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police

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Explosives are used only sparingly by police, generally for breaching barricades and as distraction devices. Explosive "flash-bangs," which generate a loud explosion and a brilliant flash that disorient suspects, are usually tossed by hand or launched from firearms. One variation of the flash-bang, used particularly for riot suppression, discharges multiple small rubber balls or baton projectiles. Other explosives can be used to deliver tear gas or aerosolized capsicum. Police also use sophisticated automated devices to handle explosives planted by terrorists or other criminals. Operated by police from a safe distance, the small tanklike vehicles with steel pincers can defuse or explode bombs after the public has been evacuated from the area.

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