

## Secondary Device Warning

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On the evening of 18 October, a Charles County deputy sheriff reported a small, intentionally set fire in an abandoned building outside Waldorf, MD. While firefighters were arriving at the scene, the fire chief observed an unusual object in a tree stump approximately five feet off the access road. From a short distance, the deputy sheriff and fire chief determined that the object appeared to be an explosive device consisting of a galvanized (1 1/4" by 12") pipe with wires attached to a kitchen timer. The dial was set for an hour later. After clearing the area, the device was disarmed and transported to the ATF lab, where bomb experts confirmed that it was a viable pipe bomb containing a dangerous amount of model jet fuel powder.

Although authorities suspect local juveniles, it is important to note that the device was next to the road used by emergency vehicles and probably intended to harm first responders. Subsequently, the fire, EMS, and law enforcement agencies in Charles County were informed of this incident and directed to be more vigilant when answering alarms in the general area.

Secondary explosive devices are a shameful reality for emergency first responders throughout the United States. Whether the dastardly work of juveniles or terrorists, the potential presence of such ordnance necessitates added caution when responding to suspicious incidents. Therefore, the CIPIC suggests that it would be prudent to review response plans regarding this matter. During this review and actual response execution, incident commanders should consider applying absolutely minimal personnel and apparatus until adjacent areas are adequately searched and cleared.

PLEASE BE VIGILANT!!!!!! Senator Sam Nunn once said "it is not a matter of IF but only of WHEN" he was speaking of the use of WMD agents in the US BUT his comment applies to all of the B-NICE/WMD/CBN/NBC/CBR/CBRN/CBRNE et al. what ever acronym you use where you work and play (a passion of mine) agents!

Be safe.

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The opinions expressed here are my own, and therefore do not reflect the opinions of any organization(s) that I may be affiliated with in any way. I speak only for myself at all times.

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