Cybertruck Explosion at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas

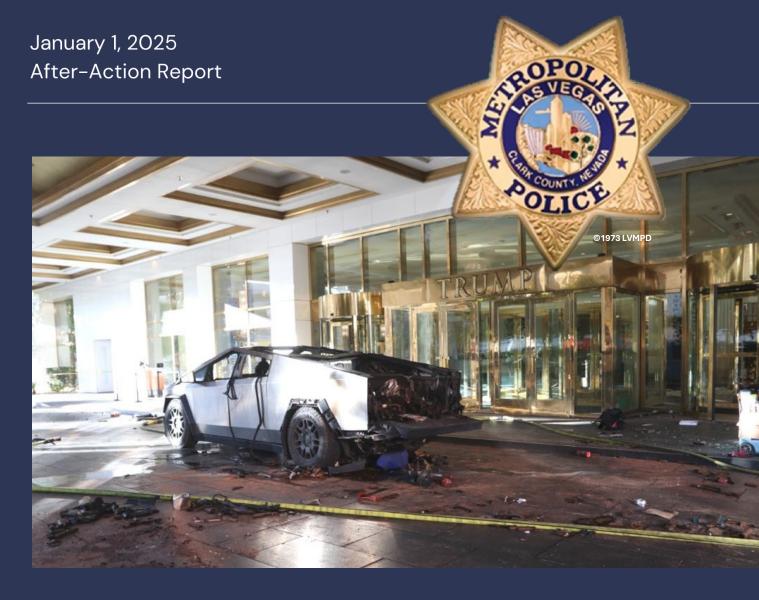


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This after-action report (AAR) provides a comprehensive review of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's (LVMPD's) response to the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas. The purpose of this evaluation is to assess operational performance, recognize areas of strength, and identify opportunities for improvement. The analysis includes key findings that highlight effective practices and strategies that contributed to the overall success of the response. In addition, the report outlines several recommendations addressing operational challenges and communication gaps encountered during the incident, with the goal of strengthening future preparedness and response efforts.

On the morning of January 1, 2025, Matthew Livelsberger deliberately drove a Tesla Cybertruck that he had rented from Turo into the porte cochere of the Trump International Hotel on the Las Vegas Strip and detonated it, resulting in a significant explosion. A joint investigation conducted by LVMPD and federal partners confirmed that the incident had been a premeditated attack involving a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, with the potential to cause mass casualties and extensive structural damage.

On the heels of the Las Vegas Strip's New Year's Eve events, as well as a terrorist attack in New Orleans early that same morning, LVMPD recognized the response and resources needed to investigate this incident thoroughly, as another possible terrorist attack would be significant. Despite increased public and media pressure to quickly label the Cybertruck explosion an act of terrorism, investigative agencies remained committed to maintaining the integrity of the investigation. Prematurely categorizing the incident without a thorough and evidence-based assessment risked compromising both the accuracy of the findings and public trust. LVMPD, in coordination with federal partners, prioritized a methodical and unbiased investigative approach, ensuring that all leads were pursued objectively and conclusions were based solely on verified facts.

LVMPD's response and coordination with local, federal, and private-sector partners led to a successful investigation, with each agency playing a critical role in ensuring public safety. The Clark County Fire Department and Community Ambulance provided immediate emergency medical and fire suppression services. The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Bomb Squad conducted vital

assessments of the blast site. The Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner contributed essential forensic support. Trump International Hotel security offered reliable intelligence from its security footage, as well as assistance with evacuating guests from the building. LVMPD Counter Terrorism and All-Hazard Regional Multi-Agency Operations and Response, along with their federal partners—including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives—provided subject-matter expertise, threat assessment, and investigative support. This multi-agency collaboration was instrumental in managing the incident effectively and maintaining public confidence during a period of heightened concern.

This AAR not only highlights the strengths of LVMPD's response to the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel but also serves as a critical tool for continuous improvement. The coordinated efforts of local, federal, and private-sector partners were essential in mitigating the immediate threat and preserving public safety during a high-risk, highly visible incident. While LVMPD's response demonstrated strong alignment with existing policies and showed effective interagency collaboration, the report also identifies several operational and communication gaps that must be evaluated. By implementing the outlined recommendations and reinforcing key areas such as officer safety, resource management, communication, policy and training review, Incident Command System (ICS) response, and the incorporation of vital technology, LVMPD and its partners will be better prepared to manage future critical incidents.

INTRODUCTION

On New Year's Eve 2024, Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted its annual America's Party celebration on the iconic Las Vegas Boulevard (the Strip). Las Vegas welcomed approximately 280,000 visitors to this event. LVMPD had approximately 1,200 uniformed officers and 70 plainclothes officers assigned to the Strip. In the days leading up to the celebration, LVMPD ensured it had a significant presence on the Strip and in the downtown corridor.¹

America's Party proved to be a successful and safe celebration. However, at 8:40 a.m. on January 1, 2025, Matthew Livelsberger drove a rented Tesla Cybertruck into the porte cochere (valet area) of Trump International Hotel Las Vegas located at 2000 Fashion Show Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109. Within seconds of parking, the Cybertruck exploded. LVMPD and the Clark County Fire Department responded rapidly, acting quickly to contain the fire, identify the injured, and evacuate the immediate area. The investigation that followed required coordination not only within LVMPD but also with a multitude of partnering agencies that assisted.

Adding to the complexity of this investigation were the events unfolding 1,722 miles away in New Orleans, Louisiana. Just hours before the Cybertruck explosion, a deadly terror attack at 3:15 a.m. in the French Quarter targeted people who were still celebrating the new year. A lone suspect drove a truck into the crowd, striking multiple innocent victims before dying in a shootout with law enforcement officers. The attack would end with 14 lives lost and 57 others injured.

As with all critical incidents, LVMPD is dedicated to looking internally to identify areas to improve as an agency. This AAR is a reflection of that effort. Not only does LVMPD identify lessons learned; it also highlights the department's strengths and demonstrates how previous events, such as the mass shooting on October 1, 2017, have created a template for all future large-scale incidents in Las Vegas.²

¹ "America's Party: Las Vegas New Year," Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, 2025, https://www.lvcva.com/signature-events/special-events/.

² Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, *1 October After-Action Review* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2019), https://www.lvmpd.com/home/showpublisheddocument/130/638298568297230000.

LETTER FROM SHERIFF KEVIN MCMAHILL

On the morning of January 1, 2025, as a brand-new year unfolded on the iconic Las Vegas Strip,

the men and women of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and I were feeling

grateful as an organization for another safe and successful New Year's Eve celebration the night

before. That feeling was short-lived. I received a phone call around 8:55 a.m. informing me that a

Tesla Cybertruck had exploded in the valet area of the Trump International Hotel.

At the same time, I was processing the overnight act of terror in New Orleans. I knew that a Tesla

Cybertruck exploding at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas had the potential to garner abundant

attention, and the investigation would require numerous resources, both local and federal, to ensure

thoroughness and transparency.

I want to express sincere gratitude to all who assisted in this investigation. In over 35 years of

policing, I have never experienced the level of connectivity between local, state, and federal

partners like I did during this investigation. There were no interagency struggles, no battling egos—

it truly was leadership at its finest. I will forever be grateful to our partners.

This after-action report is a testament to LVMPD's ability to learn from all critical events. I would

like to extend my gratitude to the team who authored this report: Sergeant Nicole Hemsey,

Detective Kyle Reynolds, and Sheriff's Office Executive Support Kellcy Sullivan. You all worked

tirelessly to accomplish this task while continuing to work in your assigned positions in the Office

of Internal Oversight and Constitutional Policing.

On January 1, 2025, a lone actor chose the Las Vegas Strip as his destination to make a very big,

very public statement. As a result, he lost his life, six others were injured, and several hundred more

were deeply affected by what they witnessed. It is for these individuals that we look at all aspects

of what took place, so we can continue to learn and grow as an agency. As first responders, we

remain ever mindful of our obligation to be prepared for anything, at any time, on our watch.

Respectfully,

Kevin McMahill, Sheriff

Clark County, Nevada

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I. OVERVIEW OF PRIMARY RESPONDING AGENCIES

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and Clark County Fire Department (CCFD) were the first two responding agencies to this event. These departments played a critical role in the immediate stabilization of the incident and safety of the affected area. Their actions laid the foundation for subsequent response efforts by supporting agencies and helped ensure continuity of operations through the early stages of the incident.

A. LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

LVMPD was created on July 1, 1973, from the merger of the City of Las Vegas Police Department and the Clark County Sheriff's Department. This consolidation created a single, unified force tasked with providing police services to both the City of Las Vegas and the unincorporated areas of Clark County. As of 2024, LVMPD is responsible for a jurisdictional population of nearly 1.7 million residents, while also managing the safety of over 41 million visitors who come to experience everything Las Vegas has to offer. To meet these demands, the department employs 3,170 police officers operating across 10 area commands and 16 specialized bureaus.

The iconic Las Vegas Strip and downtown area fall within LVMPD's responsibilities. To keep this high-energy area safe and secure, LVMPD operates four area commands within its bounds: Convention Center, Downtown, South Central, and Spring Valley. Together, these area commands are staffed by approximately 872 dedicated officers who help to ensure that Las Vegas remains a world-class destination.

LVMPD is driven by its vision, mission, values, and goals:

• **Vision:** The vision of LVMPD is for the Las Vegas community to be the safest in America. This vision is realized by injecting humanity into every interaction and building trust with the citizens we serve.

¹ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2019–2023 Use of Force and Vehicle Pursuit Annual 5-Year Statistics Report (Las Vegas, LVMPD, 2025), https://www.lvmpd.com/about/transparency/internal-oversight-and-constitutional-policing/statistical-data-and-reports.

- Mission: The mission of LVMPD is to provide exceptional police services in partnership with the community. Prioritizing the mental and physical well-being of employees enables our department to perform at the highest levels and build meaningful relationships with community members.
- **Values:** Integrity, Courage, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence.
- Goals: Strategic prevention and reduction of crime; Appreciate our employees and those we serve; Foster leadership, accountability, and reform; and Excel in communication, innovation, and technology.

B. CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

CCFD is one of the largest and busiest fire departments in the United States, serving a vast and dynamic area that includes the unincorporated communities of Clark County, Nevada, most notably the Las Vegas Strip, a global hub for tourism and entertainment.² The department was created in 1953 and has grown alongside the rapid development of Southern Nevada. Today, it provides all-hazard emergency response services, including fire suppression, emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials response, technical rescue, and disaster preparedness.

CCFD's jurisdiction covers approximately 8,000 square miles, encompassing residential areas, industrial zones, rural communities, and the high-rise resorts of the Las Vegas Strip. As of 2024, the department operates over 30 fire stations, staffed by more than 700 career firefighters, paramedics, and support personnel. CCFD maintains primary emergency response for the Las Vegas Strip, beginning at the intersection of South Las Vegas Boulevard and Sahara Avenue and extending south to Sunset Road. This high-demand area is supported by six strategically positioned fire stations, staffed by 56 trained response personnel. These assets allow CCFD to uphold efficient and reliable response times, ensuring the safety of residents, visitors, and businesses throughout one of the region's most populated areas.

At the heart of CCFD are its vision, mission, and core values:

² "About Us," Clark County Fire Department, 2025, https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/government/departments/fire/index.php.

- **Vision:** The Clark County Fire Department is driven to be a national leader in the Fire Service. We are a fully integrated, cohesive, and valued member of our community, operating at the highest level of efficiency.
- Mission: The Clark County Fire Department provides for the safety and health of our Southern Nevada communities and our visitors through professional emergency response, fire prevention, and public education.
- Core Values: The men and women of CCFD are committed, every day, for every citizen and visitor, to aspire to these core values, while at the same time conducting themselves with honor and compassion. They strive for excellence while demonstrating with each community interaction the utmost in ethics, responsibility, and public trust. The employees of CCFD stand for the following core values:
 - **Accountability** to the public, to county and department leadership, and to each other.
 - **Competence** achieving the highest level of skills and abilities through ongoing experience, training, and education.
 - **Integrity** demonstrating ethical behavior, trustworthiness, and responsible use of public funds.
 - **Professionalism** demonstrating respect, dedication to public service, and professional demeanor with peers, co-workers, and community partners.

