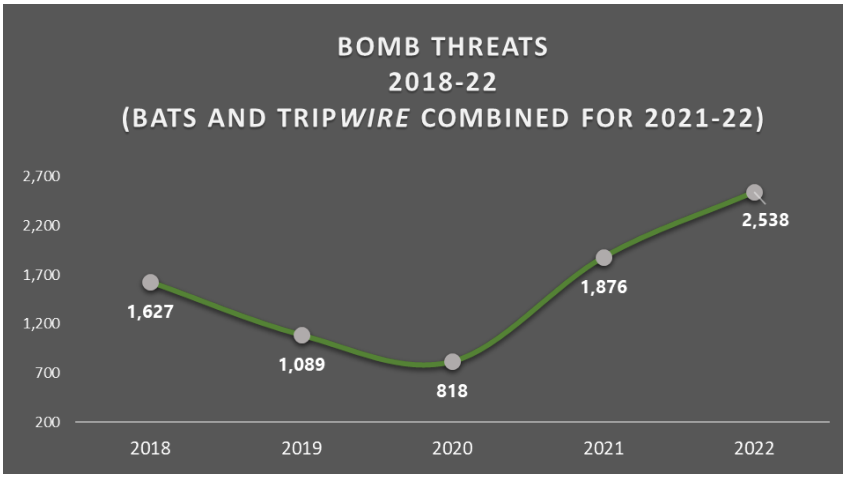


Figure 19. BATS Bomb Threats, 2018–22
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021–22)

4.2 Bomb Threats by Target

(U) Education facilities (1,165), Office/Business (259), and Assembly (251) locations were the **top three** targets of bomb threats during 2022.

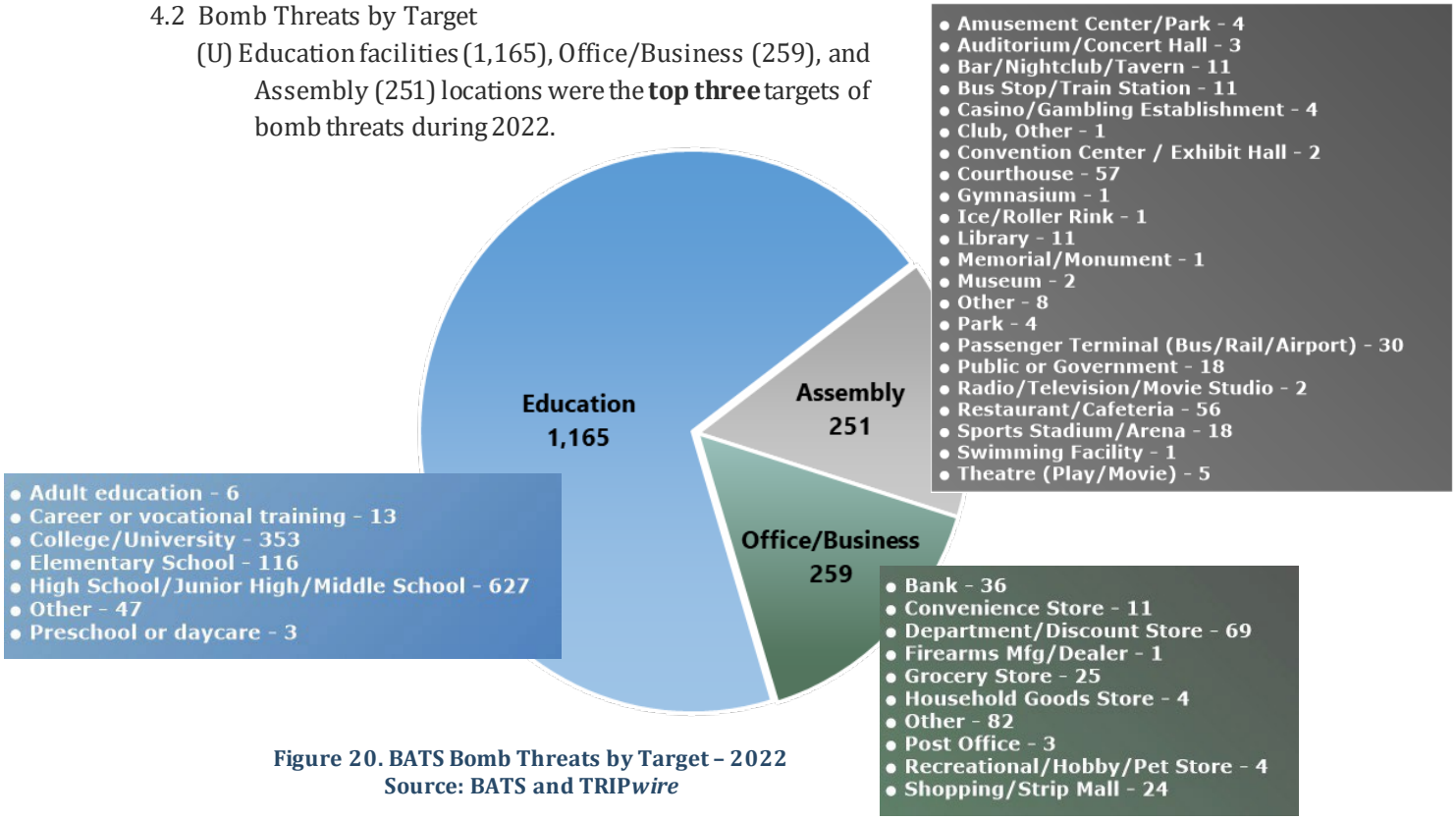


Figure 20. BATS Bomb Threats by Target – 2022
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire*

