



跨部門反恐專責組
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit

Safe Community Newsletter

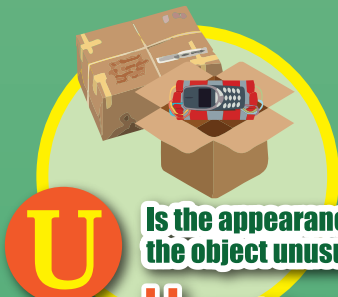
Q1 2025 Issue #12

Identifying and Handling Suspicious Objects

In recent years, a number of cases involving explosives or suspicious objects were reported in Hong Kong. If Hong Kong is unfortunately struck by bomb attack, the consequences will be dreadful given Hong Kong is a densely populated city. In the face of such potential threat, the general public should remain vigilant at all times and be more cautious against explosives and suspicious objects. In this issue, we will introduce how to identify and properly handle suspicious objects.

Identifying Suspicious Objects

Although there is no universal definition for suspicious objects, the following three factors can be taken into account :



U Is the appearance of the object unusual?

Unusual Appearance

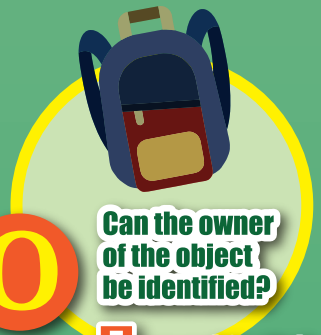
e.g. Exposed electrical wirings/traces of powder on its packing/unusual packing like excessive wrappings with adhesive tapes or aluminum foils



F Is the existence of the object foreign to the area?

Foreign to Area

e.g. Whether there are reasonable explanations for the existence of a pressure cooker on a pavement or in a park?



O Can the owner of the object be identified?

Ownership Unknown

e.g. Any reported loss? Any identification name tag or label attached?

Treat the object as suspicious if you are not sure about the answers to the above questions, or in case of any doubt.

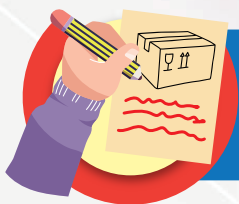
Handling Suspicious Objects

The following procedures may be followed upon coming across suspicious objects, whether in public or private places :



1 Keep calm

2 Stay away from the suspicious object, and do not touch, move or open it



3 Note down the location and the features (e.g. size, colour, packing), as well as the condition (e.g. sign of explosion, emission of smoke or unusual sound) of the suspicious object

4 Evacuate people around to a location with safe distance, and stay away from windows or glass curtain walls



5 Pay attention to any other suspicious persons or objects in the vicinity

6 Report to the security and the Police immediately

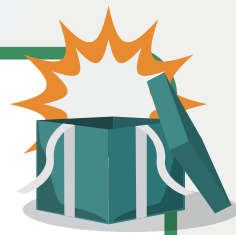


Identifying Suspicious Letters/Packages

Despite the technological advancement nowadays, traditional postal items remain a common means of communication in Hong Kong. Due to their convenience and extensive use, criminals may exploit the conventional means of letter or parcel delivery as a method of attack.



Possible Characteristics of Postal Bombs



Abnormal weight



Excessive securing material



Oily stains/discolourations/
powder



Protruding wires



Printed words/avoidance of handwriting



Words of warning/intimidation included

Handling Suspicious Letters

Please follow the procedures below upon coming across suspicious letters/parcel :



1

Keep calm



2

Do not open the letter, and place it on a horizontal firm surface under safe conditions



3

Cordon off the area and shut down the air-conditioning system immediately



4

If the letter is already open, gently cover the spilled powder/substance immediately with objects such as clothing or a towel



5

Evacuate people to a safe place



6

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and lots of water



7

Report to the security and the Police immediately



Latest news from the Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit (ICTU)

To continuously reach out to different sectors, ICTU recently launched the "Safe Community Pledge" campaign for the hotel sector in collaboration with the Hong Kong Hotels Association (HKHA), with the ceremony held at the Police Officers' Club on 9 October 2024. The campaign aims to raise the sector's awareness of counter terrorism, crime prevention and crisis management. So far, nearly 140 hotels have actively participated in the campaign.

▼ The campaign has received full support from HKHA.



跨部門反恐專責組
Inter-departmental Counter Terrorism Unit



香港酒店業協會



Download the pamphlet



ICTU has also unveiled the education truck, namely "Safe Community Plus+" in its first collaboration with the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups (HKFYG). The Commissioner Mr SIU Chak-ye and the Executive Director of the HKFYG, Ms HSU Siu-man officiated at the opening ceremony held at Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School in Sha Tin on October 29 to mark the start of this campaign. The "Safe Community Plus+" will visit different schools and community spots in the coming few months.