II. METHODOLOGY

LVMPD prioritizes transparency, ensuring that all information shared with our community is thoroughly investigated and grounded in fact. For this after-action report, the agency meticulously analyzed the event, breaking it down piece by piece while leveraging every resource. LVMPD collaborated with multiple agencies and utilized various technologies to deliver fact-based media briefings and press releases. The following agencies were instrumental in assisting in this investigation:

- Clark County Fire Department (CCFD)
- Community Ambulance
- Las Vegas Fire Rescue (LVFR) Bomb Squad
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Trump International Hotel security
- Clark County Office of the Coroner/ Medical Examiner

Following the explosion, LVMPD conducted a thorough review of the agency's response. This process involved collecting data from after-action interviews, body-worn cameras (BWCs), drone use, internal communications, external communications, crime scene documentation, investigative reports, and investigative timelines, as well as surveillance footage. This section breaks down each of these data sources to provide insight into what LVMPD investigators gathered during their review.

A. AFTER-ACTION INTERVIEWS

LVMPD recognized early on that conducting interviews with civilian and commissioned personnel involved in this event would provide the best insight into their response. These interviews also provided participants with an opportunity to help identify areas for improvement and highlight what went well. In January 2025, LVMPD initiated the process of identifying and interviewing participating personnel across multiple agencies, including CCFD, LVFR, Community Ambulance, FBI, ATF, Army CID, and Trump International Hotel security personnel.

Records maintained by the Department Operation Center (DOC) during the initial operational period provided key contacts for each agency, streamlining the scheduling of debriefs. To maintain consistency and put participants at ease, LVMPD's disclaimer stated that their interviews would be used only for an administrative review and to identify lessons learned. These interviews were conducted in group and individual settings based on the responders' role.

B. BODY-WORN CAMERAS

Twenty-six BWC videos were stored and thoroughly reviewed on Evidence.com to identify first responders and early actions taken to secure the scene and preserve evidence. These videos also provided valuable insight into the initial arrival of officers and the overall dynamics of the situation. The BWC review process revealed that patrol officers played a significant role in containing the scene, identifying victims and witnesses, and staging evacuees. Once those responsibilities had been accomplished, patrol's role transitioned to containment to secure the area for investigators.

C. UTILIZATION OF DRONES

During this event, the Drones as a First Responder (DFR) unit played a critical role in intelligence gathering and officer safety. Working closely with LVMPD's All-Hazard Regional Multi-Agency Operations and Response (ARMOR), LVFR Bomb Squad, and LVFR Hazmat, a drone was flown in first to provide a remote visual inspection of the vehicle and surrounding area, scanning for any additional threats that could endanger responding officers. With its thermal imaging capabilities, the DFR could identify potential hotspots indicating hazardous materials or secondary devices, ensuring bomb technicians had a clearer understanding of the risks.

Once the bomb squad made its approach, the drone followed to document the crime scene, capturing a comprehensive visual record from an aerial perspective. This capability enhanced situational awareness, improved evidence collection, and added a layer of security for personnel operating near the Cybertruck. By utilizing drone technology, LVMPD minimized risks, accelerated intelligence gathering, and delivered real-time support to the units managing the incident, ultimately ensuring a safer, more efficient response.

D. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The LVMPD Communications Bureau played a significant role in documenting and gathering information, as well as making notifications and resource requests during this event. LVMPD police dispatcher professionals (PDPs) fielded 17 calls from citizens and documented all incoming information from those on scene. The PDPs were also responsible for delivering notifications when requested, as well as notifying the appropriate personnel for the event. LVMPD's computer-aided dispatch system helped to document the event as it unfolded by providing time stamps for each task accomplished, which assisted in developing a sequence of events.

E. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

As with all major world events, the media seeks to connect the public to unfolding events in real time. LVMPD facilitated that effort by providing valuable information to all media outlets (see Appendix B). Given the terrorist attack in New Orleans a few hours prior, the media was already drawing similarities between it and the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas. Sheriff McMahill briefed the media only three hours after the original call for service. With this prompt reporting, the public could follow what had taken place and how LVMPD's investigation progressed.

F. CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION

Over the course of two days, LVMPD's crime scene analysts (CSAs) meticulously documented the Cybertruck scene and its surrounding area. CSAs were equipped with some of the latest technology for scene documentation and identification. Over 4,000 photographs were taken, 125 evidentiary items were recovered, and a Leica RTC360 scanner was used to create a three-dimensional (3D) rendering of the scene and a two-dimensional (2D) diagram.³ Another cutting-edge tool, Crime-lite AUTO, a full-spectrum camera with multiple functions, helped CSAs photograph tattoos unidentifiable to the naked eye given the condition of Livelsberger's body after the explosion. Using the infrared function on this camera, LVMPD could compare the tattoos on

³ "Leica RTC360 3D Laser Scanner," Leica Geosystems, 2025, https://leica-geosystems.com/products/laser-scanners/scanners/leica-rtc360.

the charred body inside the Cybertruck to previous photographs of Livelsberger's tattoos. This information, made possible by advanced technology, helped to confirm the identity of the body.

G. INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS AND TIMELINES

LVMPD Counter Terrorism (CT) and ARMOR units worked collaboratively with their federal agency partners to investigate this incident. The ability to draw on all available resources from both LVMPD and the federal government made the investigation more efficient. During the initial investigation period, LVMPD also provided CT with several other investigative units for support in compiling information and creating an investigative timeline. LVMPD's Digital Forensics Lab (DFL) used technology to gain access to the cellphones inside the Cybertruck, allowing them to retrieve data, which was instrumental in the analysis of events leading up to the explosion. Over approximately 10 days, CT worked with the FBI to obtain 62 search warrants to gain access to the Cybertruck, contents inside the vehicle, bank records, video surveillance at businesses, social media accounts, and Livelsberger's residence in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Army CID also offered important information about Livelsberger's Army career that provided insight into his mindset before the incident.

H. SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE

At the onset of this event, LVMPD knew there would be numerous surveillance videos generated, not only by Trump International Hotel Las Vegas but also by the surrounding Strip properties and other locations Livelsberger had visited. Notably, LVMPD's strong relationships with community partners made it possible to obtain all relevant videos along the Strip, as well as from Tesla charging stations on Livelsberger's route to his destination.

III. PREPAREDNESS

LVMPD is no stranger to large-scale events and celebrations. It understands the importance of maintaining effective training so that officers can respond to dynamic critical incidents with the knowledge and competency to perform at a high standard. This section outlines what training, policies, procedures, equipment, and technology LVMPD had in place before this incident.

A. FIRST-RESPONDER READINESS

LVMPD continuously develops comprehensive training programs that equip officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to respond to a variety of high-stress situations. This preparation often includes scenario-based training and collaboration with other emergency services to ensure a coordinated response. Additionally, ongoing professional development through policy, procedures, and debriefings helps officers learn from their experiences and adapt to evolving threats. By encouraging a culture of preparedness, LVMPD has enhanced its ability to protect the community, minimize harm, and maintain public trust during critical incidents.

1. Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities

Adopted by LVMPD, Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities (MACTAC) is primarily tasked with saving lives. MACTAC activations are used when a situation exceeds conventional law enforcement tactics and resources. They aid in resolving the situation through a controlled, aggressive employment of resources to an in-progress, life-threatening situation, where any delay is likely to result in death or serious bodily harm to innocent people. These activations are used in every area command and consist of a squad of officers—called an "in-the-box squad"—that provides a direct response to the life-threatening scene. LVMPD understands that accompanying agencies, such as CCFD, LVFR, and EMS, play a vital role in the success of the mission to save lives, so it provides training to these outside agencies and integrates them into patrol training exercises. This collaborative effort builds camaraderie between agencies and ensures the MACTAC deployment is implemented properly.

2. Advanced Officer Skills Training

Advanced Officer Skills Training (AOST) is a mandatory nine-hour annual course for officers and sergeants that hones advanced skills. Officers experience five different evolutions—a use-of-force refresher (classroom instruction), hands-on defensive tactics, electronic control device annual recertification, and practical application scenarios in use-of-force recognition and response—based on lessons learned from critical incidents. Training focuses on communication, team tactics, and de-escalation.

3. Reality-Based Training

Reality-based training (RBT) is a mandatory annual requirement for all LVMPD commissioned police personnel. This training was designed to prepare officers to handle dynamic, critical incidents as a team to address patterns and trends identified through LVMPD's review of deadly force incidents. The RBT block reinforces the COPS philosophy: communicate, options, preplan, and slow the momentum.

4. Supervisor Scenario-Based Training

In 2024, an additional RBT block, Supervisor Scenario-Based Training (SBT), was introduced for sergeants and lieutenants, offering in-depth guidance on supervisory expectations during a critical incident. This training presents elements of a successful command post (CP) and the positions within it, the responsibilities of an incident commander (IC), a commander's intent, necessary resources, and situations requiring a unified command.

5. Policies and Procedures

Several LVMPD policies and procedures are applicable to major incidents, including the Major Incident and All Hazard Plan; Bomb Threats-Located Explosive Devices-Detonations; Explosive Detector Dogs; and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear or Explosive (CBRNE) Incident Plan. These policies reflect the agencies' core priorities of life safety, incident stabilization, and property preservation. LVMPD consistently reviews and refines policies and procedures to address emerging challenges, meet community demands, and align with policing best practices.

6. Joint Emergency Training Institute

As a result of the 1 October mass shooting, LVMPD took bold, future-focused action to empower public safety officers to respond to the unimaginable. The Joint Emergency Training Institute (JETI) sets a new national benchmark for preparedness, resilience, and lifesaving excellence. JETI is a 50,000-square-foot training facility, funded completely by private donors within the community, comprising classrooms, mat rooms, and simulators. The training provided here prepares officers to respond effectively to various emergencies, including active-shooter situations and mass-casualty events. This initiative aims to enhance public safety and ensure that first responders are well-equipped to protect the community.

B. FIRE AND EMS RESPONSE

The relationship between LVMPD and its fire and EMS partners is vital for public safety as they often respond to the same critical incidents, thus necessitating efficient collaboration. To strengthen this coordination, LVMPD regularly includes fire departments in its critical response training. Joint training with LVMPD, CCFD, and LVFR includes MACTAC, AOST, SBT, the fire department academy, the police academy, and the Fusion Liaison Officer program. Outside of formal training, area commands frequently collaborate with neighboring fire stations to receive medical training, share operational perspectives, and explore ways to support one another at the scene of critical incidents—discussions that are crucial to ensuring a unified and coordinated response.

C. PARTNERING AGENCIES

Government agency interoperability is critical to effective communication and coordination between LVMPD, other local departments, and different levels of government. This communication enhances the efficiency of decision-making, speeds up response times, and ensures resources are allocated appropriately. Additionally, these partnerships create a more unified approach to tackling complex incidents, ultimately leading to a safer community.

⁴ LVMPD Foundation, *JETI: A Visionary Investment in Public Safety* (Las Vegas: LVMPD Foundation, 2025), https://lvmpdfoundation.org/jeti/.

In 2017, LVMPD developed the Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center (SNCTC), which includes its Fusion Center, to strengthen the flow of communication between other local departments and government agencies. Some notable partners of the Fusion Center include Boulder City, Henderson, North Las Vegas, and Clark County School District Police Departments; the Department of Justice; the Department of Homeland Security; the Southern Nevada Health District; the Department of Transportation; LVFR; CCFD; the Nevada Department of Public Safety; the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; the City of Las Vegas; the ATF; and the FBI.

D. PRIVATE-SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

LVMPD values its relationship with community partners. Before the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas, the department had established procedures to ensure effective communication with Strip properties. This group consists of LVMPD leadership along the Strip corridor and the security chiefs of each major resort. These stakeholders receive timely updates and notifications about critical incidents, fires, and traffic issues. This communication allows for seamless coordination, especially when additional resources and personnel are needed. This group also meets monthly to maintain an updated understanding of response expectations and procedural changes.

E. EVENTS PLANNING

LVMPD's Events Planning Section strategizes and coordinates the staffing of special events, unplanned events, protests, and dignitary visits throughout Las Vegas and Clark County, Nevada. This section works with private entities; public works; fire and EMS; and any external stakeholders, such as hotels, casinos, and nightclubs, to ensure the safety of events while minimizing the impact on the community. The Events Planning Section is unique among law enforcement agencies.

