

Gain Valuable Time During a Bomb Threat

Use real-time alerts to develop a more efficient response

Bomb threats have, unfortunately, become increasingly common on college and university campuses. But response protocols at most institutions were developed more than a decade ago.

That's why security expert Oren Alter recommends revisiting these protocols and making critical adjustments according to how technology and the threats themselves have evolved.

In an important [feature in Security Magazine](#), Alter offers a "top 10 list" of bomb threat response tips to help drive this reassessment. The tips that stood out were those highlighting new technology gaining traction in the broader education marketplace. They are as follows:

1. Utilize technology to speed up evacuations.

Alter notes that communication tools, such as satellite phones, can help schools accelerate evacuations — and they no longer pose the same risks as previously believed. Another tool to consider is real-time alerts, which use public social media content to identify critical events more quickly than other sources. These alerts are useful because students may be inclined to Tweet about a suspicious object before calling campus security.

2. Provide relevant information.

Alter points out that all campus employees, not just security personnel, may receive or identify suspicious objects, and so should be familiar with relevant protocols. The same employee to locate a package can provide firsthand accounts as the event unfolds, delivering relevant information to key decision-makers proactively from the ground.

3. Form relationships with nearby entities.

These relationships offer mutual support and can extend evacuations to include nearby secure facilities, Alter says. In the same way, real-time alerts can be customized to retrieve notifications from authorities, first responders, and other local institutions. Knowing what they know — as soon as possible — can help your school offer support or execute your own protocols swiftly.

Every minute counts when a bomb threat protocol goes into effect. Dataminr technology uses machine learning, natural language processing, and sophisticated algorithms to identify critical breaking information in real time, so your security team can respond more quickly and coordinate with local authorities more effectively.

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