



Louisiana State Analytical & Fusion Exchange (LA-SAFE)
376A East Airport Baton Rouge, La 70806

Situational Advisory: Suspicious Packages

October 25, 2018

Over the course of the past 72 hours, several current and former government officials and prominent public figures across the United States have received multiple suspicious packages containing improvised explosive devices. There have been no reported injuries in connection with these packages. The packages have all shared the same characteristics including the use of a large manila envelope, computer generated address labels, and six United States Postal Service “Forever Flag” stamps. Each of the packages have also had the return address as Representative Debbie Wasserman Shultz with an address in Florida.

In light of these events, LA-SAFE is providing characteristics of suspicious packages and safe handling measures as the public plays a large part in the identification and reporting of suspicious activity.

Mailroom personnel and others coming in contact with packages and other shipped items should remain vigilant, looking for any of the following characteristics:

- Unexpected mail, foreign mail, and special deliveries
- Protruding wires
- Excessive or missing postage stamps
- Generic or incorrect titles
- Markings such as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “PERSONAL”
- Unusual mail from an unknown origin
- No return address
- Strange odors
- Ticking, vibration, or other sounds
- Oily stains or discoloration on package
- Excessive weight
- Excessive tape or string
- Misspelled, poorly typed, or nameless address

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SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE INDICATORS

- Leaks, Stains, Powders, or Protruding Materials
- Ticking, Vibrating, or Other Sounds
- Wrapped in String
- Generic, Incorrect, Misspelled, Foreign, or Nonsensical Writing
- Rigid, Bulky, Lopsided, or Uneven
- Excessive, Foreign, or No Postage

WHAT TO DO

1. Leave the package where you found it
2. Clear the immediate area
3. Call 911 & follow your building's security procedures
4. Anyone who handled the package should wash their hands with soap and water
5. Isolate those exposed to the package
6. Shut down equipment and HVAC systems
7. Direct yourself and others from the area
8. If possible, document the package's location and any written details for first responders

Any person coming in contact with a suspicious package should immediately contact local law enforcement personnel, and if necessary, their local bomb squad. In addition, Louisiana State Police Hazmat can be contacted at 877-925-6595.

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Recommended safe handling procedures:

- Never touch or disturb any suspected bomb or explosive device
- Attempt to gather the following information:
 - Bomb or suspected bomb’s location
 - Are there any others, if so, where
 - The bomb or suspected bomb’s origin
 - Who made the discovery
 - Why was the package suspected of being a bomb or explosives
 - Has it been disturbed or moved, if so, in what manner
 - Detailed description of the object or package

To report suspicious activity, threats, or tips, please contact LA-SAFE at lafusion.center@la.gov, 800-434-8007, or online at <http://www.lsp.org/suspicious.nsf/WebForm?OpenForm>.

Threat Description		Explosives Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Zone	Preferred Evacuation Distance
	Pipe Bomb	5 lbs	70 ft	71-1199 ft	+1200 ft
	Suicide Bomber	20 lbs	110 ft	111-1699 ft	+1700 ft
	Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs	150 ft	151-1849 ft	+1850 ft
	Car	500 lbs	320 ft	321-1899 ft	+1900 ft
	SUV/Van	1,000 lbs	400 ft	401-2399 ft	+2400 ft
	Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs	640 ft	641-3799 ft	+3800 ft
	Container/Water Truck	10,000 lbs	860 ft	861-5099 ft	+5100 ft
	Semi-Trailer	60,000 lbs	1570 ft	1571-9299 ft	+9300 ft

Sources:

- “Mailed pipe bombs spread fear in several states, and officials say there may be more packages.” CNN. 25 October 2018.
- “What we know about the explosives and suspicious packages delivered in New York, DC, LA.” ABC News. 25 October 2018.
- “Suspicious Packages Sent to Time Warner Center, Clinton, and Obama.” CNN. 24 October 2018.
- “Pipe Bombs Sent to Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, and CNN Offices.” *The New York Times*. 24 October 2018.
- “Suspected Bombs Sent to Obama, Clinton, and CNN Offices, Officials Say.” *The Washington Post*. 24 October 2018.
- “The Latest: NYPD-Devices All Similar Crude Pipe Bombs.” AP News. 24 October 2018.
- “Suspicious Package Sent to CNN Contained ‘Live Explosive’ and White Powder. The Latest on Packages Sent to Clinton, Obamas, and More.” *TIME*. 24 October 2018.
- “Three Explosive Devices Sent to Clintons, Obama, and CNN Offices.” *The New York Times*. 24 October 2018.
- “Explosive devices sent to Obama, Clintons as CNN evacuated over suspicious package.” ABC News. 24 October 2018.
- “Suspicious packages sent to top Democrats, CNN as election looms.” Reuters. 24 October 2018.
- “Police Investigating Suspicious Package at Sunrise Office of Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Shultz.” NBC. 24 October 2018.
- “President Trump Condemns ‘Despicable Acts’ and Calls for Unity: The Latest on Packages Sent to Clintons, Obamas, and More.” *TIME*. 24 October 2018.

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