Every year, the Events Planning Section plans for America's Party, one of the biggest New Year's Eve events in the country. This event is hosted on the Strip and averages approximately 300,000 visitors each year. The preparation involves staffing sufficient personnel, enhancing security measures, coordinating with external entities, and establishing operations and command and control.

F. EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

One of Sheriff McMahill's priorities is for LVMPD to become the most technologically advanced police departments in the nation. Throughout his time as a member of LVMPD's executive staff and since becoming the sheriff in 2023, Sheriff McMahill has optimized private partnerships to help the agency excel in communication, innovation, and technology. For example, at the scene of the Cybertruck explosion, CSAs, Fusion Watch, ARMOR, and the DFL employed a range of advanced tools to enhance the efficiency, safety, and effectiveness of LVMPD's policing and investigative strategies.

1. Fusion Watch

Fusion Watch was established officially in 2017 to enhance public safety through real-time analytical capabilities and innovative technologies. It employs tools like public safety cameras, automated license plate readers (ALPRs), DFR, and facial recognition to monitor and respond to incidents. Additionally, Fusion Watch provides real-time virtual policing support, situational awareness, and investigative support for the critical incidents and investigations of various first-responder agencies in Southern Nevada, and beyond. Over time, Fusion Watch has evolved by incorporating cutting-edge technologies and maintaining strict privacy policies, including governance boards and a privacy officer. Its role in the community has expanded to include initiatives like "See Something, Say Something" and suspicious activity reporting systems, emphasizing public involvement in safety efforts. The success of Fusion Watch reflects SNCTC's commitment to using technology for proactive policing and community engagement, with the aim of making LVMPD the most technologically advanced police department in the country (see Figure 1).

⁵ An Automated License Plate Reader is a system that uses cameras that function to capture an image of a vehicle's license plate and uses optical character recognition (OCR) to automatically read license plate characters.



Figure 1. LVMPD Fusion Watch

2. Drones as a First Responder

In August 2024, LVMPD rolled out the DFR program, developed to support patrol operations with a rapidly deployable aerial response system. Outside of patrol, this program has also played a crucial role in assisting crime scene investigators; search and rescue teams; tactical teams such as ARMOR, Special Weapons and Tactics, and K9; and various investigative bureaus. Equipped with color and thermal imaging cameras, the drones can navigate potentially hazardous environments, allowing personnel to assess conditions before entering. Additionally, real-time aerial footage enhances situational awareness, helping to slow momentum and support informed decision-making (see Figure 2).



Figure 2. Skydio X10 Drone Utilized by LVMPD

3. All-Hazard Regional Multi-Agency Operations and Response

Responsible for responding to and investigating criminal CBRNE events, the ARMOR Section is outfitted with an array of advanced technologies and specialized equipment that enables its members to conduct thorough, secure investigations. The ARMOR Section relies on personal protective equipment (PPE) and chemical identification tools, which are indispensable when addressing explosive threats or conducting air monitoring for toxic inhalation hazards or airborne particles. These critical tools not only offer an essential layer of protection but also enhance the effectiveness of threat mitigation efforts, ensuring both the safety of personnel and the successful neutralization of potential dangers.

4. Crime Scene Investigations

CSAs play a critical role in gathering and analyzing evidence from a crime scene. They are responsible for meticulously documenting the scene through photographs and scans, collecting

physical evidence such as fingerprints, DNA, and trace materials to preserve this evidence for further analysis. CSAs are equipped with the latest technologies for documenting and identifying evidence at the scene. Following the Cybertruck explosion, for example, CSAs used the Crimelite AUTO camera and Leica RTC360 scanner.

5. Digital Forensic Lab

The well-equipped DFL allows LVMPD to recover, preserve, and analyze critical evidence, ensuring it is handled legally. These capabilities not only streamline investigations but also support the prosecution of crimes. By using the latest technological advancements, the DFL can adapt to emerging threats, making these solutions vital to modern law enforcement. Its forensic hardware and software allow detectives to perform digital examinations of various devices, including video surveillance systems, SD cards, flash drives, and cellphones, among other electronics. Additionally, detectives undergo comprehensive training that equips them with advanced knowledge and techniques to identify and resolve challenges encountered during digital forensic investigations.

G. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management Section, embedded in SNCTC, is responsible for LVMPD's preparedness for natural and manmade all-hazards critical incidents by supporting prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. Having a dedicated team enables LVMPD to prioritize risk-informed strategies and decision-making during emergencies, ensuring effective resource coordination, consequence management, and continuity of department operations.

1. National Incident Management System

LVMPD uses the national standard, the National Incident Management System, to prepare for and respond to critical incidents and emergencies.⁶ This system was developed so that responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines could work together and thus respond better to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism. Its benefits include a unified

⁶ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, "Major Incident and All Hazard Plan," in *Department Manual* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2025).

approach to incident management; standard command and management structures; and an emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid, and resource management.

2. Incident Command System

When establishing command during a critical incident or emergency, LVMPD utilizes the Incident Command System's (ICS's) top-down principles based on the needs of the incident. ICS training is mandatory for all commissioned officers and civilian employees. During their probationary period, employees must complete ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-700; all sergeants must complete IS-800c and attend ICS-300 while all lieutenants must finish ICS-400 during their probationary period. These courses provide the foundation for ICS and its key concepts, ensuring that all personnel are well-equipped to respond effectively to emergency situations.

3. Department Operations Center

The Emergency Management Section supports the establishment of a DOC based on the evolving needs of a critical incident or pre-planned event. The DOC functions as the central point of coordination for resources, consequence management, and intelligence- and information-sharing with partner agencies. The Emergency Management Section activates the DOC as needed, based on incident-specific requirements or the request of executive staff.

4. Tabletop Exercise Program

LVMPD's exercise program focuses on preparedness for both critical incidents and preplanned events. The program supports a whole-community approach to preparedness by bringing together key stakeholders in the community to challenge capabilities, identify gaps in plans, and ensure all organizations are effectively collaborating. The exercise program has been strategically built to challenge a variety of threats to large-scale events, such as New Year's Eve, Formula 1,

⁷ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, "Department Operations Center," in *Department Manual* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2025).

⁸ LVMPD's exercise program was developed in line with the guiding principles of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program. "Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program," Federal Emergency Management Agency, January 27, 2025, https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/exercises/hseep.

and the Rock 'n' Roll Marathon. Additionally, this program examines a variety of critical infrastructure and key resource locations such as schools, hospitals, and resorts/casinos.

H. MAJOR CASE PROTOCOL

LVMPD policy ensures personnel and equipment are deployed appropriately when lives are at risk. In such instances, prioritizing investigative efforts to identify and apprehend dangerous offenders is crucial. The goal is to employ advanced investigative techniques and dedicated staffing protocols to manage major investigations and ensure immediate public protection. ICS is implemented in both the initial response and follow-up investigation as part of the Major Case Protocol (MCP), when preserving human life is the priority. When this protocol is enacted, it signals a high probability that the event is of critical concern and warrants a coordinated, multi-unit investigative effort. Notably, cases investigated under the MCP demonstrate a high rate of solvability due to focused personnel and collaborative strategies.

⁹ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, "Major Case Protocol," in *Department Manual* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2025).

IV. PARTNERING AGENCIES

LVMPD places high value on maintaining strong relationships with local and federal agencies. The department believes when agencies come together and work as a team, they create stronger, more effective solutions for everyone in the community. To support this commitment, LVMPD has invested considerable time and resources into cultivating and sustaining partnerships with local fire departments, EMS, and federal agencies. These relationships were critical in facilitating timely, well-coordinated responses during the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas. Figure 3 depicts Sheriff McMahill's initial press conference, with representatives from LVMPD's partner agencies.



Figure 3. LVMPD Community and Federal Partners at Sheriff McMahill's Media Briefing

A. LOCAL PARTNER AGENCIES

From the start of this event, local partner agencies, including CCFD, Community Ambulance, and the LVFR Bomb Squad, were instrumental in their response to this incident. They contained the fire, provided immediate medical care for the injured, and ensured the safety of the scene and surrounding structure. Such interagency coordination is essential in managing chaos, restoring safety, and reinforcing public trust during times of crisis.

1. Clark County Fire Department

CCFD played a vital role in extinguishing the fire and preserving the crime scene. Its members arrived only five minutes after LVMPD dispatch received the call and sprang into action by extinguishing the flames and assisting with evacuations of the area. This prompt response allowed for patrol officers to assist with other tasks, such as closing the roadways in front of Trump International Hotel Las Vegas, retrieving video footage from hotel security, and establishing a CP upwind from the explosion.

2. Las Vegas Fire Rescue Bomb Squad

The LVFR Bomb Squad was instrumental in ensuring the Cybertruck was safe for additional personnel to approach and process the crime scene. As a specialty unit of the LVFR, this team worked in conjunction with ARMOR and the FBI's bomb technicians to ensure the air and vehicle were stable before CSAs approached it. The LVFR Bomb Squad and FBI bomb technicians conducted air quality tests to ensure the Cybertruck did not pose an additional threat while they operated in the blast area. The bomb technicians reported to ARMOR units that the Cybertruck contained gas cans, fuses, and unexploded commercial fireworks.

3. Community Ambulance

LVMPD values life preservation above all else, and with help from Community Ambulance, that commitment was upheld. Within minutes of the explosion, Community Ambulance was on its way to assist potential victims and provide care. Three victims were transported to the hospital, and a supervisor responded to the scene to coordinate medical services with CCFD's battalion chief. With Community Ambulance's coordination and resource deployment, victims were treated quickly, allowing patrol officers to continue with evacuations.

B. FEDERAL PARTNER AGENCIES

As with all major incidents, additional resources are essential to the investigation. LVMPD's federal partners—the FBI, the ATF, and Army CID—not only assisted with the investigation but also provided key details that ensured the public was safe and information was shared. LVMPD proudly partners with these agencies and understands that by working collaboratively with them, each can acquire valuable information as needed.

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation

The FBI's field office in Las Vegas has proven to be a valuable resource in high-profile investigations. Its rapid response and ability to obtain and provide information are paramount to a successful, thorough investigation. LVMPD has maintained a strong working relationship with the FBI, which was evident when additional resources were requested to assist with the Cybertruck explosion. FBI bomb technicians worked closely with the LVFR Bomb Squad, responded promptly to the scene, understood the need for additional investigators, and made appropriate notifications, providing helpful insights for the investigation. Then, FBI agents flew to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to execute search warrants and conduct interviews with Livelsberger's family and associates. The FBI provided information from these interactions to propel the investigation forward. It also contacted Army CID to gain a better understanding of Livelsberger's history before the Cybertruck explosion.

2. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Because a Cybertruck exploded and the act appeared to be intentional, the ATF deployed subject-matter experts to support ARMOR's investigation, flying them to LVMPD's secure facility to collect information. The ATF provided an additional Cybertruck, which allowed ARMOR detectives to see how much damage had been caused by the explosion. The ATF compared multiple 3D scans of the intact vehicle to those of the destroyed Cybertruck and shared the results with ARMOR detectives. This information-sharing and coordination enabled detectives to determine the severity of the blast and identify items inside the burned-out Cybertruck.

3. U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Division

Army CID played a crucial role in determining Livelsberger's military career and background, shedding light on his current military orders and sending agents to serve search warrants on his residence in Germany. Army CID bridged the gap by executing a search warrant in Germany, where LVMPD lacked resources, and by providing other key details to ARMOR and CT throughout the investigation.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

This sequence of events has been compiled through a comprehensive review of investigative evidence. This section outlines the key actions and decisions taken from the initial report through the resolution of the incident, providing a clear understanding of how the event unfolded and identifying critical moments that influenced the overall response.

