Toronto Vehicle-Ramming Attack

A Canadian intentionally drove a rented van onto a sidewalk in Toronto on April 23, killing 10 and injuring at least 15. The incident remains under investigation. Authorities have not yet disclosed any motive of the driver, identified as Alek Minassian; however, they believe there is no nexus to terrorism. This is Canada’s fourth vehicle-ramming incident since 2014.

- The attack happened at about 1:30 p.m., when Minassian, 25, drove the rented vehicle onto a sidewalk along Toronto’s Yonge Street, striking pedestrians for approximately 1.2 miles until authorities stopped him.

- Video of the arrest depicts Minassian pointing an unknown object at police officers and shouting “kill me,” while stating he had a gun. Responding officers subdued Minassian and placed him under arrest without incident.

There are no known or credible threats to New Jersey as a result of the Toronto attack. The New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness provides training in terrorism and awareness prevention, active shooter incidents, homemade explosives awareness and response, complex coordinated attack response, and New Jersey’s threat environment.

- NJOHSP facilitates physical security site assessments in coordination with county infrastructure coordinators, risk mitigation planners, and law enforcement. It also compiles a list of special events scheduled throughout the State. To share information on upcoming events in your jurisdiction, submit a Special Events Form at www.njohsp.gov/special-events-submission-form.

- We encourage New Jersey’s residents to report suspicious activity to local law enforcement and to NJOHSP by calling 1-866-4-SAFE-NJ or by emailing tips@njohsp.gov.

Additional Resources

Public Assembly Resource Sheet
Extremists Poised to Continue Using Vehicles as Weapons