

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



SAFETY ALERT

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SAFETY ALERT 09-4.1

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Warning (UPDATED) Issued July 24, 2009

The previously issued Safety Alert 09-4 regarding IEDs contained incorrect information regarding the second June 15, 2009 incident. The following is the corrected information:

On May 24, 2009, the West New York Police Department responded to the North Hudson Regional Fire Department, Engine 11, located in West New York, NJ on a report of a hand grenade found on top of a barbeque grill used by firefighters in the driveway of the firehouse. The grenade did not appear to have any rust or leakage.

The Jersey City Bomb Squad was contacted and responded to the scene. The Bomb Squad secured the grenade and x-rayed it and the images that resulted were inconclusive. Further testing showed the grenade contained chemicals that are thermally reactive. The heat generated from the grill could have activated the chemicals, beginning a chemical reaction causing pressure to build in the grenade resulting in an explosion.

The hand grenade was classified as an improvised explosive device (IED).

On June 15, 2009 law enforcement was again called to Engine 11 to investigate a suspicious package. It was ultimately determined that the package posed no harm.

The Division of Fire Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal recommends that all fire departments remain vigilant to the possibility of similar attempts.

If suspected devices or packages are found, the following actions should be undertaken:

- **NEVER TOUCH ANY DEVICE OR PACKAGE THAT IS SUSPICIOUS.** Do not attempt to move or open as it could explode.
- Isolate the device or package by evacuating the area.
- If a suspicious package is discovered while handling, avoid dropping, throwing, or any other abrupt shock movement. This can cause detonation of certain devices. Gently set the package down and get away.
- Call the police immediately from a safe location. Do not use a radio or cell phone within a minimum of 100 feet from the object.
- Describe what the device or package looks like and its location to the police.

Above all, do not become complacent to the fact that certain elements in society are determined to cause harm to governmental entities including emergency response agencies.

PLEASE POST IMMEDIATELY