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

8:40 a.m.	A silver Cybertruck with Colorado license plate EJIF08 pulled into the Trump International Hotel Las Vegas valet and, within seconds, exploded.
	LVMPD dispatch received the first 9-1-1 call referencing a vehicle that blew up in the Trump International Hotel valet.
8:41 a.m.	LVMPD dispatch advised CCFD of a fire at Trump International Hotel.
8:42 a.m.	Two sergeants and one lieutenant of the Convention Center Area Command (CCAC) were notified of the call via dispatch.
8:44 a.m.	Three LVMPD officers arrived on scene, located the burning Cybertruck, and began to give updates on the incident via radio. A sergeant had LVMPD dispatch contact the hotel to begin evacuating the lobby.
8:45 a.m.	CCFD Engine 12 arrived on scene and began to extinguish the fire.
8:46 a.m.	Containment of the scene started, and officers closed eastbound and westbound travel lanes on Fashion Show Drive.
8:47 a.m.	A lieutenant announced over the radio that he would be the IC for the incident.
8:49 a.m.	A sergeant arrived, began evacuating citizens from the inner perimeter, and advised an officer to meet with security for video surveillance of the incident.
8:50 a.m.	Officers located the person reporting (PR) the incident and debriefed them

for information.

8:51 a.m.	Fashion Show Mall security was notified of the event across the street at Trump International Hotel.
8:52 a.m.	Officers located an injured woman, who had been in the valet during the explosion.
8:53 a.m.	The IC established a CP 200 yards east of the valet on Fashion Show Drive.
8:56 a.m.	CCFD advised officers of toxic fumes in the air and of a body located in the driver's seat of the vehicle. Officers reported to dispatch that, based on video footage, no one had been seen exiting the vehicle.
8:57 a.m.	A sergeant on scene had officers search the perimeter for secondary explosive devices.
	The IC asked the watch commander for additional officers to assist with the CP and the search for additional devices.
8:58 a.m.	ARMOR and CT units were made aware of the call and were dispatched.
9:00 a.m.	LVMPD K9 was requested to assist officers in the search for additional devices and securing the perimeter.
9:09 a.m.	Emergency Management was notified of the call.
9:12 a.m.	Officers assisted with clearing the hotel lobby and conducting an evacuation.
9:23 a.m.	TMZ contacted the Public Information Office (PIO) for information about an explosion at Trump International Hotel.
9:31 a.m.	A request was made for the Regional Transportation Commission to assist with transporting citizens away from the scene.
9:43 a.m.	The PIO generated a social media post referencing the investigation of a vehicle fire at Trump International Hotel.

9:50 a.m. ARMOR arrived on scene, taking over the inner perimeter spot and the investigation. 10:00 a.m. The PIO responded to the scene and began to assess where a media brief could be held. The FBI arrived and assisted with scene stabilization. 10:04 a.m. The CP was moved to a more suitable location for all resources. 10:08 a.m. The LVMPD air unit confirmed that all perimeter locations had been covered and conducted sweeps on top of buildings and vehicles for additional devices. 10:18 a.m. The PIO began to set up a media brief. 11:01 a.m. CSAs arrived and began to process the scene. 11:30 a.m. The DOC was established at LVMPD headquarters. 11:45 a.m. Sheriff McMahill held a press conference on scene explaining the preliminary details of the vehicle explosion. 11:52 a.m. A lieutenant requested additional resources to respond to the CP/Strip for officer presence. A search warrant for the Cybertruck was completed and approved. 4:00 p.m. Sheriff McMahill held a multijurisdictional press conference to update the public on the details. 7:00 p.m. Additional supervisors arrived and relieved the previous chain of command. A decision was made to wrap the Cybertruck in a tarp and transport it with 8:05 p.m. a motorcade and the air unit, allowing the hotel to reopen and additional vehicle processing to begin at a secure LVMPD facility. The IC directed all units to return to the CP and broke down perimeter 10:22 p.m. spots.

Thursday, January 2, 2025

2:01 a.m. ARMOR detectives began to process the Cybertruck and located inside the

cabin a black semi-automatic handgun with a .50 caliber cartridge in the

chamber.

2:14 a.m. Detectives located an Apple iPhone on the passenger side of the

Cybertruck.

2:17 a.m. Detectives located a wallet belonging to the driver of the Cybertruck.

2:37 a.m. Detectives located a military identification card with the driver's

information.

7:00 a.m. Additional supervisors arrived and relieved the previous chain of

command.

11:00 a.m. Sheriff McMahill held a multijurisdictional press conference.

2:57 p.m. The PIO generated a social media post confirming the suspect's identity,

as well as items located inside the vehicle.

4:05 p.m. Detectives located an additional iPhone with substantial damage on the

passenger floorboard.

Friday, January 3, 2025

7:00 a.m. Additional supervisors arrived and relieved the previous chain of

command.

1:00 p.m. Sheriff McMahill provided a multijurisdictional press conference at

LVMPD headquarters.

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

1:00 p.m. Sheriff McMahill provided a multijurisdictional press conference at

LVMPD headquarters.

A manifesto was recovered on Livelsberger's phone, and the investigation continued utilizing the MCP.

Thursday, January 9, 2025

The U.S. Department of Defense declared the manifesto classified, and the investigation was turned over to the federal government.

VI. SCENE RESPONSE

This section outlines the coordinated efforts of fire department personnel, LVMPD, and federal partners, encompassing the initial response, tactical response, scene documentation, investigative actions, and command and control functions. The following subsections provide a detailed account of the actions taken, interagency communication, command structure, resource deployment, and significant challenges encountered during the operational phases of the incident. See Figure 4 for an overhead view of the Cybertruck explosion scene at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas.



Figure 4. LVMPD Drone Photo of the Cybertruck in the Trump International Hotel Valet After the Fire Was Extinguished

A. INITIAL RESPONSE

Within four minutes of the call being generated, officers from the CCAC arrived. Upon their arrival, they observed the Cybertruck on fire in the valet of Trump International Hotel and approached the vehicle as patrons fled the chaotic scene. Officers noted the Cybertruck was engulfed in flames and making "popping" sounds while they were at the valet entrance. Officers called out to potential victims and began to usher people away from the vehicle fire. One minute later, CCFD Engine 12 arrived on scene and began to extinguish the fire, in full turnout gear, as it was raging and dangerously close to igniting the valet roof. As additional units arrived, the sergeant on scene recognized the immediate safety concern for the citizens still in the lobby and gave directions to evacuate them from the building.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – LITHIUM BATTERY DANGERS

A review of BWC footage from the Cybertruck explosion revealed that law enforcement personnel lacked awareness of the unique hazards posed by electric vehicle (EV) fires, particularly the dangers of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, ignite, release toxic gases, and resist conventional suppression methods. To address this risk, implement targeted training for first responders focused on EV-specific hazards, including battery identification, safety protocols, tailored suppression techniques, and hazard zone management (see Appendix C).

While officers were conducting evacuations and containing the east side of the property, they were flagged down by a patron who was later identified as one of the PRs. Officers took the PR to a secure location for a debrief of the incident so that they could relay pertinent information to additional units on scene. While patrol was stabilizing the scene, CCFD advised them to move back, as they were too close to the Cybertruck, and the air around it contained toxic chemicals from the fire. With this information, arriving patrol units established a perimeter around Trump International Hotel and assisted guests to safety. When officers located three victims who suffered minor injuries from the blast, EMS and firefighter crews provided them with first aid and transported them to nearby hospitals.

As CCFD was fighting the fire and containing the potential inhalation hazards, patrol units on scene met with Trump International Hotel security and obtained video footage. Upon its review, officers observed the Cybertruck pulling into the valet at 0840 hours but saw no one exit the vehicle before the explosion. This information was confirmed by CCFD once a large portion of the fire had been extinguished, and firefighters could see a deceased body in the driver's seat of the Cybertruck.

CCFD recognized the Cybertruck was an EV containing a lithium battery, which, if compromised by fire, could explode and release chemicals into the air. To ensure the fire was completely extinguished, CCFD employed heavy EV fire retardant blankets to smother the fire. Due to CCFD's quick actions and Trump International Hotel's fire sprinkler system, there was minimal damage to the building.

When the CCAC lieutenant arrived on scene, he designated himself the IC. He then set up a CP and staged it approximately 200 yards away, east of the blast area. At the same time, Trump International Hotel security began assisting with evacuations of the lobby and advised guests to shelter in place inside their rooms, per the IC's request.

Officers made entry through the front doors of Trump International Hotel and evacuated guests who were standing in a thick haze of smoke from the explosion. Officers then met with security and opened a door leading to the rear of the property, which allowed guests to evacuate the building. While exiting Trump International Hotel, officers realized that numerous hotel guests would need to be relocated. Although officers promptly established containment at the front of the hotel, delays in securing the rear of the property allowed evacuees to gather in unsecured areas, which complicated evacuation efforts. Officers requested additional support, including assistance from the Regional Transportation Commission, which provided city buses. Resorts World, located one mile northeast of Trump International Hotel, assisted with relocating evacuees by opening a ballroom to provide a safe space for citizens seeking refuge from the elements.

RECOMMENDATION 2 - CONTAINMENT

Although officers promptly established containment at the front of Trump International Hotel, delays in securing the rear of the property allowed evacuees to gather in unsecured areas, which complicated evacuation efforts. Containment was not established based on LVMPD training or best practices.

Training should reinforce the standardized "four corners" containment approach used by LVMPD, with an emphasis on ensuring that all perimeter points, especially less visible or less accessible areas, are secured promptly. This training should include tabletop exercises to highlight the operational impact of incomplete containment. Emphasizing full perimeter control during initial response will help prevent unauthorized movement, ensure safer evacuations, and improve overall incident management.

As more information became available during this event, it appeared the explosion was an intentional act. Due to these developments, the sergeants on scene instructed officers to canvass the area for secondary devices and suspicious items. To support patrol in their search, K9 was requested, and sweeps were meticulously conducted around the CP as well as Trump International Hotel.

As the IC received pertinent updates, CCFD advised that the CP was in the path of potentially toxic water runoff from the Cybertruck. In addition, the location of the CP was no longer suitable for the resources that were responding, as its size and location were not substantial enough. Officers on scene observed a large empty lot in a fenced area just northeast of Trump International Hotel. Officers cut the lock to the fenced area and used the lot for the new CP location. Its size and space were more accommodating for all responding resources. This lot also acted as a staging area for evacuees because it was a safe distance from Trump International Hotel (see Figure 5).

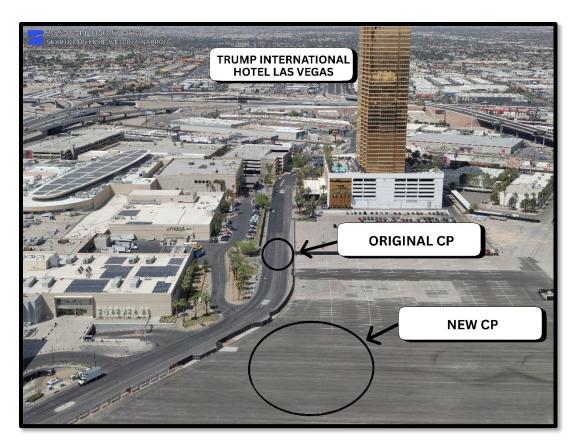


Figure 5. Command Post Locations

Trump International Hotel security directors assisted LVMPD at the CP, serving as liaisons between the property and responders. This communication channel streamlined the flow of information, allowing more efficient evacuations and resource allocations. The IC recognized the need for additional liaisons at the CP and requested that the CCFD battalion chief send a representative to facilitate quick and effective information-sharing. A response to this request was significantly delayed as the battalion chief's ICS responsibilities prioritized the operations of his firefighters.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – JOINT ICS TRAINING WITH LVMPD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT

A request for a CCFD liaison at the CP was delayed, as the battalion chief was focused on fire operations. Interviews showed that law enforcement and fire personnel had a different understanding of each agency's ICS roles and priorities.

To address mismatched expectations between law enforcement and fire service personnel regarding ICS roles and operational priorities, LVMPD and CCFD should establish quarterly meetings that incorporate regular ICS training. These meetings should focus on enhancing communication and collaboration between agencies; aligning response protocols; and providing joint training on liaison roles, information-sharing, and coordinated strategies. This structured, recurring engagement will foster mutual understanding, improve situational awareness, and increase overall operational effectiveness during critical incidents.

Only an hour after the original call for service, CP command was transferred to the CCAC captain, who assumed the role of IC when he arrived on scene. Immediately, he notified all Strip properties of the explosion at Trump International Hotel and advised them to place additional resources in their valet areas and employ their respective K9 partners to conduct casino sweeps. He also requested that in-the-box squads assist on scene and along the Strip corridor with site security.

