



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

2023

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 – 2023

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

(U) The 2023 *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 (TRIPwire). This report examines the total number of explosives-related incidents reported in both BATS and TRIPwire for calendar year (CY) 2023. These incidents include *explosions and bombings, recoveries, suspicious packages, bomb threats, and hoax incidents*.

DISCLAIMER

(U) 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. According to 18 USC section 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. TRIPwire 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 source material to the extent possible. TRIPwire data does not include classified or law enforcement sensitive information. Due to the nature of open-source information collection, TRIPwire data may not reflect all explosives-related incidents or casualty figures during the stated period.

STRATEGIC HIGHLIGHTS

(U) The CY 2023 *Explosives Incident Report* includes a total of **18,088** *explosives-related incidents* reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire**. Combined, there were **770** explosions reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire**. Of the reported explosions, **320** were *bombings*. There was a total of **7,469** *recoveries* reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** in 2023, with the majority being explosives (non-improvised explosive devices (IEDs)). There was a total of **6,284** *suspicious/unattended package* incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** in 2023. Bomb threats increased by 26 percent in 2023, with a total combined number of **3,203** reported incidents. *Education, office/business, and assembly locations* were the top three targets of bomb threats during 2023.

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>.

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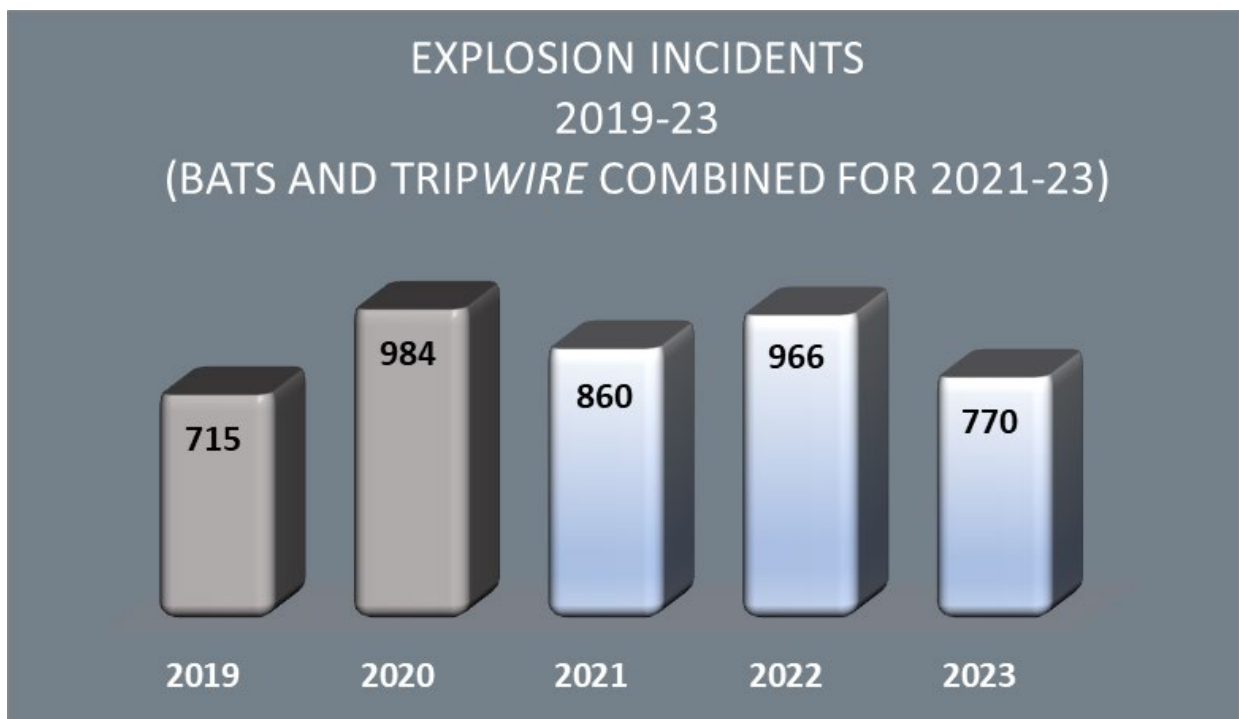
EXPLOSIONS – 2023

1.1 Explosion Incidents, Summary, and Trends

(U) Explosion Incidents are identified by the following categories: *bombings, accidental, undetermined, under investigation and not specified*. 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. *Not specified* indicates a subcategory was not selected.

(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 770 Explosion Incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** during 2023 — a 20-percent decrease from 2022.



(U) Figure 1. BATS Explosion Incidents, 2019-23
BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021-23)

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EXPLOSIONS – 2023

1.2 Explosion Incidents with Reported Injuries

(U) The chart below identifies the number of reported injuries due to explosion-related incidents for the past 5 years. Note: CYs 2021 through 2023 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIPwire**.

Injuries					
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fire Service	1	3	8	0	5
Law Enforcement	3	5	1	4	1
Suspects	6	11	24	15	10
Victims	76	72	67	53	92
Total	86	91	100	72	108

(U) Figure 2. BATS Explosion Incidents – Injuries, 2019–23
BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021–23)

1.3 Explosion Incidents with Reported Fatalities

(U) The chart below identifies the number of reported fatalities due to explosion-related incidents for the past 5 years. Note: CYs 2021 through 2023 represent data from both **BATS** and **TRIPwire**.

