

LONDON SUBWAY BOMBING

Situation: Four suicide bombers attack the London subway system.

Early in the morning on 7 July 2005, four men arrived at a train station in Luton, England located to the north of London. Getting out of two cars, each man flung a backpack over his shoulder, entered the station, and boarded a train for London. At 7:40 AM their train left for London and arrived at King's Cross station 43 minutes later. They entered the subway station at 8:30 and twenty minutes later three bombs exploded on different subway trains traveling beneath the city. Almost an hour later, at 9:47 an additional bomb detonated on a double-decker bus. In all, the 7 July London attacks killed 52 commuters and wounded more than 700.



A video statement made by one of the bombers aired on Al Jazerra TV and suggested the motivation for the attack. In his statement, Mohammed Sidique Khan used an extreme interpretation of Islam to justify violence against Western targets and explain his responsibility to defend his fellow Muslim brothers and sisters. A desire to become martyrs also influenced the bombers.

Attacks against public transportation systems in London, Madrid, and other cities demonstrate their attractiveness as possible targets. Places that crowd many people in small areas may be targeted to maximize death and injury.



The three subway bombs detonated within 50 seconds of each other. The first exploded on the eastbound Circle Line train between Liverpool and Aldgate stations. Forensic evidence suggests the bomber, Shehzad Tanweer, sat near the rear of the second carriage with a backpack carrying explosives at his side. The bomb detonated only seconds after leaving the Liverpool station. CCTV cameras recorded smoke billowing from the tunnel and commuters running from the scene or taking cover. Eight people died,

including the bomber.

The second bomb exploded on the westbound Circle Line train as it left the Edgware Road station heading towards Paddington. It is believed the bomber, Mohammed Sidique Khan was also sitting near the rear of the second carriage when his bomb detonated. The second explosion killed seven, including Khan.

The third bomb was in the rear of the first carriage of a Piccadilly Line train heading southbound from King's Cross to Russell Square. The train was very crowded with morning commuters; the first carriage alone carried at least 127 people. The explosion on the Piccadilly Line was the most fatal claiming 27 lives, including the bomber.

You should always be aware of your surroundings and stay alert to suspicious activities. Backpacks and other items left unattended may be a threat and individuals acting suspiciously could indicate an attack.

It is not known why the fourth terrorist, Hasib Hussein, did not board a subway train. Some speculate he needed to buy a new battery to make his bomb work or perhaps the subway service had been suspended before he could reach his intended target area.



However, at approximately 9:20, Hussein boarded a double-decker bus traveling east from Marble Arch. Hussein took a seat on the second level toward the rear of the bus. The passengers of the bus included several commuters that had been evacuated from the subway system following the three earlier bombings.

The bomb in Hussein's backpack exploded at 9:47, ripping through the bus and showering passersby on the street with debris. Eyewitnesses said the vehicle looked more like a mangled flatbed truck than a double-decker bus. Thirteen innocent persons died along with Hussein, and 110 others were injured.

After an initial attack, you should guard against secondary explosions. Secondary explosions can be used to target emergency responders and persons who gather to view an initial attack.

CAN YOU HELP?

On Thursday 7th July more than 50 people were killed and hundreds injured in terrorist attacks in central London.

An approximately 550km train was hit by three explosions on underground rails. Two were on Circle Line going close to Aldgate and Edgware Road stations, and the other on a London Underground train near King's Cross.

An 800m in Tottenham Square, W21, there was a fourth explosion on a number 30 bus on Haverley Way.



Were you there?
Did you see anything suspicious?
Did you take any pictures?

If you have any information please call the confidential Anti-Terrorist Hotline
0800 789 321

Initially, authorities thought a massive power surge caused the explosions in the underground subway system. Later, as it became clear that the nation's capital had been attacked, police immediately launched an investigation to determine responsibility.

Within hours of the explosions, numerous terrorist organizations claimed responsibility for the attacks in London. However, through careful investigation, analysis of forensic

evidence, and review of CCTV footage, authorities identified Khan, Tanweer, Hussain, and Lindsay as the four suicide bombers. Al Qaeda has not been officially linked to the London bombings, but Khan had made several trips to Pakistan and possibly Afghanistan in the years prior to the attacks, and it is known that Tanweer and Hussain also spent time in the region. It is suspected they may have had contact with Al Qaeda members during these times.

If you witness an attack, leave the area immediately. However, make a mental note of any information that might help authorities during an investigation.