KEY FINDING 1 - COMMUNICATION BETWEEN KEY STAKEHOLDERS

LVMPD's relationship with key stakeholders along the tourist corridor of Las Vegas played a vital role in disseminating timely and accurate information during this incident. Through this communication, LVMPD quickly relayed critical details to all Strip properties, ensuring hotel security teams were informed of the nature and scope of the event as it unfolded. This communication also included tactical guidance for positioning and coordinating security personnel in anticipation of potential secondary attacks. This real-time coordination enhanced situational awareness, reduced confusion, and allowed properties to implement immediate preventive measures.

The successful communication between these groups underscores its value as an essential tool for public–private coordination during high-risk incidents and highlights the importance of maintaining strong, pre-established communication networks between LVMPD and key stakeholders.

Approximately five minutes after the captain arrived on scene, patrol contained the area, having effectively evacuated all civilians. After receiving a preliminary brief of the incident, ARMOR recognized it would need to coordinate with the LVFR Bomb Squad to make the scene safe, as the latter had specialized training for explosive devices. ARMOR worked collaboratively with the bomb technicians and took over as the investigative lead.

KEY FINDING 2 – BOMB POLICY

After the scene was secured and additional resources were on their way, a lieutenant took proactive steps to establish a CP at a location upwind and a safe distance from the incident. The lieutenant and captain collaborated to request support from ARMOR and K9 units in securing the area and confirming no secondary devices existed. Responding units abided by LVMPD policy, maintaining continuous communication with federal partners to ensure the scene was managed and documented properly. ¹⁰ Because these units followed the standardized procedure, there was a seamless response.

¹⁰ Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, "Bomb Threats – Located Explosive Devices – Detonations," in *Department Manual* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2025).

B. TACTICAL RESPONSE

Before ARMOR arrived at the CP, it notified the DFR unit, the LVFR Bomb Squad, and FBI bomb technicians of the incident because these teams would be instrumental in identifying whether there was still an active threat and ensuring a safe environment before crime scene analysis could begin. ARMOR assisted in securing the inner perimeter and established a forward operating staging area across from the blast scene. This location would be used for CCFD, the LVFR Bomb Squad, FBI bomb technicians, and ARMOR to devise a plan to approach the Cybertruck safely. Prior to sending the bomb squad in for its inspection, a drone was flown over the vehicle for the initial approach. The DFR was tasked with ensuring no heat signatures were visible and confirming the lithium batteries had not been compromised (see Figure 6).





Figure 6. LVMPD Drone Footage Before Initial Downrange Operations

Once the drone completed the visual inspection and returned to the forward operating staging area, a debrief was conducted to discuss what was identified and what steps should be taken next. The group determined that to complete a visual inspection of the Cybertruck, the EV fire retardant blankets would need to be removed. Collectively, the group deemed there was no immediate safety concern with sending CCFD personnel to remove the blankets while donning respirators and turnout gear—a three-layer system designed to shield firefighters from heat, flames, and other hazards.

After the blankets were removed, the LVFR Bomb Squad and FBI bomb technicians coordinated with ARMOR to approach the Cybertruck while wearing Level B PPE and body armor. Although no immediate safety concern existed, bomb technicians and ARMOR are required to conduct a threat assessment and don appropriate PPE when going downrange at a post-blast scene. ARMOR sent two members from its unit to aid the bomb technicians, acting as a rapid intervention team element to pull the bomb technicians out and provide aid in the event there was a secondary explosion. Through these precautions, the bomb technicians successfully inspected the contents of the Cybertruck and relayed pertinent information to detectives to assist with the investigation.

Once the bomb technicians rendered the scene safe, ARMOR reapproached the Cybertruck in Level B PPE, equipped with specialized paper strips and air-monitoring technology that identify the displacement of oxygen and toxic inhalation hazards in the atmosphere. As ARMOR units approached, they relied on their equipment to monitor the atmosphere, which would contribute to PPE considerations for CSAs processing the Cybertruck. During their inspection, they located multiple spent aerial firework tubes, numerous camping fuel containers, high-octane racing fuel, and melted gasoline containers in the bed of the truck. After a thorough inspection, the scene was deemed safe for CSAs to begin processing and collecting evidence (see Figures 7 and 8).



Figure 7. Photo of All Ignitable Liquids in the Bed of the Cybertruck



Figure 8. ARMOR Personnel in PPE During Downrange Operations

C. TRUMP TOWER SCENE DOCUMENTATION

While on scene, CSAs worked collaboratively with ARMOR to determine the best way to document the scene, as they would require ample time and resources to search the blast area effectively. CSAs, ARMOR, CCFD, and bomb technicians methodically canvassed the entire roadway by forming a uniformed line to walk the scene. This grid search began at the Fashion Show Mall parking garage entrance (east of Trump International Hotel) and ended just west of the hotel's valet area. All personnel agreed that due to substantial debris from the fireworks, they needed a more effective way to document the evidence. CSAs and ARMOR discussed feasible ways to achieve this task, which led them to use the Leica RTC360, a specialized camera that scans a crime scene and generates a 2D and 3D rendering. This rendering was instrumental for ARMOR, as it used this data to determine the entirety of the blast zone (see Figure 9). ARMOR could then identify key components of the explosive device that were found hundreds of feet from the Cybertruck.

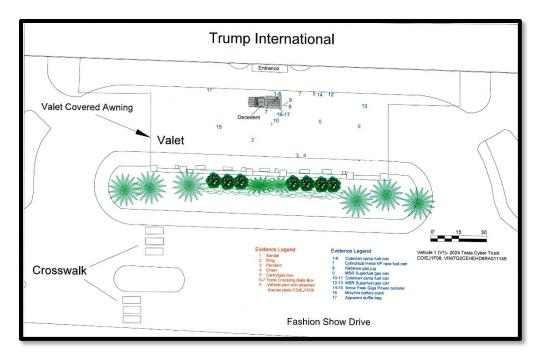


Figure 9. Leica RTC360 2D Scan of the Scene at Trump International Hotel

CSAs also utilized their cameras to take thousands of photographs while on scene, documenting key pieces of evidence. They took photos of the Cybertruck, Trump International Hotel, and the blast zone surrounding the scene. They also documented components of the explosives, ammunition, and fuel canisters inside the bed and cabin of the Cybertruck. All the information and evidence that ARMOR and CSAs obtained were shared with the IC. CSAs and ARMOR communicated constantly with the CP and provided key pieces of information about the crime scene and possible contamination areas.

D. INVESTIGATIVE RESPONSE

CCAC detectives were the first responding investigative resources to arrive at the CP. Detectives obtained critical information from the initial briefs of the incident and acted quickly to find the path of the Cybertruck into Las Vegas. Detectives understood the need to find this information quickly, so they could rule out the possibility of a secondary device, other injured victims, or additional suspects. They worked closely with Fusion Watch to locate the route traveled by the Cybertruck into Las Vegas using ALPRs. A careful review of video footage revealed that the Cybertruck had been captured by ALPR at Koval Lane and Tropicana Avenue, leading

investigators to look for additional camera footage at nearby businesses. A meticulous grid search of the area for cameras was completed, yielding copious information on Livelsberger's movements.

Detectives located several cameras that had caught the Cybertruck stopping at various locations on the Strip. The suspect was seen in one video exiting the driver's seat and dumping what appeared to be an accelerant (fuel) into the bed of the Cybertruck before pulling into Trump International Hotel. Upon further review of the surveillance video provided by Trump International Hotel, detectives observed that liquid had leaked from the bed of the truck as it pulled into the valet. This information was relayed to the CP, which prompted patrol to respond to those areas and search for additional devices. This steady stream of information from detectives as the day progressed ensured civilian safety and laid a reliable foundation for other responding investigators in the days to come.

While the grid search was underway, detectives received additional information about Livelsberger's original whereabouts, and they learned he was not the registered owner (RO) of the Cybertruck. Detectives contacted the RO of the Cybertruck, who advised them he had rented it to Livelsberger through the Turo app, a peer-to-peer car rental platform. Although the original rental agreement was scheduled to begin on December 30, Livelsberger requested to take possession of the Cybertruck on December 28. The RO agreed to release the vehicle on December 28 and spent 20 minutes with Livelsberger in person to explain the vehicle functions.

As the investigation progressed and search warrants were obtained, detectives and CSAs agreed the Cybertruck would need to be searched and documented meticulously, which would take several days. Detectives sought search warrants for the Cybertruck, the body of the suspect, and contents inside the Cybertruck. They realized that the longer the Cybertruck was exposed to the public eye, the easier it would be to compromise the evidence. All respective investigators, including the Clark County Coroner, made the decision to wrap a tarp around the Cybertruck, with the deceased body inside, to preserve evidence and transport it to a secure LVMPD facility for further processing. Investigative units devised a plan to use several undercover vehicles, along with the coroner and air unit, to follow the Cybertruck to avoid tampering or publicity. This plan also allowed for a consistent chain of custody for the critical evidence.

While CSAs and ARMOR concentrated on the evidentiary items in the Cybertruck, the coroner focused on extricating the deceased driver. The coroner investigator, aided by an ARMOR team member, successfully removed the driver from the Cybertruck, completed an assessment, and gathered identifying information to further confirm the identity of Livelsberger.

CSAs and ARMOR examined, photographed, and recovered the contents inside the Cybertruck (see Figure 10). They located two iPhones, firearms, ammunition, fuel canisters, and debris from the explosion. After obtaining search warrants, detectives provided the recovered iPhones to the DFL to retrieve data from them. Despite sustaining extensive damage from the Cybertruck explosion, the cellphones remained viable, allowing the DFL to successfully retrieve evidence. The recovered evidence was shared with CT, which provided it to FBI partners.

Over the next several days, detectives began to identify additional agencies who would play a crucial role in supporting the investigation.



Figure 10. Investigators Collecting Evidence from Within the Cybertruck

The ATF responded to LVMPD's secure facility, providing helpful insights into the explosion, as well as an intact Cybertruck that ARMOR investigators used to identify items missing or displaced in the burned-out vehicle. This collaborative effort facilitated documentation

and a greater understanding of the items used in the explosion. ARMOR shared its discoveries with CT, including a military ID card and driver's license belonging to Livelsberger inside the Cybertruck.

CT worked in conjunction with the FBI and other Fusion Center partners to uncover information on Livelsberger's background and possible motives for blowing up a Cybertruck at Trump International Hotel. Army CID was contacted and assisted investigators by providing details on Livelsberger's military career. CT discovered that at the time of the explosion, he was on military leave for the holidays and had returned to his home in Colorado.

CT and the FBI worked with Colorado Springs police and Army CID to interview Livelsberger's wife about her late husband's background and possible motive for the Cybertruck explosion. During the interview, she explained that their marriage was threatened when she discovered Livelsberger had had an affair. After she confronted Livelsberger about the alleged affair, she intended to spend time with her family and go hiking on December 26. Livelsberger informed her that he would rent a vehicle and drive to Breckenridge, Colorado, where he would meet someone who was interested in drone parts. She spoke to him again on December 29, referencing a bill she received from a hotel in downtown Denver. She said that he had been testing her to see whether she was watching him. Then, he locked her out of their shared bank account, emails, and social media. This was the last time Livelsberger contacted his wife before the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel.

The investigative team contacted a Tesla representative, who provided key insights regarding the technologies in the Cybertruck, particularly how to track the vehicle's movements. The Tesla representative explained why the cameras inside the Cybertruck had not retained video footage of Livelsberger—the recording function had been turned off in the vehicle settings—but advised that cameras at charging stations would be a viable source of camera footage. The team reviewed footage from Tesla charging stations as well as other nearby Tesla vehicles to track Livelsberger's movements before arriving in Las Vegas. The team also used advanced technology to track Livelsberger's actions by examining call detail records from his cellphone, financial records, and videos. They observed that he had made several stops along the way from his Colorado home and purchased firearms, ammunition, fireworks, and other explosive equipment.

In keeping with the spirit of the Fusion Center model, all information obtained through the course of the investigation was shared among all members of the investigative team. Before Sheriff McMahill's third press conference, where he intended to provide updates on a manifesto that was recovered among Livelsberger's digital devices, the FBI notified him that the Department of Defense had deemed the manifesto classified, and LVMPD could no longer release further information to the public. Due to concerns regarding national security, LVMPD halted its investigation to allow its federal partners to take the lead, at the direction of the Department of Defense.