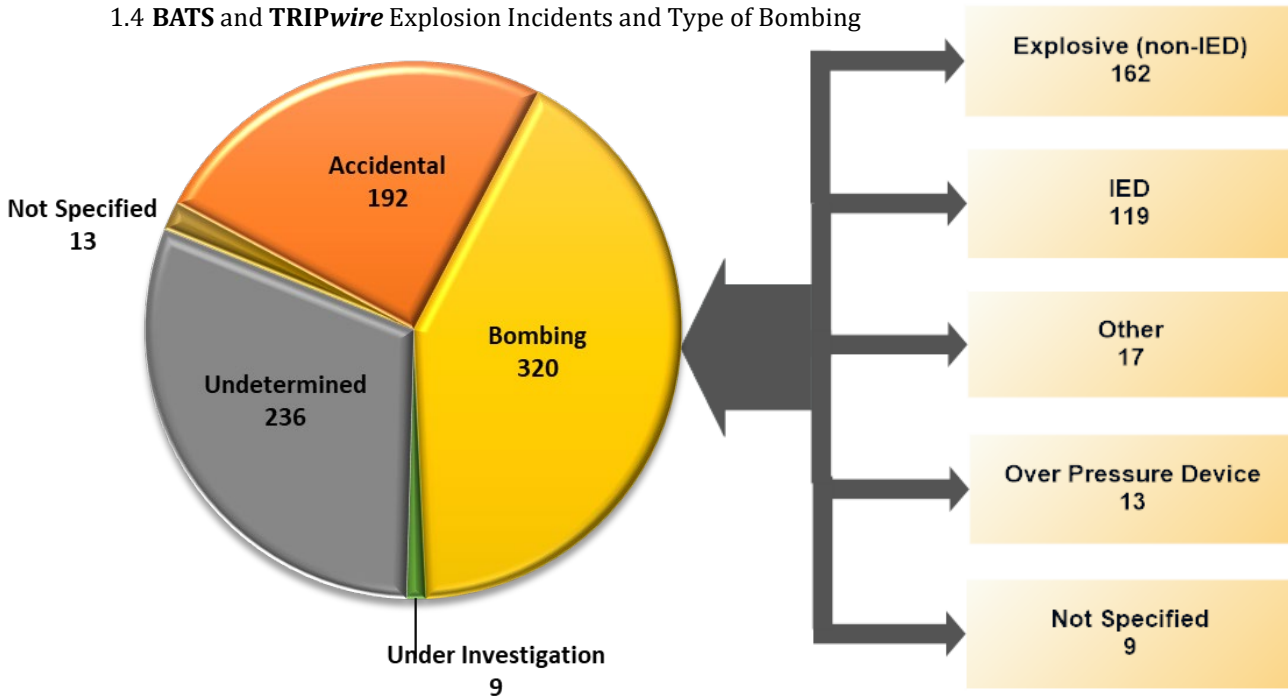
Fatalities					
Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fire Service	0	0	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	1	0	0	0
Suspects	3	1	2	6	4
Victims	13	11	25	26	23
Total	16	13	27	32	27

(U) Figure 3. BATS Explosion Incidents – Fatalities, 2019–23
BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021–23)

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EXPLOSIONS – 2023

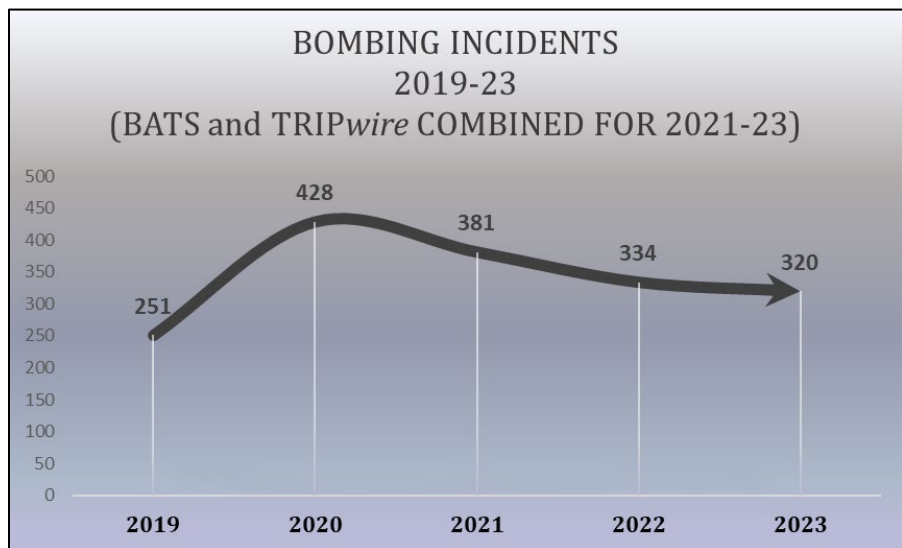
1.4 BATS and TRIPwire Explosion Incidents and Type of Bombing



(U) Figure 4. Explosion Incidents, Type and Subtype
Source: BATS and TRIPwire

1.5 Bombing Trends

(U) There were 320 bombing incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** in 2023. This is a slight decrease from last 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)).*



(U) Figure 5. BATS Bombing Incidents, 2019-23
BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021-23)

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EXPLOSIONS – 2023

(U) Figure 6 breaks down the total number of bombing incidents by State during CY 2023.

Bombings by State CY2023			
STATES	TOTAL	STATES	TOTAL
ALABAMA	3	NEBRASKA	3
ARIZONA	8	NEW HAMPSHIRE	6
CALIFORNIA	58	NEW JERSEY	5
COLORADO	13	NEW MEXICO	2
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	4	NEW YORK	5
FLORIDA	20	NORTH CAROLINA	4
GEORGIA	3	OHIO	14
IDAHO	2	OKLAHOMA	3
ILLINOIS	7	OREGON	7
INDIANA	6	PENNSYLVANIA	28
IOWA	2	RHODE ISLAND	2
KANSAS	5	SOUTH CAROLINA	3
KENTUCKY	2	TENNESSEE	2
MARYLAND	27	TEXAS	6
MASSACHUSETTS	3	UTAH	7
MICHIGAN	3	VIRGINIA	3
MINNESOTA	5	WASHINGTON	30
MISSOURI	14	WISCONSIN	3
		WYOMING	2