HOAXES – 2022

5.1 Hoax Device Incidents, Summary and Trends

(U) There were 302 hoax device incidents reported in **BATS** and an additional 12 incidents reported in **TRIP*wire*** in 2022, a decrease since 2021. Ninety-one (91) percent of the reported hoax devices were IED-type hoax devices. California, Texas and Florida had the most reported hoax devices. Residential structures remain the most common target of reported hoax devices (31 percent) followed by Office/Business (12 percent).

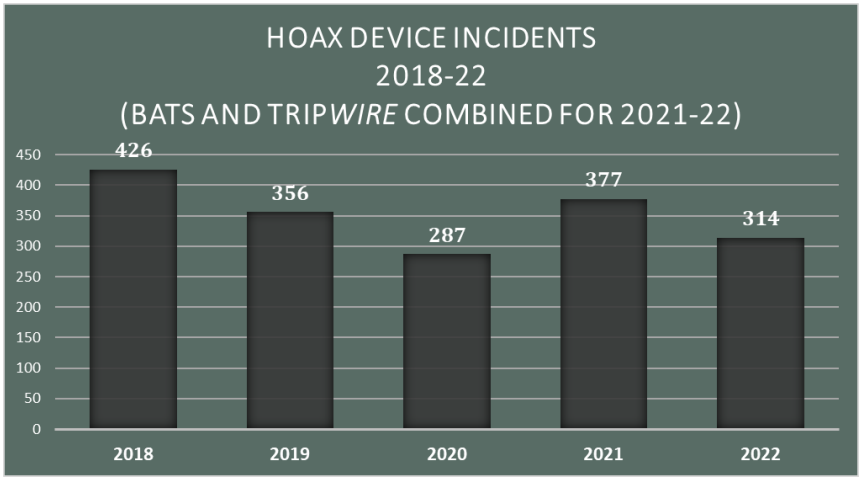


Figure 21. BATS Hoax Device Incidents, 2018–22
Source: BATS and TRIP*wire* (CYs 2021-22)

5.2 Hoax Incidents by Incident Type

(U) The most commonly reported hoax devices in 2022 were IEDs. Fourteen (14) of the 314 hoax incidents did not specify a type.

Type of reported hoax devices	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
IED	376	312	257	307	286
CBRN (Not chemical reaction/acid bombs)	14	11	3	35	1
Incendiary Device	19	16	18	13	13
Total	**409**	**339**	**278**	**355**	**300**

Figure 22. Hoax Incident Types and Subtypes, 2018–22

THEFTS/LOSSES – 2022

6.1 Explosives Thefts, Summary and Trends

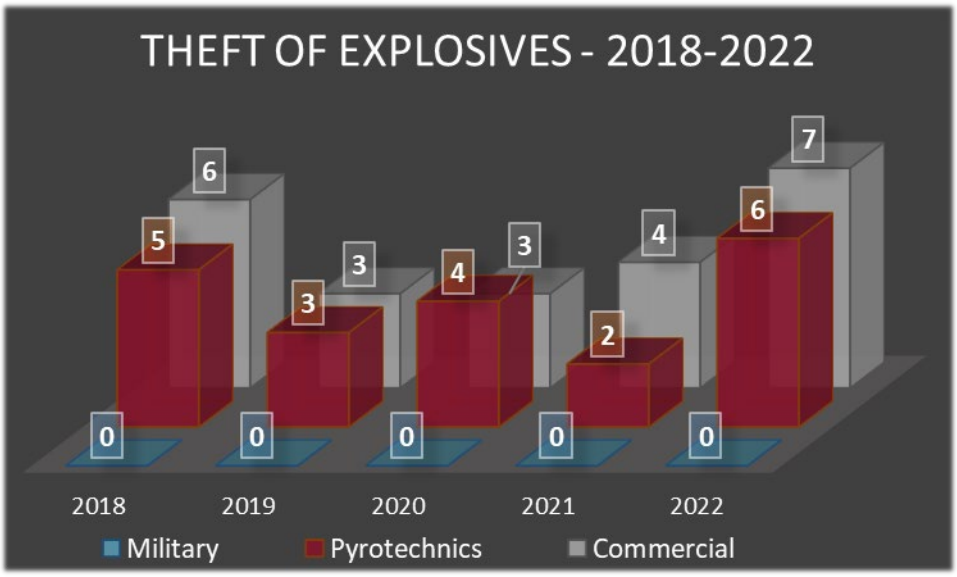


Figure 23. Explosives Theft Types, 2018–22
Source: BATS

(U) There were 13 reported thefts of explosives in 2022, 7 more than the previous year. Commercial explosives and pyrotechnics were the most commonly stolen.