VII. COMMAND AND CONTROL

Command and control are a fundamental aspect of effective policing, especially during emergencies and complex operations. They provide a clear hierarchy and structured decision-making process that allow law enforcement agencies to respond swiftly and effectively to evolving situations (see Appendix D). During the Cybertruck incident, supervisors recognized the importance of quickly establishing a CP and incorporating resources there to create a unified command. This unification enabled swift information-sharing and laid a strong foundation for the DOC, ensuring a continuous and reliable flow of information once it was established. The DOC also enabled documentation and resource allocation between neighboring agencies. Both the CP and DOC fostered collaboration; ensured that all involved parties, from local police to federal agencies, worked together toward a unified goal; and ultimately enhanced the efficiency of the response.

A. UNIFIED COMMAND

LVMPD routinely trains for large-scale incidents where ICS is implemented, and this preparation proved instrumental during this event. A CP was established within 14 minutes of the initial call for service, and roles at the CP were assigned. Simultaneously, a lieutenant on scene was designated the IC, gathered critical information, and deployed resources to secure the scene and evacuate civilians.

KEY FINDING 3 - COMMAND POST

The initial IC recognized early on that the incident would encompass a large footprint and require a coordinated response from resources, investigative personnel, and private-sector stakeholders. This early recognition of the incident's size helped to lay the groundwork for an effective, unified response. Securing a large enough area to accommodate all responding personnel was a key factor in the operation's success.

Upon arrival, the CCAC captain assumed the role of IC and quickly identified the need for additional support. In response, in-the-box squads were activated with instructions to deploy to the Strip and provide a visible police presence to enhance public safety. These squads clearly

understood their operational objectives and maintained continuous communication with the CP. In-the-box squad sergeants served as liaisons between the squads and CP and relayed critical information including video evidence relevant to the investigation.

The IC soon recognized the initial CP location was inadequate, lacking both concealment and sufficient space for responding units. During a reassessment of the location, CCFD personnel alerted the IC to toxic water runoff in the area, which posed a safety risk, prompting the decision to relocate the CP to a large vacant lot northeast of Trump International Hotel. This new location offered sufficient space for arriving personnel and evacuees. The new CP location also allowed for a more centralized and coordinated response.

To ensure a reliable and continuous flow of communication, the IC proactively requested liaisons from participating agencies and key community partners. This strategic move aimed to establish direct communication channels between all entities involved. Liaisons included representatives from the FBI, CCFD, the LVFR Bomb Squad, Trump International Hotel, and ARMOR, as well as CSAs. While the intent was to centralize and streamline communication, challenges arose. Many liaisons simultaneously fielded requests for updates from their respective supervisors, resulting in information gaps at the CP. These requests hindered the flow of essential details to the DOC, which was still in the early stages of activation, and led to confusion during briefing updates.

Compounding the issue, numerous executive staff members were present at the scene and often received information directly, thus bypassing the IC. Circumventing the IC led to inconsistencies at both the CP and DOC, as conflicting information circulated and the structure for reporting critical details grew unclear. Additionally, members of the executive staff assigned tasks directly to the IC, making it challenging for him both to manage the flow of information and to coordinate personnel on site. A more structured implementation of ICS could have facilitated smoother communication and ensured that all key stakeholders remained informed.

RECOMMENDATION 4 - INFORMATION-SHARING

Many liaisons fielded requests for updates from their respective supervisors, resulting in information gaps between investigative personnel and at the CP. These requests hindered the flow of essential details to the DOC, which was still in the early stages of activation, and led to confusion during briefing updates. Also, members from the executive staff requested information from varying sources instead of the IC.

LVMPD should establish clear communication protocols and expectations for outside agency liaisons assigned to the CP, and LVMPD executive staff should assign a liaison to the CP who can share pertinent details with them.

B. DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER

An LVMPD chief first responded to the CP, where he quickly received a briefing and recognized the need for a DOC. At 1130 hours, the DOC was established at LVMPD headquarters to accommodate all responding agencies, allowing each to report what actions it was taking to ensure life safety throughout the valley. The DOC was developed with three core objectives: to assess and implement target hardening measures for critical infrastructure; to coordinate the response of essential resources, including the ABX roster; and to execute structured operational briefings with the CP.¹¹

¹¹ The ABX roster is a shift activation designator as part of LVMPD's Emergency Mobilization Plan. This four-level plan details patrol mobilization and is designed to alert the appropriate number of personnel to respond to duty when the demands of a major incident have exceeded the capabilities of on-duty personnel and specified callouts.

RECOMMENDATION 5 – EXTENDED ABX COVERAGE

The incident at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas highlighted critical staffing challenges, as the department faced difficulties deploying sufficient personnel to manage a complex and prolonged scene. In addition to the operational demands of the incident, the first week of the new year consistently brings a high volume of tourists to Las Vegas, further increasing the need for police presence and readiness.

LVMPD should consider extending ABX coverage for New Year's Eve to ensure adequate staffing for both anticipated tourist activity and any unforeseen critical incidents.

To meet the DOC's objectives, in-the-box squads were assigned to conduct security checks at hotel valet locations, focusing on the identification of suspicious items or vehicles. These operations at multiple Strip properties expanded to include critical infrastructure sites across the valley, such as water treatment plants, power grids, and healthcare facilities. As officers completed these tasks, the information was documented at the CP and then provided to the DOC every hour in the form of a brief. These briefs were critical in maintaining operational awareness, supporting investigative progress, and ensuring detectives at the scene had access to necessary resources.

The DOC commander received continuous updates and identified the need for additional resources to sustain operations in the hours ahead. The DOC commander contacted the special events supervisor, and, together, they developed a plan to allocate additional officers over the following days using the ABX roster. This solution to the initial shortage of resources allowed agency representatives at the DOC to make informed decisions about personnel deployment and investigative support, ensuring both elements were supplemented as the situation evolved. The DOC comprised representatives from each assisting agency, including CCFD, Clark County Emergency Management, City Marshals, Customs and Border Protection, the FBI, the governor's cabinet, LVFR, LVMPD's PIO, the Nevada Division of Emergency Management, and SNCTC.

The DOC was responsible for tracking and distributing resources throughout the entire valley, not solely at the scene at Trump International Hotel. Serving as a central hub, the DOC provided all agencies with a clear overview of resource needs in response to high priority calls for service.

VIII. EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

During this event, the deployment of advanced equipment and technology was crucial for gathering critical intelligence on Livelsberger's movements, determining the involvement of additional subjects or secondary devices, ensuring the safety of responding personnel, and facilitating thorough documentation of the scene.

A. FUSION WATCH

As the initial calls began to come in referencing an explosion at Trump International Hotel, Fusion Watch quickly gathered as much real-time intelligence as it could, given its capabilities. It accessed feeds from public safety cameras not only to observe the vehicle on fire in the valet of Trump International Hotel but also to track the Cybertruck's movements. This investigative work ultimately led to the identification of the license plate through ALPR technology.

ALPRs first scanned the license plate of the Cybertruck driven by Livelsberger at Tropicana Avenue and Koval Lane and continued to document the vehicle's movements through its arrival and explosion at Trump International Hotel. This information was vital for on-scene detectives to identify locations where surveillance footage would be available.

When Fusion Watch obtained the license plate information, it initiated a tactical workup on the RO and searched for available social media profiles. This search led to the identification of the RO's spouse, prompting an additional tactical workup. Through this investigation, it was determined that the RO resided in Colorado and the Cybertruck had been rented through Turo.

B. DRONES AS A FIRST RESPONDER

When the ARMOR sergeant was notified of the event, he recognized that LVMPD's DFR unit would be an important asset before sending any explosive teams downrange. Based on this assessment, he included DFR in the tactical response.

KEY FINDING 4 – DRONES CRUCIAL FOR DOWNRANGE SAFETY OPERATIONS

When the LVMPD ARMOR sergeant was notified of the event, he requested that DFR assist in the assessment of the post-blast scene at Trump International Hotel. This decision allowed his team, in coordination with the LVFR Bomb Squad, to safely assess the scene from a distance while evaluating potential hazards, ensuring that personnel could advance only when it was deemed safe to do so.

DFR was used to gather intelligence and ensure life safety during the post-blast investigation. In close coordination with ARMOR, LVMPD's hazmat unit, and the LVFR Bomb Squad, DFR strategically deployed the Skydio X10 drone to conduct a preliminary assessment of the Cybertruck and surrounding scene. The drone served as a critical asset for remote visual inspection, systematically scanning the vehicle and surrounding area for secondary threats that could compromise the safety of the teams moving in. This intelligence equipped bomb technicians with essential information to better evaluate and mitigate risk.

The thermal camera drone footage confirmed there were no outstanding hotspots or immediate concerns of reignition. The drone footage also kept leadership at the CP aware of all initial downrange movements and facilitated suggestions and guidance.

C. ARMOR

Prior to moving downrange, ARMOR, the LVFR Bomb Squad, and FBI bomb technicians formulated a tactical plan detailing the best approach and most effective utilization of gear, equipment, and technology for all operational objectives. This planning phase encompassed the selection and deployment of appropriate PPE, chemical detection papers, air-monitoring instruments, and advanced chemical identification systems.

1. Personal Protective Equipment

The PPE worn included a chemical resistant suit and air purifying respirator. This specialized gear was essential for safeguarding personnel against inhalation hazards and chemical

exposure. Additionally, the PPE served as a critical barrier, preserving the integrity of the crime scene and preventing the contamination of any potential evidence.

2. Chemical Detection Papers

ARMOR personnel were equipped with chemical testing strips, which are used for chemical detection and attach directly to their PPE. These specialized test strips allowed the team to conduct their investigation while also detecting the presence of toxic or hazardous materials. These strips provided the team with a rapid on-site analysis of any dangerous compounds within the immediate area of the scene.

3. Air-Monitoring Technology

During continued downrange operations, a Honeywell Multi-Gas Detector was employed to monitor for the presence of flammable gases, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, and other potentially toxic substances. In addition to detecting hazardous gases, the device measured oxygen levels and identified any displacement of oxygen that could compromise breathing. The data collected from this instrument was a critical factor in assessing the stability of the environment and determining whether conditions were safe for investigative personnel to enter and begin their work.

4. Chemical Identification Technology

To assist in the investigation that followed, ARMOR personnel used Smiths Detection HazMatID Elite and the Rigaku CQL Max-ID device to perform presumptive tests on several liquid samples they collected from the Cybertruck. These devices use distinct analytical technologies to identify explosives, chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, narcotics, and other hazardous chemical agents. The use of these devices was instrumental in providing rapid, field-based chemical identification essential to both safety assessments and evidentiary documentation. These samples were then transported to LVMPD's forensic laboratory for further analysis.

D. CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

CSAs understood that processing this scene would be a significant undertaking due to the size of the blast area, as well as the amount of debris and potential evidence scattered throughout. Prior to entering, they equipped themselves with high-resolution digital cameras and a Leica RTC360 3D laser scanner to document the Cybertruck and surrounding blast area completely. CSAs later utilized the Crime-lite AUTO imaging system to document Livelsberger's body (see Figure 11).



Figure 11. CSAs Processing the Blast Area on Scene

Based on the recommendation of ARMOR, CSAs also donned N95 masks as an extra layer of protection against any residual airborne hazards. However, after two days of processing both the scene and the vehicle, the PPE utilized was deemed insufficient in mitigating exposure, as several CSAs began to exhibit symptoms consistent with hazardous inhalation.

RECOMMENDATION 6 - PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PPE TO CSAS

CSAs lack the protective gear provided to ARMOR units but are still expected to work in hazardous environments. During the Cybertruck response, several CSAs reported symptoms after chemical exposure, highlighting safety gaps and uneven hazard preparedness across agencies.

LVMPD should re-evaluate PPE standards and role-specific safety requirements to ensure the health and operational effectiveness of all personnel involved in hazardous scene investigations.

5. Leica RTC360 3D Laser Scanner

To document the extent of the scene at Trump International Hotel, including the Cybertruck and surrounding blast area, CSAs used the Leica RTC360 3D laser scanner, which captures up to two million data points per second and produces high-resolution, full-color scans in under two minutes. The resulting data allowed for the creation of a precise 3D point cloud model of the scene, along with a traditional 2D overhead diagram. The use of this technology significantly enhanced the accuracy, efficiency, and clarity of scene documentation, eliminating the need for hand-drawn sketches.

