



BATS is the solution for a nationally shared database of arson and explosives incidents.

The Bomb Arson Tracking System (BATS) provides bomb technicians, post-blast investigators and fire investigators with state-of-the-art case management technology at no charge. BATS users have the ability to query over 190,000 explosives and arson incidents dating back to the early 1970's. Authorized users can customize and print professional reports using standardized terminology for consistency. Investigators are able to capture details of bomb and arson cases, including IED components, origin-and-cause or device placement, casualties, dollar losses, fire descriptors, collateral crimes, witness interviews, suspect information, and descriptions of how a device was delivered.

Users can also share images and video of arson scenes and bombs with fellow BATS users across the nation. BATS is web-based, available all the time, and contains powerful tools for trend analysis and searching for similarities in motives, device components, and potential suspects.

That's just the beginning...BATS also delivers up-to-date arson and explosives advisories from ATF and has other features designed to meet your specific needs such as an Investigative Resources Library. As a matter of fact, it was developed based on feedback from state & local bomb technicians and fire/arson investigators. Over 70% of the testers for the latest version were state & local users. Each agency manages their BATS account! The U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) simply keeps it running.

- BATS serves as the Nation's sole repository for bombing, explosives and arson incidents.
- BATS is a secure, web-based information sharing system that serves as your agency's direct link to the USBDC.
- BATS is not another data entry program. It is an efficient investigative tool for agencies to easily manage and track incidents & activities.
- BATS allows investigators to search for case similarities nationwide to discover whether the same individual, IED, or arson is related to an investigation in another jurisdiction.
- Each agency supervises its own BATS account and exercises strict control over access to their reports by other agencies.
- Each agency customizes their report header with their dept logo/seals



- BATS has a “short form” allowing users to enter a typical incident in a matter of minutes.
- BATS is separate from the NFIRS database. NFIRS reports the fire department suppression efforts; BATS documents the follow-up investigation.

Having bomb techs and fire investigators on the same system using standardized language is essential to the identification of a particular style of an IED that may be associated with a known bomb maker (i.e., signature) or in uncovering a particular Modus operandi (often referred to as M.O.) such as serial-type investigations. This is not only important to the successful conclusion of the case being investigated but can also provide critical information to “connect the dots” to other cases across jurisdictions.

With BATS, your information is available with the click of a mouse. You’ll be amazed how easily you can “point and click” to create a variety of custom reports, such as those needed to keep track of your investigations and justify your budget. The latest version includes an optional “compliance” feature, allowing supervisors to review and approve BATS entries. This feature also allows supervisors to send messages to unit members regarding BATS entries.

ATF is authorized by the U.S. Congress under the Explosives Control Act (Public Law 104-208) and the Attorney General to collect arson and explosives incident information nationwide. BATS was designed exclusively for our state & local partners as a means to interface with the USBDC. Participation in BATS ensures that your agency is accurately represented and receives critical advisories relative to arson & explosives incidents. Congress also relies on this information for statistical reporting and may be beneficial for acquiring needed resources. Additionally, BATS has been endorsed by the International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators (IABTI), the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), and the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board (NBSCAB).

ATF and the USBDC are dedicated to assisting police departments, bomb squads, and fire departments who strive to keep America safe from the criminal misuse of fire and explosives. To obtain additional information or request a BATS account, please contact the U.S. Bomb Data Center at www.BATS.gov or toll free at 800-461-8841.