(U) Figure 6. Bombings by State – Source: BATS and TRIPwire

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EXPLOSIONS – 2023

1.6 Explosions, All Devices and Materials – Main Charges

(U) Figure 7 displays an overall view of the 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 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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	6	3	4	3	5	21
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	8	7	6	3	4	28
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	14	11	12	17	15	69
Ignitable Gas	8	5	8	2	9	32
Ignitable Liquid	9	1	4	10	4	28
Ignitable Solid	1	0	0	0	0	1
Other (Not identified)	5	7	5	8	10	35
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	3	0	2	2	2	9
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	0	2	0	0	0	2
Commercial Explosives - Binary	7	4	9	6	3	29
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	2	2	2	1	1	7
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	0	2	1	0	0	3
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	0	2	1	0	0	3
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	0	1	0	0	2	1
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	13	4	7	7	7	38
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnics/Fireworks	66	82	87	81	59	375
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	0	5	0	5
Special Purpose Devices	0	0	0	0	1	1
Military Explosives - Propellants	1	0	0	1	1	2
Unknown or N/A	80	67	95	79	101	422
Grand Total	223	200	243	225	224	1,111

(U) Figure 7. Explosion – Main Charges, 2019–23
Source: BATS

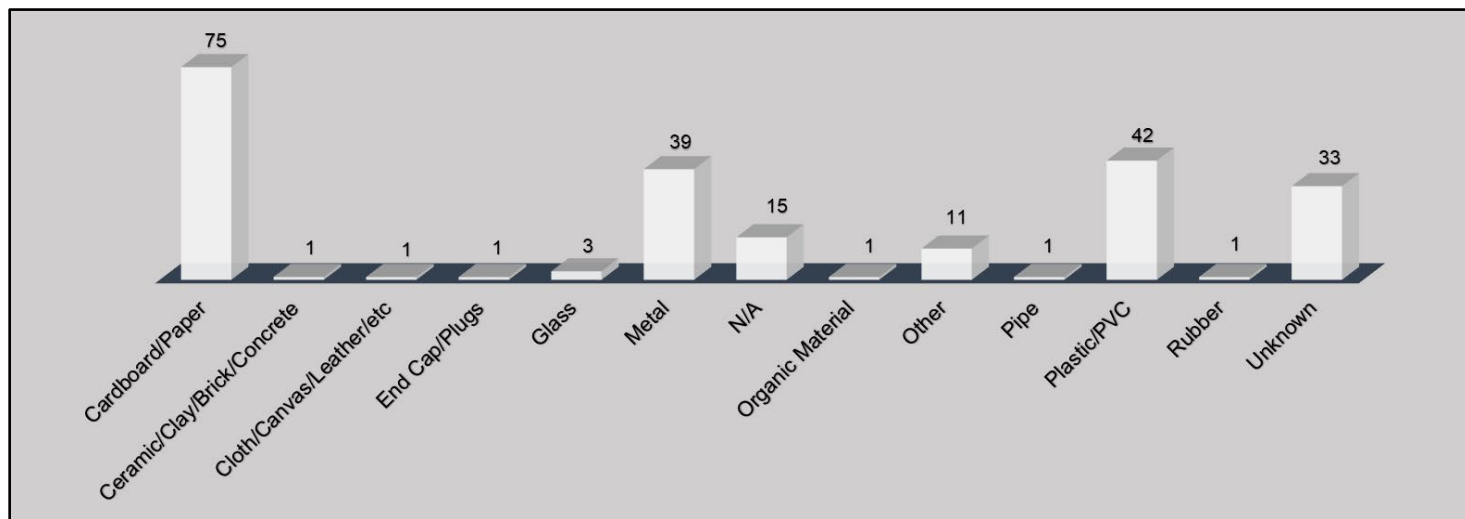
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EXPLOSIONS – 2023

1.7 Explosion – Device Containers

(U) The data 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.



(U) Figure 8. Explosion Device Containers – 2023
Source: BATS

1.8 Explosion – Switches

(U) Figure 9 shows the total number of switches reported in **BATS** during an explosion incident for CY 2023. Time–Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse) switches were among the highest reported during 2023. *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.*

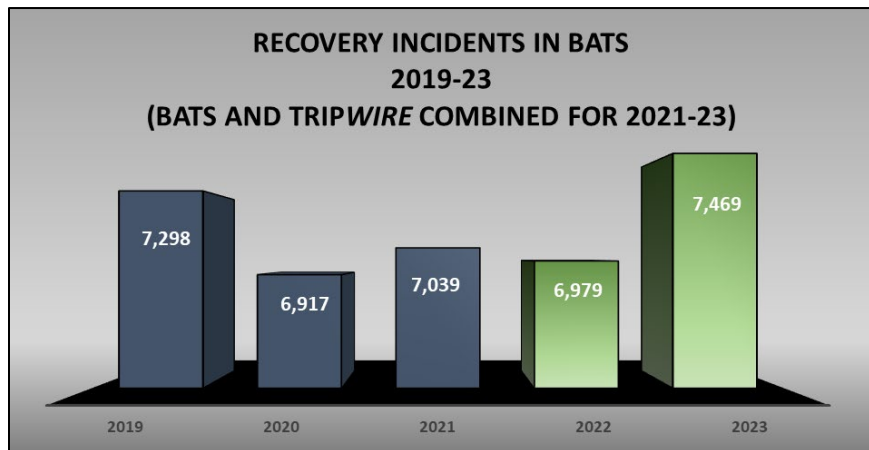
Switch Type	
Time - Chemical Reaction (Corrosive, Dissolution)	1
Time - Mechanical (Clock Mechanism, Displacement)	1
Victim Operated - Tension	1
Time - Pyrotechnic Delay (Safe/Time Fuse, Hobby Fuse)	3
Unknown or N/A	111
Grand Total	117