6. Crime-lite AUTO Imaging System

When Livelsberger's body was transferred to the coroner's office, it was evident he had suffered extensive burns, making it nearly impossible to see any visible identifying marks, such as tattoos. The state of his body posed a significant challenge in confirming his identity. On January 2, 2025, detectives and CSAs responded to the coroner's office and utilized the Crime-lite AUTO camera, a specialized full-spectrum imaging system that can detect details invisible to the naked eye. With this advanced technology, CSAs could enhance and visualize the underlying tattoo patterns that had survived beneath the damaged skin. While this advanced technology played a crucial role in confirming the identity of Livelsberger's body, it was not used at the scene of the Cybertruck explosion. This delay in use was largely because the technology was so new that responding detectives were unaware of its existence, while CSAs already had it on hand.

RECOMMENDATION 7 - OPERATIONAL AWARENESS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

Although CSAs were equipped with advanced forensic technology that could have facilitated the identification of Livelsberger earlier, limited operational awareness and training on emerging technology contributed to its delayed deployment.

As LVMPD acquires new technology with the ability to propel an investigation forward, a standardized training and familiarization protocol should be implemented to ensure operational readiness.

E. DIGITAL FORENSIC LAB

The DFL excels in advanced digital forensic capabilities and its ability to process devices more quickly than many local or federal partners. Therefore, the decision was made to utilize DFL instead of federal forensic resources for this event. This choice was key in obtaining real-time actionable intelligence for this case.

Several different types of forensic hardware and software were used to analyze various devices remaining in the Cybertruck, as well as surveillance and video footage related to the event. These tools were instrumental in obtaining digital evidence, which helped to confirm Livelsberger's actions and motive.

The DFL's comprehensive analysis successfully recovered critical information from Livelsberger's digital footprint, including his ChatGPT history, manifesto, and internet search history. This analysis also uncovered his social media activity, as well as his movements, which were traced through data from Tesla charging stations and surveillance footage. Additionally, encrypted emails and notes found on Livelsberger's phone were decrypted, revealing key details. Several electronic accounts, including Strava, email, and others were identified. This digital footprint provided further confirmation that the suspect acted alone.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

LVMPD understands that clear, timely communication is not only important—it is essential. Whether within the agency or in the community, LVMPD prioritizes effective information-sharing at every level. That commitment is made through rigorous training and a relentless pursuit of excellence in both the Communications Bureau and the PIO. At the heart of the Communications Bureau are PDPs, the calm voices during chaos, who field emergency calls and deliver critical information to officers before they arrive on scene. They are the first line of contact, ensuring officers have what they need to make informed, lifesaving decisions. Meanwhile, the PIO keeps the public informed, serving as the bridge between the department and the community. Whether updating residents on unfolding events or preparing the sheriff with accurate, real-time details for media briefings, the PIO plays a vital role in maintaining transparency and trust. Together, the Communications Bureau and PIO are deeply committed to serving both the department and the community at large.

A. INTERNAL

When the explosion occurred at Trump International Hotel, LVMPD received 17 calls, with the first at 0840 hours. The Communications Bureau efficiently notified CCFD, patrol officers, and Fusion Watch through computer-aided dispatch updates, conferenced phone calls with the fire department, and land line communication to the area lieutenant. These notifications were instrumental in the rapid response of resources, which helped stabilize the scene and ensure civilian safety. As events unfolded, a responding LVMPD captain requested additional support, and dispatch called in K9 officers, DFR, the air unit, and the in-the-box squads.

After the in-the-box squads were dispatched at 1152 hours, the captain became inundated with phone calls from responding resources and executive staff, who wanted a briefing over the phone before they arrived at the CP. The influx of these phone calls prevented the captain from confirming that all requested resources had responded, leading to workforce issues. For example, one dispatcher who had been responsible for requesting the in-the-box squads left her post without back-briefing the incoming dispatcher to ensure notifications were made. This gap in information-sharing delayed the squads' response and their support at the scene. After the captain made an

additional request for the in-the-box squads, all reported by 1330 hours to the scene, where they were tasked with patrolling the Strip corridor and addressing any suspicious activity.

RECOMMENDATION 8 - COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU NOTIFICATIONS

Insufficient communication between dispatchers resulted in a delay of necessary resources to the scene.

Thus, the Communications Bureau's internal notification protocols should be evaluated and reinforced to ensure timely and reliable activation of all resources requested by patrol and specialized bureaus.

After all interviews were completed, supervisors were hesitant to request the full deployment of in-the-box squads because they doubted whether all available resources would be required and questioned whether deploying all resources might lead to overconvergence. The department has well-established policies and procedures designed to safeguard against the complete depletion of valley resources, ensuring that such risks are effectively mitigated.

B. EXTERNAL

As video footage of the Cybertruck's explosion in front of Trump International Hotel reached the internet, the media inevitably contacted LVMPD to confirm the story. Several media outlets contacted the PIO for information and sent crews to the scene. The PIO fielded inquiries, provided information, and coordinated with media outlets worldwide. The PIO was also tasked with providing media briefs and inviting news outlets to attend. During the initial on-scene media brief, Sheriff McMahill addressed immediate concerns about public safety, advising that there did not appear to be any further threat and that LVMPD was taking all necessary precautions to keep the community safe. The goal of releasing this information was to establish trust with the community and allow LVMPD to conduct a thorough investigation without constant media pressure for details. Additionally, by keeping the community informed through regular media briefs, LVMPD reduced the likelihood of conspiracy theories about the incident.

1. News and Social Media

Sheriff McMahill held five press conferences over seven days following the explosion (see Figure 12). These briefings included LVMPD's federal partners, showing the community the investigation was a collaborative effort aimed at a thorough and successful outcome. In keeping with LVMPD's culture, the agency worked to maintain maximum transparency throughout the process.



Figure 12. Sheriff McMahill Delivering the Initial On-Scene Media Briefing

Over the next several days, the PIO published five press releases and posted updates on social media to keep the community informed of developments. The initial post on X stated that LVMPD was investigating a fire at Trump International Hotel. Shortly after, Sheriff McMahill held a media brief outlining the status of the investigation and clarifying details. The first briefing, held only three hours after the Cybertruck explosion, helped the Las Vegas community understand what had occurred and what was factual. During this brief, the sheriff stated that video footage showed a Cybertruck pulling into the Trump International Hotel valet before exploding seconds

later. He further explained that LVMPD and the FBI were working collectively to identify the suspect and that once information was obtained, it would be provided in subsequent media briefs.

As with all major incidents, conspiracy theorists often exploit public fear and perceived inconsistencies in official narratives to advance their claims. LVMPD provided several ways to view each media brief and sent notifications to media outlets, inviting them to attend the briefs at LVMPD headquarters. Such consistent communication with the community strengthens trust and minimizes the possibility of a conjured or false story.

2. Misinformation and Conspiracy Theories

As information began to come in about the Cybertruck explosion at Trump International Hotel, the nation began drawing similarities to the terrorist attack in New Orleans just six hours prior. Knowing of the attack in New Orleans, LVMPD executive staff and the PIO strongly emphasized delivering fact-based media briefings. Although this approach might not have eliminated misinformation or conspiracy theories completely, it curbed speculation and preserved the credibility of the investigation. By contrast, in its media brief, the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) mourned the lives lost in its own tragedy. The brief featured numerous representatives from jurisdictions across Louisiana, including senators and mayors. Each party spoke on the event and hinted at tensions between the FBI and NOPD. Statements suggested the FBI had information about the attack but was withholding it from the public. These statements fueled conspiracy theories and eroded community trust.

As Sheriff McMahill structured his media briefs with the assistance of the PIO, he included those who would provide important information regarding the explosion, including the ATF and FBI. Several political and community members expressed interest in showing their support, but the sheriff clarified that these media briefings were intended to focus on official updates. As a result of this structured approach, major news outlets began noting the contrast between NOPD's and LVMPD's media briefings, often commending LVMPD for its efficiency and professionalism, and the evident strength of its partnerships with federal agencies.

X. EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

Since the beginning of Sheriff McMahill's term in 2023, his priority has been to "inject humanity" not only into the community LVMPD serves but also into every employee in the department. In the aftermath of the Route 91 mass shooting on October 1, 2017, employee wellness became a critical area of concern, particularly for officers exposed to traumatic and high-stress situations. At that time, LVMPD did not have a comprehensive system in place to support the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of its employees. In response, Sheriff McMahill prioritized the development and implementation of an entire bureau focused on providing consistent and meaningful support. These efforts reflect a broader commitment to fostering resilience, well-being, and a healthier workplace culture.

LVMPD's Employee Wellness Bureau consists of a director, who is a licensed clinical psychologist, seven licensed clinicians, and six peer support liaisons, all based in a state-of-the-art facility serving LVMPD employees and their families. At the bureau's 7,000-square-foot main office, employees may seek professional, confidential counseling, as well as means of coping with stress. This building was made possible by private donors, nonprofit organizations, and LVMPD funding. LVMPD offers a vast array of resources for its employees and strives to provide a level of mental health care unprecedented in the law enforcement profession.

In the days following January 1, 2025, the Employee Wellness Bureau began to identify personnel who responded to the Cybertruck explosion. The specialized units that responded to the incident attended a seminar on avoiding burnout at the Wellness Bureau's office. The visit also afforded personnel the opportunity to seek additional resources. The Employee Wellness Bureau then identified individuals who had responded to the scene and contacted them to offer additional support and resources. Given the number of officers and bureaus contacted, the Wellness Bureau staff discovered that each section had a different understanding of its offerings. Although the bureau provided resources and guidance to those involved, staff also discovered miscommunication about when and how critical incident debriefs are conducted and what that process entails.

RECOMMENDATION 9 - WELLNESS BUREAU AWARENESS

Given the number of officers and bureaus contacted, Wellness Bureau staff discovered that each section had a different understanding of the bureau's role in critical incident debriefs and the type of support it provides.

The Employee Wellness Bureau should standardize a procedure for critical incident responses to accommodate patrol and specialized units 24–48 hours after they are demobilized from their roles in the investigation.

LVMPD incorporates the Early Identification and Intervention Program into its policy, including significant event reporting to track member involvement in such events over time. 12 LVMPD realizes commissioned and civilian employees may be exposed to cumulative physical and mental trauma that can have a detrimental effect on their overall well-being. Trauma affects each person differently, and the cumulative effect of involvement in significant events increases the likelihood of mental health issues that might lead to a decline in work performance. LVMPD continuously looks for new, innovative, and sustainable ways to provide the best mental health care for its employees. Figure 13 depicts some of the resources available to LVMPD personnel at the Wellness Bureau's facility.





Figure 13. Employee Wellness Bureau Quiet Rooms (Left) and Debrief Room (Right)

¹² Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, "Early Identification and Intervention Program (EIIP)," in *Department Manual* (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, 2025). Significant events are any on- or off-duty incident that may adversely affect a member's well-being.

In addition to mental health care, LVMPD recently entered into a contract with ProTeam Tactical Performance.¹³ ProTeam offers a state-of-the art approach to dealing with work-related injuries, treating first responders like professional athletes and helping them return stronger and healthier after injury. Making physical health a priority is convenient, with ProTeam's employees and equipment located close to the Employee Wellness Bureau building (see Figure 14).



Figure 14. Grand Opening of the ProTeam Tactical Performance Building

¹³ "Home Page," ProTeam Tactical Performance, accessed September 19, 2025, https://www.proteamtactical.com/.

XI. KEY FINDINGS

This section consolidates the key findings within the report, outlining the positive actions and best practices observed during the event that should be recognized and reinforced in future training and operational planning.

1. Communication Between Key Stakeholders

LVMPD's relationship with key stakeholders along the tourist corridor of Las Vegas played a vital role in disseminating timely and accurate information during this incident. Through this communication, LVMPD quickly relayed critical details to all Strip properties, ensuring hotel security teams were informed of the nature and scope of the event as it unfolded. This communication also included tactical guidance for positioning and coordinating security personnel in anticipation of potential secondary attacks. This real-time coordination enhanced situational awareness, reduced confusion, and allowed properties to implement immediate preventive measures.

