



ROLL CALL RELEASE

In Collaboration with the ITACG



13 December 2010




(U//FOUO) Terrorist Use of Vehicle Ramming Tactics

(U//FOUO) Terrorists overseas have suggested conducting vehicle ramming attacks—using modified or unmodified vehicles—against crowds, buildings, and other vehicles. Such attacks could be used to target locations where large numbers of people congregate, including sporting events, entertainment venues, or shopping centers. Vehicle ramming offers terrorists with limited access to explosives or weapons an opportunity to conduct a Homeland attack with minimal prior training or experience.

(U) **Indicators:** Although a single indicator may not be suspicious, one or more might indicate a ramming attack is being developed, based on the specific facts or circumstances. A ramming attack can be conducted with little to no warning.

- (U//FOUO) Unusual modifications to commercial motor vehicles, heavy equipment, passenger cars, and sports utility vehicles (SUVs), such as homemade attempts to reinforce the front of the vehicle with metal plates.
- (U//FOUO) The purchase, rental, or theft of large or heavy-duty vehicles or equipment, such as SUVs, trucks, or commercial motor vehicles, if accompanied by typical indicators such as nervousness during the purchase, paying in cash, or lack of familiarity with the vehicle's operations.
- (U//FOUO) Commercial motor vehicles or heavy equipment being operated erratically, at unusual times, or in unusual locations, particularly in heavy pedestrian areas.
- (U//FOUO) Attempts to infiltrate closed areas where traffic usually moves, but where crowds are gathered, such as for street festivals or farmers' markets.
- (U//FOUO) A vehicle operator's apparent unfamiliarity with commercial motor vehicle or heavy equipment operation (unable to back up; trouble with shifting; poor lane tracking; unfamiliarity with basic vehicle mechanics such as air brake operations, slack adjusters, fifth wheel operations, Jake brakes, engine type, or location of fire extinguishers and other emergency equipment).

(U) **Examples of Vehicle Ramming Incidents:** These examples, while not all terrorism-related, provide a quick look at the variety of vehicles and targets involved, and potential range of damage that such attacks can inflict.

Type	Target	Date	Location	Result	NCTC
Heavy vehicle (front-end loader) 	Crowd	2 Jul 08	Israel	4 killed; 45 wounded, two buses and several dozen cars damaged	
Basic vehicle (SUV) 	University campus	3 Mar 06	Chapel Hill, NC	9 wounded	
Heavy vehicle (tractor-trailer) 	Capitol building	17 Jul 01	Sacramento, CA	1 building damaged	

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(U//FOUO) For additional indicators, please see the Roll Call Release: “(U//FOUO) Possible Indicators of Use of Large Commercial Motor Vehicles as Weapons,” 4 June 2010.

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(U) Prepared by the DHS/I&A Homeland Counterterrorism Division, the FBI/Directorate of Intelligence, and the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group. Coordinated with DHS/I&A Cyber, Infrastructure, and Science Division. This product is intended to assist federal, state, local, and private sector first responders in developing deterrence, prevention, preemption, or response strategies.

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Homeland Security

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