(U) Figure 9. Switches Related to Explosions – 2023
Source: BATS

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RECOVERIES – 2023

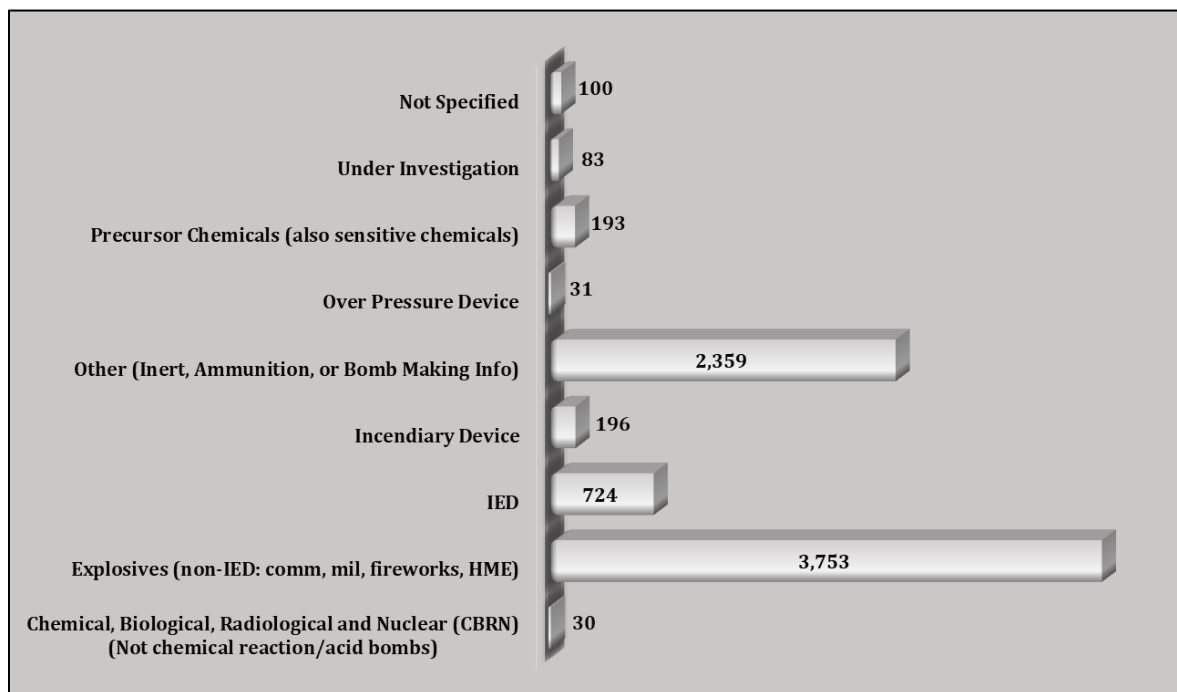
2.1 Recovery Incidents, Summary and Trends



(U) Figure 10. BATS Recovery Incidents, 2019-23
BATS and TRIPwire Recovery Incidents (CYs 2021-23)

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 2023, as reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire**. 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 (1,097) and Inert-Military (1,060) were the most reported. (See Figures 11 and 12.)