The successful communication between these groups underscores its value as an essential tool for public-private coordination during high-risk incidents and highlights the importance of maintaining strong, pre-established communication networks between LVMPD and key stakeholders.

2. Bomb Policy

After the scene was secured and additional resources were on their way, a lieutenant took proactive steps to establish a CP at a location upwind and a safe distance from the incident. The lieutenant and captain collaborated to request support from ARMOR and K9 units in securing the area and confirming no secondary devices existed. Responding units abided by LVMPD policy, maintaining continuous communication with federal partners to ensure the scene was managed and documented properly. Because these units followed the standardized procedure, there was a seamless response.

3. Command Post

The initial IC recognized early on that the incident would encompass a large footprint and require a coordinated response from resources, investigative personnel, and private-sector stakeholders. This early recognition of the incident's size helped to lay the groundwork for an effective, unified response. Securing a large enough area to accommodate all responding personnel was a key factor in the operation's success.

4. Drones Crucial for Downrange Safety Operations

When the LVMPD ARMOR sergeant was notified of the event, he requested that DFR assist in the assessment of the post-blast scene at Trump International Hotel. This decision allowed his team, in coordination with the LVFR Bomb Squad, to safely assess the scene from a distance while evaluating potential hazards, ensuring that personnel could advance only when it was deemed safe to do so.

XII. RECOMMENDATIONS

This section consolidates the recommendations presented throughout this report, as well as the bureau or division responsible for executing the recommendations. Addressing these issues will enhance interagency effectiveness, reduce response times, and improve overall readiness for similar incidents.

Lithium Battery Dangers (Internal Oversight and Constitutional Policing Bureau)

A review of BWC footage from the Cybertruck explosion revealed that law enforcement personnel lacked awareness of the unique hazards posed by electric vehicle (EV) fires, particularly the dangers of lithium-ion batteries, which can overheat, ignite, release toxic gases, and resist conventional suppression methods. To address this risk, implement targeted training for first responders focused on EV-specific hazards, including battery identification, safety protocols, tailored suppression techniques, and hazard zone management (see Appendix C).

Update: This recommendation was initially completed on January 31, 2025, as a department-wide training notification and subsequently added to LVMPD's online training platform on April 30, 2025.

2. Containment (Organizational Development Bureau)

Although officers promptly established containment at the front of Trump International Hotel, delays in securing the rear of the property allowed evacuees to gather in unsecured areas, which complicated evacuation efforts. Containment was not established based on LVMPD training or best practices.

Training should reinforce the standardized "four corners" containment approach used by LVMPD, with an emphasis on ensuring that all perimeter points, especially less visible or less accessible areas, are secured promptly. This training should include tabletop exercises to highlight the operational impact of incomplete containment. Emphasizing full perimeter control during initial response will help prevent unauthorized movement, ensure safer evacuations, and improve overall incident management.

Joint ICS Training with LVMPD and Fire Department (Organizational Development Bureau)

A request for a CCFD liaison at the CP was delayed, as the battalion chief was focused on fire operations. Interviews showed that law enforcement and fire personnel had a different understanding of each agency's ICS roles and priorities.

To address mismatched expectations between law enforcement and fire service personnel regarding ICS roles and operational priorities, LVMPD and CCFD should establish quarterly meetings that incorporate regular ICS training. These meetings should focus on enhancing communication and collaboration between agencies; aligning response protocols; and providing joint training on liaison roles, information-sharing, and coordinated strategies. This structured, recurring engagement will foster mutual understanding, improve situational awareness, and increase overall operational effectiveness during critical incidents.

4. Information-Sharing (Emergency Management)

Many liaisons fielded requests for updates from their respective supervisors, resulting in information gaps between investigative personnel and at the CP. These requests hindered the flow of essential details to the DOC, which was still in the early stages of activation, and led to confusion during briefing updates. Also, members from the executive staff requested information from varying sources instead of the IC.

LVMPD should establish clear communication protocols and expectations for outside agency liaisons assigned to the CP, and LVMPD executive staff should assign a liaison to the CP who can share pertinent details with them.

5. Extended ABX Coverage (Community Engagement Bureau)

The incident at Trump International Hotel Las Vegas highlighted critical staffing challenges, as the department faced difficulties deploying sufficient personnel to manage a complex and prolonged scene. In addition to the operational demands of the incident, the first week of the new year consistently brings a high volume of tourists to Las Vegas, further increasing the need for police presence and readiness.

LVMPD should consider extending ABX coverage for New Year's Eve to ensure adequate staffing for both anticipated tourist activity and any unforeseen critical incidents.

6. Provide Appropriate PPE to CSAs (Criminalistics Bureau)

CSAs lack the protective gear provided to ARMOR units but are still expected to work in hazardous environments. During the Cybertruck response, several CSAs reported symptoms after chemical exposure, highlighting safety gaps and uneven hazard preparedness across agencies.

LVMPD should re-evaluate PPE standards and role-specific safety requirements to ensure the health and operational effectiveness of all personnel involved in hazardous scene investigations.

Update: Implementation of this recommendation is in progress. On April 30, 2025, fit testing was conducted for CSI personnel. On May 19, 2025, masks and filters were received for grab-and-go kits. Additional supplies will be issued to all CSAs once received.

Operational Awareness of New Technology (Technology Governance Board)

Although CSAs were equipped with advanced forensic technology that could have facilitated the identification of Livelsberger earlier, limited operational awareness and training on emerging technology contributed to its delayed deployment.

As LVMPD acquires new technology with the ability to propel an investigation forward, a standardized training and familiarization protocol should be implemented to ensure operational readiness.

8. Communications Bureau Notifications (Communications Bureau)

Insufficient communication between dispatchers resulted in a delay of necessary resources to the scene.

Thus, the Communications Bureau's internal notification protocols should be evaluated and reinforced to ensure timely and reliable activation of all resources requested by patrol and specialized bureaus.

9. Wellness Bureau Awareness (Wellness Bureau)

Given the number of officers and bureaus contacted, Wellness Bureau staff discovered that each section had a different understanding of the bureau's role in critical incident debriefs and the type of support it provides.

The Employee Wellness Bureau should standardize a procedure for critical incident responses to accommodate patrol and specialized units 24–48 hours after they are demobilized from their roles in the investigation.

APPENDIX A. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAR after-action report

ALPR automated license plate reader
AOST Advanced Officer Skills Training

ARMOR All-Hazard Regional Multi-Agency Operations and Response

ATF Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

BWC body-worn camera

CBRNE chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive

CCAC Convention Center Area Command

CCFD Clark County Fire Department

CID (U.S. Army) Criminal Investigation Division

COPS communicate, options, preplan, and slow the momentum

CP Command Post
CSA crime scene analyst

CSI Crime Scene Investigations

CT Counter Terrorism

DFL Digital Forensics Lab

DFR Drones as a First Responder

DOC Department Operations Center

EMS emergency medical service(s)

EV electric vehicle

FBI Federal Bureau of Investigation

IC incident command(er)

ICS Incident Command System

JETI Joint Emergency Training Institute

LVFR Las Vegas Fire Rescue

LVMPD Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

MACTAC Multi-Assault Counter Terrorism Action Capabilities

MCP Major Case Protocol

NOPD New Orleans Police Department

PIO Public Information Office

PPE personal protective equipment

PR person reporting
RBT reality-based training
RO registered owner

SBT (Supervisor) Scenario-Based Training

SNCTC Southern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center

APPENDIX B. LVMPD PRESS RELEASE

Press Releases

LVMPD Investigates Vehicle Explosion at Hotel Property LLV250100001562

Post Date: 01/01/2025 5:20 PM



Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Office of Public Information

400-B S. Martin L. King Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89106

Office 702-828-4082

Sheriff Kevin McMahill

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LVMPD Investigates Vehicle Explosion at Hotel Property

On January 1, 2025, at approximately 8:40 a.m., LVMPD Dispatch received a report of an explosion at a hotel property in the 2000 block of Fashion Show Drive. As officers arrived, they located a Tesla Cybertruck fully engulfed in flames in the valet area. Fire personnel extinguished the fire and discovered a deceased person in the vehicle who was the sole occupant. Seven people sustained minor injuries during the explosion.

Officers began to evacuate the hotel out of an abundance of caution. Multiple law enforcement agencies and assets responded to determine the origin of the explosion and fire.

At this time, Investigators know that a Tesla Cybertruck was observed driving into the hotel valet at approximately 8:38 a.m. Shortly after, the vehicle exploded and caught fire. Detectives found gasoline canisters and large firework mortars in the bed of the truck. The driver rented the vehicle in Colorado and arrived in Las Vegas at approximately 7:30 a.m. and drove through the Las Vegas Strip until it reached the hotel where the incident occurred.

This is an ongoing joint investigation between the LVMPD and federal partners.

APPENDIX C. EV RESPONSE



Electric Vehicle Fire Response Considerations

All electric vehicle (EV) fires present unique challenges. As a first responder you must understand the hazards associated with EV fires. Your primary objective is to ensure public safety, but you also must safeguard your health and that of your fellow officers.

Command Post locations must be calculated and reevaluated throughout the incident



- 1. Treat every car fire as an EV fire until proven otherwise
- 2. ICP should be <u>Upwind</u> and <u>Uphill</u>
- 3. Establish a perimeter if in a high traffic/occupancy area
- 4. Keep everyone away until the fire department can extinguish the fire and deem it safe

If a Command Post is established, it is critical to constantly re-evaluate its location and ensure there are no weather changes that would compromise your location.

<u>Response Guideline:</u>

1. STAY OUT OF SMOKE AND TOXIC GASSES. HERE'S WHY:

- EV battery fires can emit toxic gases, including hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen fluoride, and heavy metals.
- Hydrogen cyanide is an extremely dangerous gas that can lead to death if inhaled, even at low concentrations.
- Hydrogen fluoride is quickly absorbed through the skin. Symptoms include, coughing, throat pain, difficulty breathing and with high concentrations, lead to fluid buildup in the lungs, irregular heartbeat and potential death.
- When hydrogen fluoride is dissolved in water, it becomes hydrofluoric acid and can cause severe burns, eye damage, and other health effects. Exposure can be fatal.

2. SCENE ASSESSMENT & SAFETY

- Maintain a safe perimeter of 300 feet and ensure no bystanders or traffic can enter.
- If the fire department advises there is no battery involvement, the perimeter may be reduced.
- Consider re-ignition is likely if the batteries were involved.
- Stay upwind to stay out of the smoke.
- Stay <u>uphill</u> to stay away from water runoff due to fire suppression.
- Consider Evacuations and/or Shelter-In-Place.



- 1. Tesla EV's are easily identified.
- 2. How about Chevy, Ford, Toyota, BMW, Honda etc.?
- Due to the wide array of EV manufacturers, we must assume all vehicle fires are EV until proven otherwise.



BUT HERE'S THE REALITY:



In Conclusion:

- -Stay out of smoke and toxic gases.
- -Provide safety to the public and safeguard your own health.
- -Treat every vehicle fire as an EV fire until proven otherwise.
- -Establish a perimeter to keep everyone out of the smoke and gasses.
- -Evaluate and reevaluate your Command Post locations.
- -Assume the area is unsafe until the Fire Department can confirm the fire is out and no toxic gasses are being released.
- -Keep up the good work and thank you for what you do!

Considerations:

Reference the 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook (ERG) 147 or call 1-800-467-4922 or 202-366-4900

Reference the Energy Security Agency (ESA) 855-732-7233. Energy Security Agency (ESA) 855-732-7233 ESA provides recommendations for safe battery handling to manufacturers, public/private organizations, first responder communities, and end users. This should include tow and environmental clean-up companies the property owner can contact. Otherwise, you can have property owners access the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's Environmental Clean-up page where they can find a list of Nevada Certified Environmental Professional or have them perform a web search for a Nevada state certified environmental clean-up company like Clean Harbors or Logistical

- Consider secondary hazards/threats needs for multiple operational periods -

For large scale events, establish Unified Command and develop an Incident Action Plan (IAP). Fire/HazMat Agencies, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, Safety and Environmental Enforcement Agencies, Hazmat Contractors. Tow Truck Companies, Public Works, Crane Company.

Consider how this incident is going to impact the community? Political and economic concerns due to the smoke and fumes and road closure(s) for an extended period.

APPENDIX D. LVMPD ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

