



# WASHINGTON STATE FUSION CENTER

1110 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98101

## Seattle UASI Terrorism Scenario

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The Seattle UASI Terrorism Scenario was written by the Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC) for consideration in 2019 THIRA/SPR planning. The WSFC assesses the following scenario to be the *most catastrophic* and *most credible* scenario based on the **current threat environment** and has compiled supporting documentation throughout the planning process. It is recommended that the scenario be reviewed yearly to ensure that it continues to reflect the “current threat environment.”

The radicalization of Pacific Northwest extremist groups has recently been promoted by other national terrorism movements which have called for violent resistance to destroy human life and disable critical infrastructure. Radicalization starts to build in the Winter of 2018. Over the next six months there is an increase in expression of on-line animosity towards the U.S. Government which calls for action on June 24th. In recent weeks there has been an increase via social media of on-line extremist groups indicating an intense animosity and a belief of injustice by the U.S. Government. These local online indicators show lone actors, inspired by extremist ideology, have been able to circumvent security measures to take up small arms, make vehicle borne and rudimentary standalone improvised explosive devices (IEDs) with the stated intent to attack the Region. In addition, there are calls for “Leaderless Resistance” making it difficult to locate, mitigate, or prevent their stated intent. Within the Seattle Region, there is increasing concern about a number of these groups starting to influence public opinion, which may lead to violent actions. The on-line information promotes and warns of the need for longer and ongoing acts of violence to achieve superiority over current government authority. On July 3rd, there are several online attacks which are a precursor to the July 4th physical attacks on an iconic building, multiple active shooter events, vehicle borne violence and IEDs, and unattended small items across the City of Seattle and surrounding areas.

### **Scenario details on July 4:**

#### **Time Stamp: 1400**

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> of July an extremist group holds a rally in downtown Seattle with a dozen people. The rally is contained on the sidewalk in South Lake Union. Reports are received of a small rental truck parked illegally on the street near the Seattle rally; one report identified the truck as appearing to be ‘loaded too heavy’....‘springs have slight curve’....‘very little clearance between axle and rubber bumpers attached to the frame’.

2. Public service offices in Pierce County, Seattle and Everett receive telephone calls from a spoofed phone number declaring ‘war’ and threatening violence:
  - a. ‘we also have several (deterrents) in place including car bombs in parking lots and on side streets’. The message stated “we” want to watch as these bombs ‘level everything in (a) 400 yard radius.’
3. Reports received from Tacoma and Everett regarding food truck incidents. Police report that a food truck located in Old Town Tacoma has exploded into flames; initial reports indicated two large propane tanks placed between two food trucks exploded injuring at least 40 people. In Everett, a food truck approached the Boeing plant at the truck entrance gate and was denied entrance for lack of permit. The security officer at the gate reported two large propane tanks were bolted onto the truck rear which seemed unusual given that other food trucks entering Boeing plant used only small propane tanks. The truck departed and was noted heading South.

**Time Stamp: 1500**

4. Supporters have hijacked websites, media forums with hate videos, vitriol, and propaganda statements identifying ‘war’.
5. A two-person team (man and woman) ascends into the Space Needle posing as tourists; at the viewing level/viewing promenade, the team opens fire on tourists and rigs the elevator/stairwell with explosives.

**Time Stamp: 1515**

6. Eight calls are received identifying suspicious parked ‘rideshare’ vehicles near ferry terminals and homeless encampments.
7. Four downtown hotels and retail towers are reporting incidents of shootings. Callers describe situations varying from a single shooter to an apparent team of shooters. Police are attempting to discern the scope of shootings, locations and types of weapons being used; however, communication is sporadic, chaotic and overwhelming emergency call centers.

**Time Stamp: 1600**

8. An apparent team of shooters have shot and killed pedestrians before retreating into one of the hotels and taking hostages.
9. Security officers at a Seattle pier facility report a F-150 truck crashed through a crowded pedestrian ferry terminal gate, injuring a couple dozen people standing in line. Gunshots and small explosions have occurred.
10. A security check finds an unattended backpack at Bellevue Family 4th; a cursory check of the backpack revealed several clear, sealed plastic bags containing a gray mash-like substance along with several baby-food type jars filled with the mash. One plastic bag was found to be opened and contained a small amount of white powder.

**Time Stamp: 1700**

11. A crowded Metro bus (route 566) explodes while heading south on 405 in north Renton.