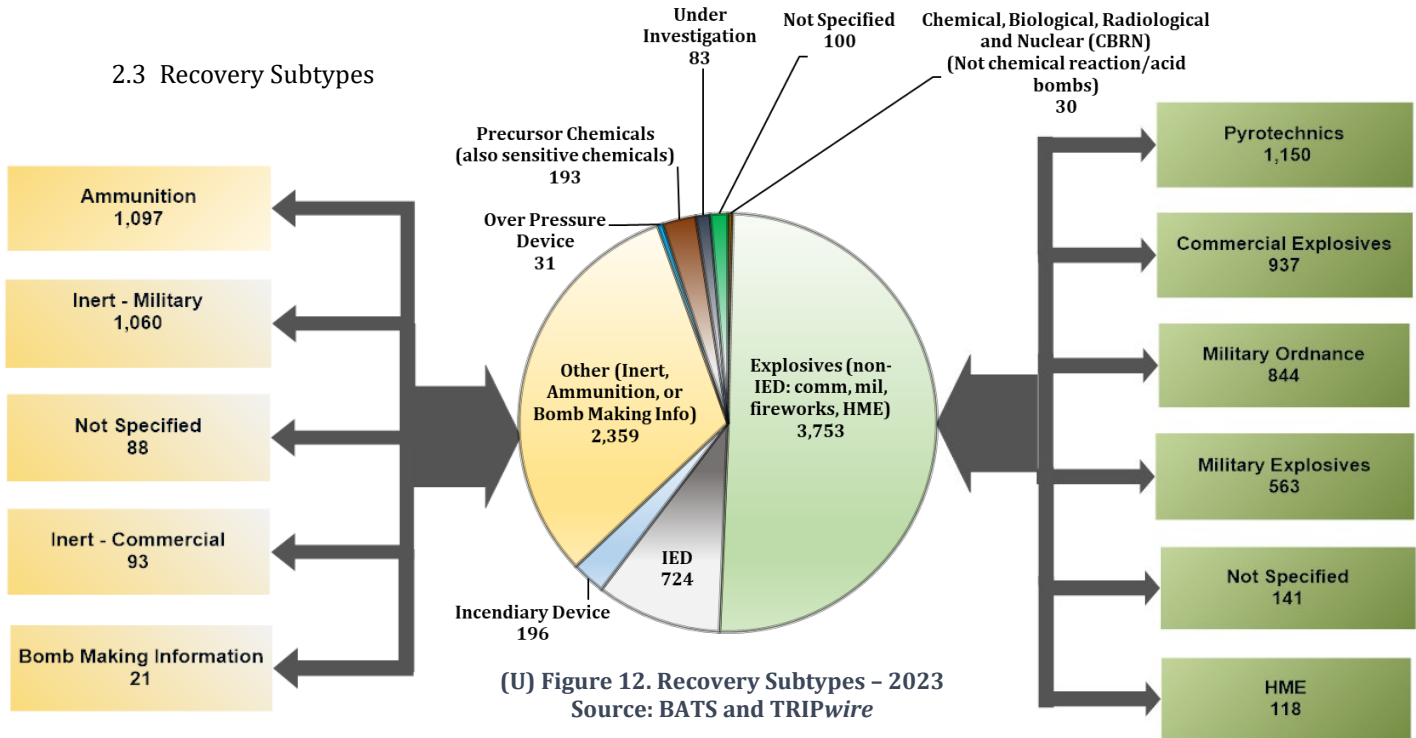


(U) Figure 11. Recovery Types - 2023
Source: BATS and TRIPwire

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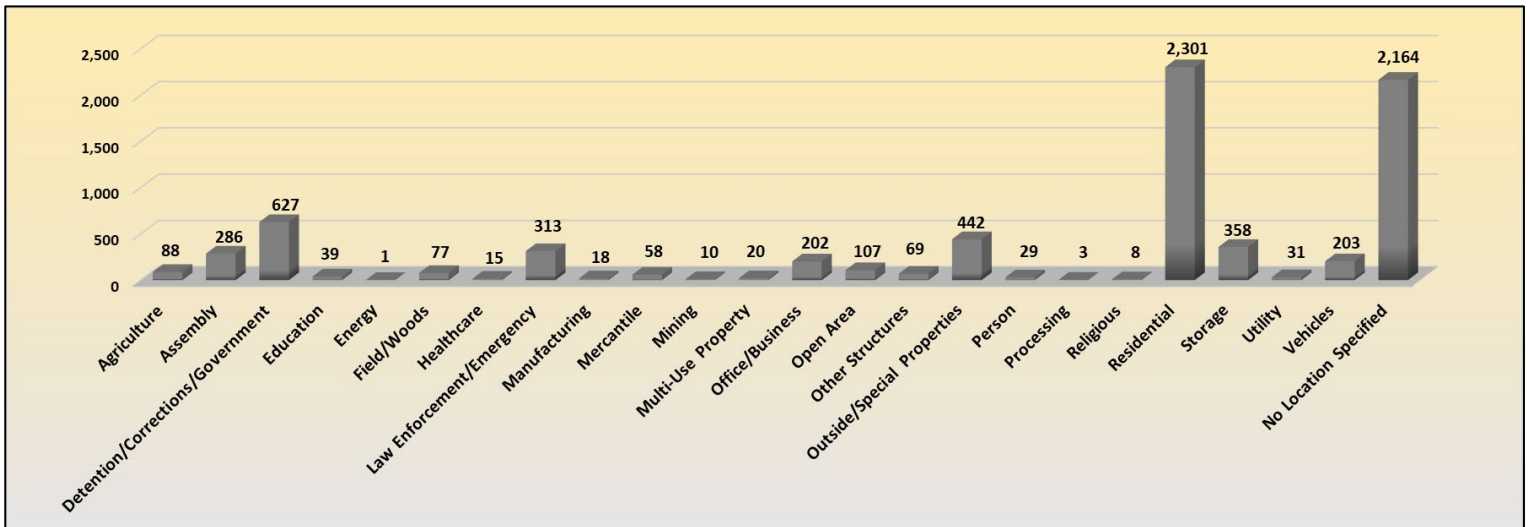
RECOVERIES – 2023

2.3 Recovery Subtypes



2.4 Recovery Incidents by Target Type

(U) Of the recovery incidents where a target was reported in both **BATS** and **TRIPwire** during 2023, the majority took place at Residential structures (31 percent), Detention/Corrections/Government (8 percent), and Outside/Special Properties (6 percent). (See Figure 13 for a complete list of all recoveries by location.)



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RECOVERIES – 2023

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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
Commercial Explosives - Ammunition	33	39	25	32	17	146
Commercial Explosives - Binary	67	54	59	57	82	319
Commercial Explosives - Blasting Agent	39	45	49	22	44	199
Commercial Explosives - Cast Explosives	17	25	15	16	19	92
Commercial Explosives - Det Cord	51	51	47	50	34	233
Commercial Explosives - Dynamite	88	99	112	87	84	470
Commercial Explosives - Liquid Explosives	6	2	1	1	6	16
Commercial Explosives - Plastic Explosives	21	12	11	14	14	72
Commercial Explosives - Propellant	228	186	196	170	199	979
Commercial Explosives - Pyrotechnic Fireworks	414	486	458	558	418	2,334
Commercial Explosives - Shaped Charge	9	13	2	1	8	33
Expanding Gas (Overpressure Device)	1	2	4	4	3	14
Explosive Powder (Manufacture/Production Unknown)	0	0	0	46	0	46
Ignitable Gas	9	7	9	9	15	49
Ignitable Liquid	33	34	59	30	45	201
Ignitable Solid	15	15	7	10	17	64
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Explosive Compounds	22	30	52	23	88	215
Improvised/Homemade Explosives (HME) - Fuel Oxidizer Mixture	50	47	90	54	104	345
Lab Use Only	0	2	2	2	0	6
Military Explosives - Demolition Materials	25	17	28	24	25	119
Military Explosives - Incendiaries	12	11	18	14	19	74
Military Explosives - Munitions/Ordnance	90	54	89	69	98	400
Military Explosives - Propellants	11	3	10	6	12	42
Other	71	0	72	53	89	285
Special Purpose Devices	23	18	22	19	29	111
Unknown or N/A	508	534	703	709	755	3,209
Grand Total	1,843	1,786	2,140	2,080	2,224	10,073

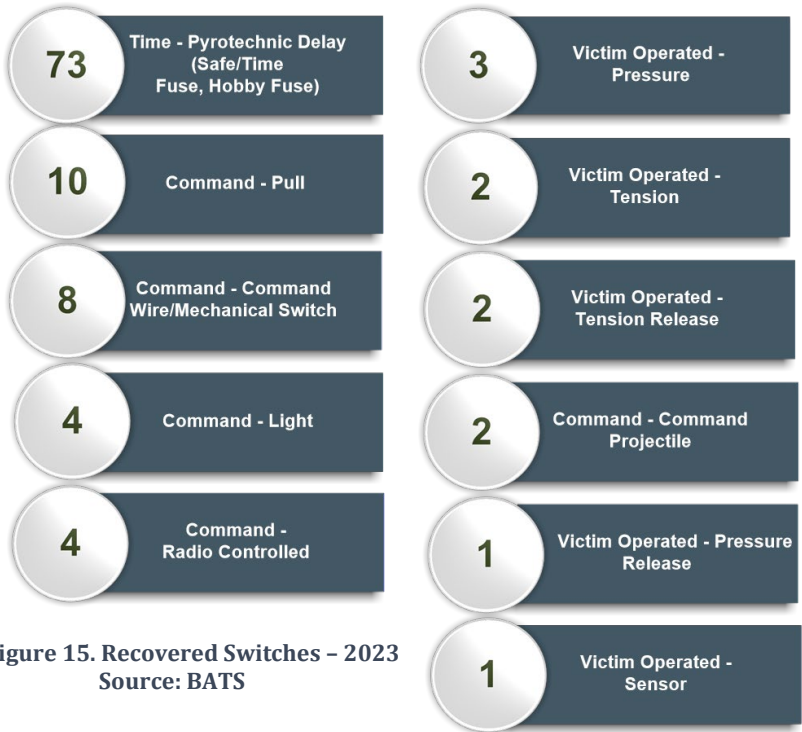
(U) Figure 14. Recovery – Main Charges, 2019–23
Source: BATS