6.2 Explosives Theft Types per State

(U) Figure 24 identifies States where explosives thefts were reported in 2022.

State	Commercial	Military	Pyrotechnics	Total
CA			1	1
IL			2	2
IN	1			1
KY	1		1	2
NM	1			1
OH			1	1
PA	1		1	2
TX	1			1
UT	1			1
VA	1			1
Grand Total	**7**	**0**	**6**	**13**

Figure 24. Explosives Theft Types per State – 2022

THEFTS/LOSSES – 2022

6.3 Explosives Losses, Summary and Trends

(U) There were 127 instances of explosives losses reported during 2022, a 9-percent increase from 2021. The majority of explosives losses were commercial explosives (89 percent).

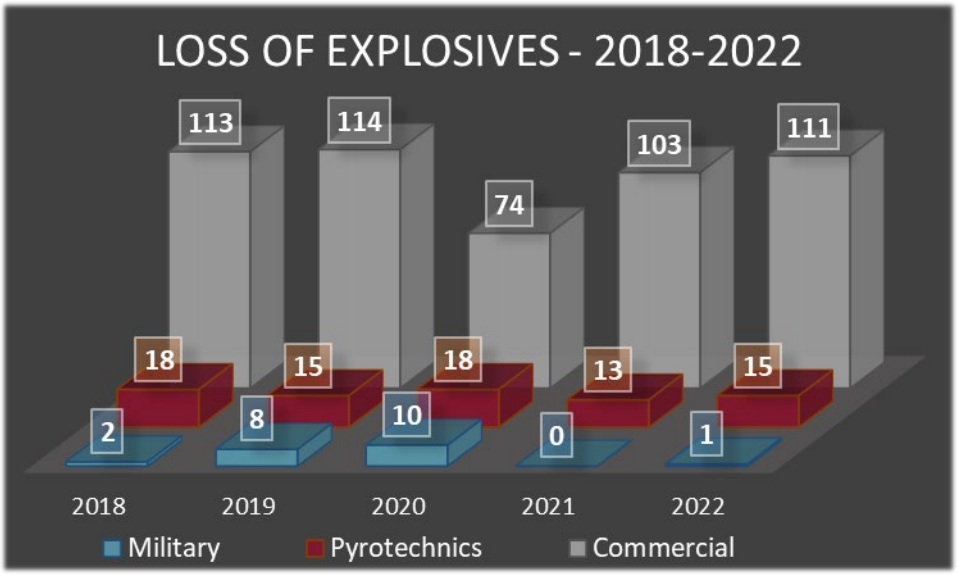


Figure 25. Explosives Loss Types, 2018–22

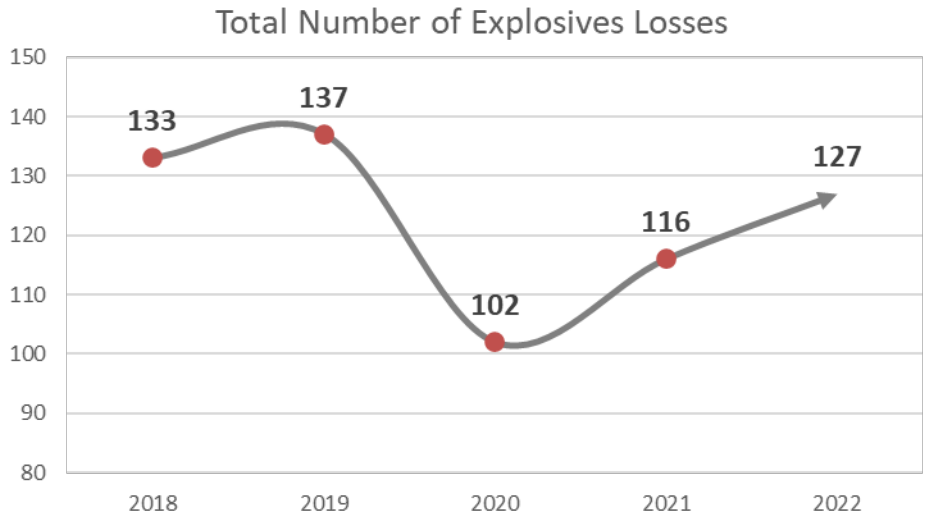


Figure 26. Total Number of Explosives Losses Reported, 2018–22

CONTACT INFORMATION

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TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO:

USBDC@ATF.GOV OR CALL 1-800-461-8841

OBP@CISA.DHS.GOV OR VISIT HTTPS://TRIPWIRE.DHS.GOV/