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RECOVERIES – 2023

2.6 Recovery – Switches

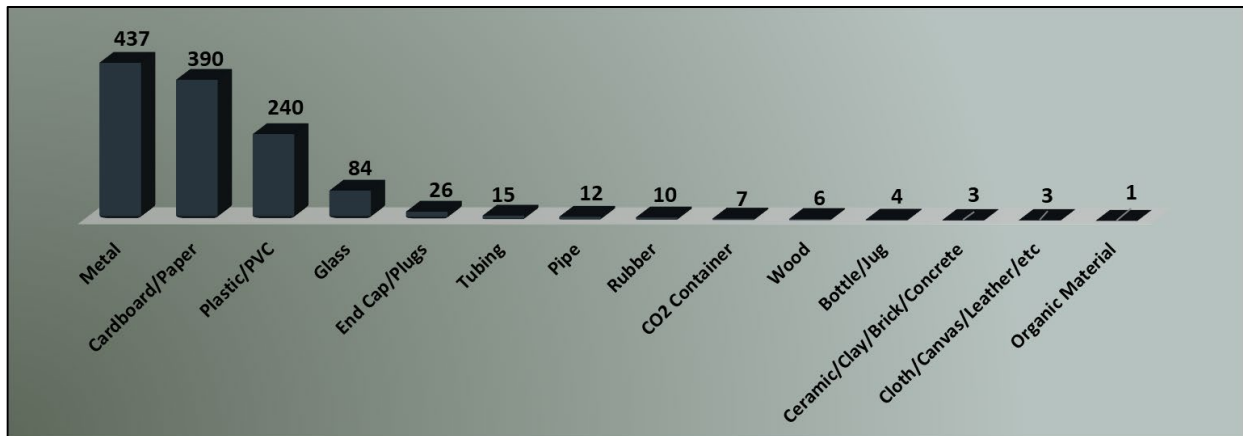
(U) The majority of recovered switch types reported in **BATS** in 2023 included Time–Pyrotechnic (safety/time or hobby fuses) and Command–Pull switches. Time–Pyrotechnic switches increased by 83 percent. Command–Light Switches increased from 1 incident in 2022 to 4 in 2023. (See Figure 15 for a breakdown of switch types with the corresponding total number of incidents.)



(U) Figure 15. Recovered Switches – 2023
Source: BATS

2.7 Recovery – Containers

(U) Figure 16 provides the number of incidents where a container was reported as recovered in 2023 in **BATS**. The statistics in this chart include a count of every time the specific container type was reported as recovered but do 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.



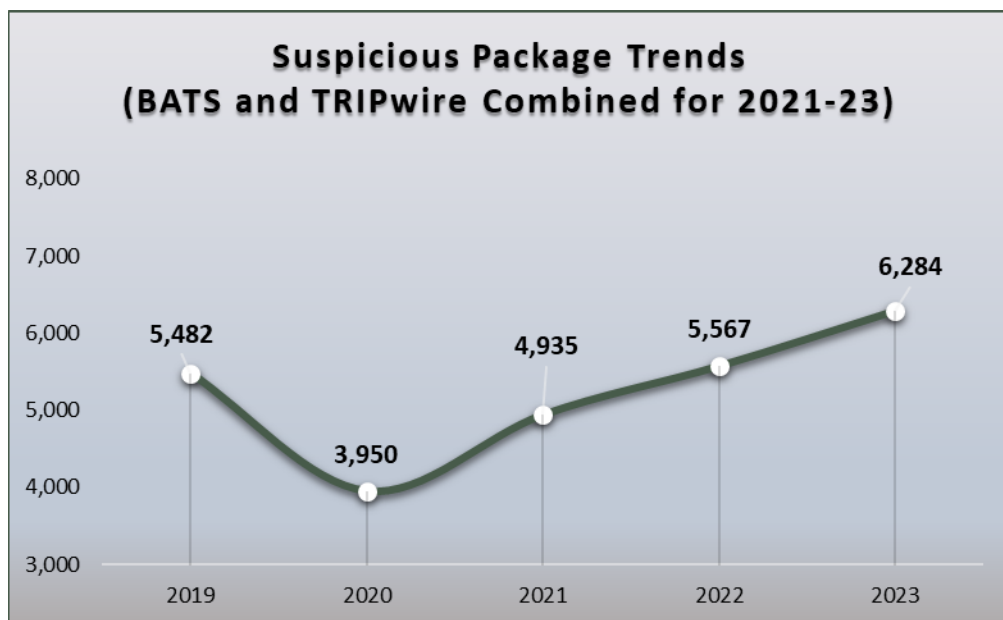
(U) Figure 16. Recovery of Containers – 2023
Source: BATS

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SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES – 2023

3.1 Suspicious Packages, Summary, and Trends

(U) There were 6,284 suspicious/unattended package incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** during the 2023 calendar year. This is a 13-percent increase since last year.



(U) Figure 17. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Packages, 2019–23
BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021–23)

(U) Luggage/Briefcase, Book Bag/Purse, and Suspicious Container all showed significant increases since last year. The majority of the remaining categories also increased. (See Figure 18 for a comparison of suspicious package types between 2022 and 2023.)

Type	2022	2023	Difference
Book Bag / Purse	811	1,007	↑ 196
Cargo (commercial)	54	34	↓ -20
Letter / Envelope	97	182	↑ 85
Luggage / Briefcase	1,883	2,041	↑ 158
Other	844	900	↑ 56
Package / Parcel	798	794	↓ -4
Person	33	64	↑ 31
Powder (Without Envelope)	45	36	↓ -9
Suspicious Container	782	961	↑ 179
Under Investigation	1	0	↑ 1
Vehicle	127	206	↑ 79
Not Identified	92	59	↓ -33

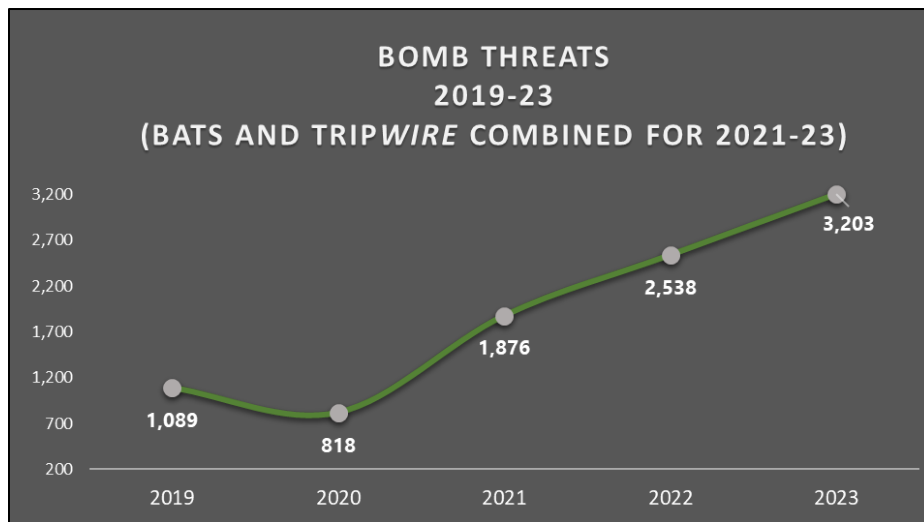
(U) Figure 18. BATS Suspicious/Unattended Package Incident Types, 2023
Source: BATS and TRIPwire

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BOMB THREATS – 2023

4.1 Bomb Threats, Summary, and Trends

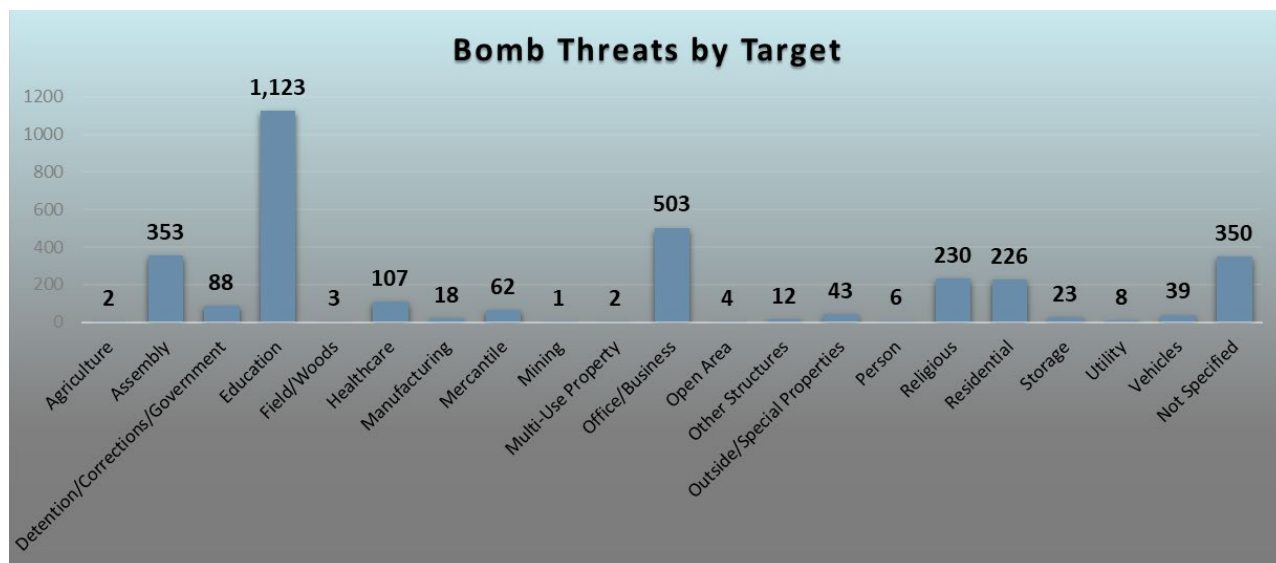
(U) There were 3,203 reported bomb-threat incidents in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** in 2023 – an increase of 26 percent since last year.



(U) Figure 19. BATS Bomb Threats, 2019-23
Source: BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021-23)

4.2 Bomb Threats by Target

(U) Education facilities (1,123), Office/Business (503), and Assembly (353) locations were the **top three** targets of bomb threats in 2023.



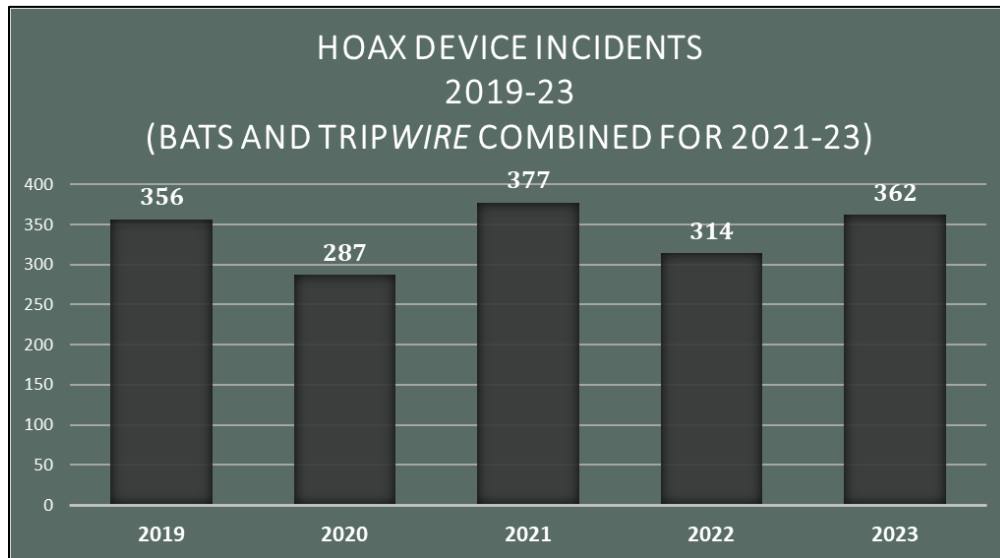
(U) Figure 20. BATS Bomb Threats by Target – 2023
Source: BATS and TRIPwire

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HOAXES – 2023

5.1 Hoax Device Incidents, Summary, and Trends

(U) There were 362 hoax device incidents reported in **BATS** and **TRIPwire** in 2023, an increase of 15 percent since 2022. Eighty-four (84) percent of the reported hoax devices were IED-type hoax devices. California, Texas, and Florida had the most reported hoax devices.



(U) Figure 21. BATS Hoax Device Incidents, 2019–23
Source: BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021–23)

5.2 Hoax Incidents by Incident Type

(U) The most commonly reported hoax devices in 2023 were IEDs. Thirty-four (34) of the 362 hoax incidents did not specify a type.

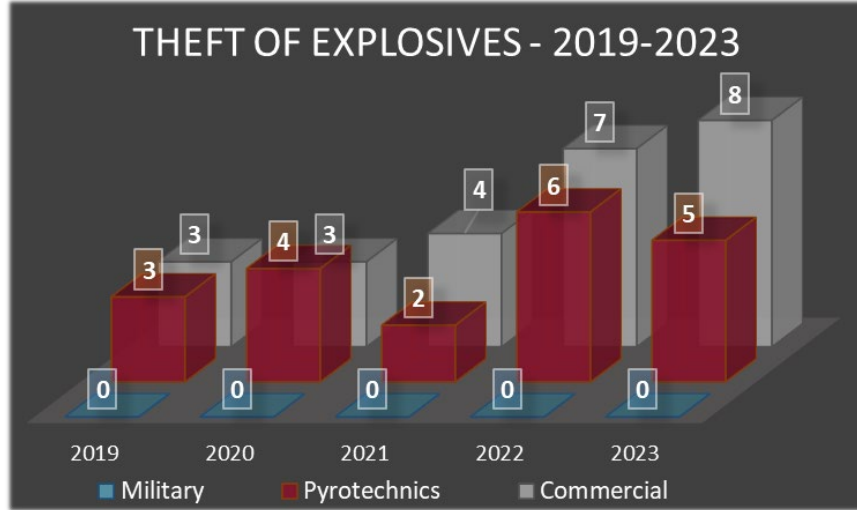
Type of reported hoax devices	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
IED	312	257	307	286	305
CBRN (Not chemical reaction/acid bombs)	11	3	35	1	10
Incendiary Device	16	18	13	13	13
Total	339	278	355	300	328

(U) Figure 22. Hoax Incident Types and Subtypes, 2019–23
Source: BATS and TRIPwire (CYs 2021–23)

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THEFTS/LOSSES - 2023

6.1 Explosives Thefts, Summary, and Trends



(U) Figure 23. Explosives Theft Types, 2019-23
Source: BATS

(U) There were 13 reported thefts of explosives in **BATS** in 2023 and in the previous year. Commercial 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.

6.2 Explosives Theft Types per State

(U) Figure 24 identifies States where explosives thefts were reported in 2023.

State	Commercial	Military	Pyrotechnics	Total
AK			1	1
AL	1			2
CA	3		1	1
IA			1	2
MO	1			1
ND			1	1
OH			1	2
PA	1			1
TX	1			1
WI	1			1
Grand Total	8	0	5	13

(U) Figure 24. Explosives Theft Types per State - 2023
Source: BATS

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THEFTS/LOSSES - 2023

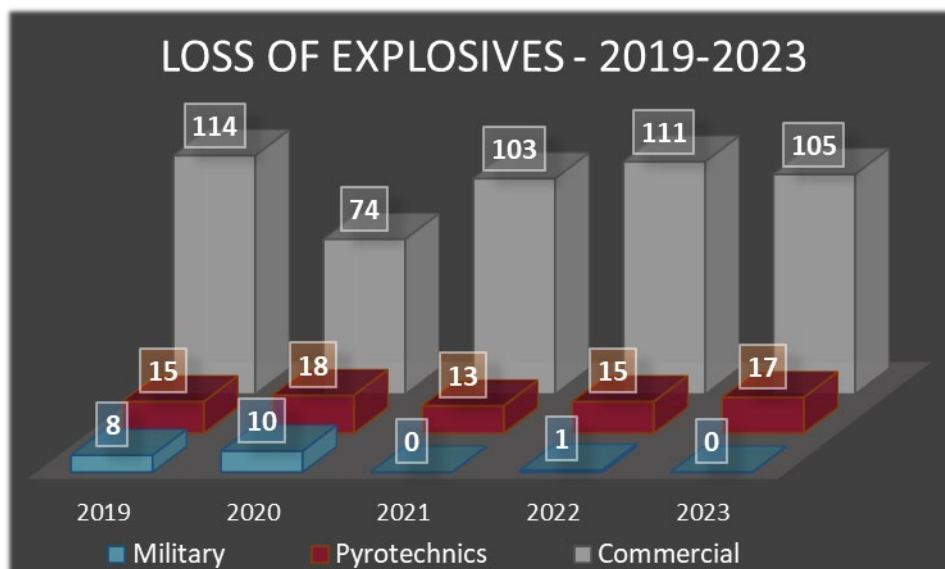
6.3 Explosives Losses, Summary and Trends

(U) There were 122 incidents of explosives losses reported in **BATS** during 2023, a 4-percent decrease from the previous year (shown in Figure 25). The majority of explosives losses were commercial explosives (86 percent). These numbers do not represent the quantity of explosives reported as a loss but rather the number of reported incidents.

(U) The typical reasons for the loss of explosives are improper documentation/record keeping, or the explosives being deemed irretrievable after a failed shot.

(U) Of these 122 reported incidents, there was 1 partial reconciliation and 9 full reconciliations reported.

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



(U) Figure 25. Explosives Loss Types, 2019-23
Source: BATS

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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/](https://TRIPWIRE.DHS.GOV/)