Palm Springs Act of Terrorism - FAQs

What happened at the American Reproductive Centers fertility clinic on May 17, 2025?

On Saturday, May 17, 2025, at approximately 11:00 AM, a powerful bomb exploded outside the American Reproductive Centers fertility clinic in Palm Springs, California. The explosion caused significant damage to the clinic and nearby buildings, shattered windows several blocks away, injured four people, and killed one—the suspected bomber.

Was this explosion an act of terrorism?

Yes. Authorities have explicitly classified the bombing as a deliberate act of terrorism targeting the fertility clinic. The FBI's Los Angeles field office is leading the investigation and has affirmed the intentional nature of the attack.

Who is responsible for the bombing, and has the suspect been identified?

The suspect identified by authorities is Guy Edward Bartkus, a 25-year-old from Twentynine Palms, California. Bartkus drove a silver 2010 Ford Fusion sedan loaded with explosives and died at the scene. Investigators believe he acted alone.

What was the suspect's motive for targeting the fertility clinic?

Investigators believe Bartkus was radicalized online and motivated by extreme "nihilistic and anti-life" beliefs. Authorities are examining an online manifesto and audio recordings linked to Bartkus, in which he expressed hostility towards human reproduction and cited his existential anger and despair following the recent death of a close friend. He specifically threatened violence against an in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinic.

Was this fertility clinic targeted because it provided abortion services?

No. Fertility clinics provide reproductive treatments such as IVF and egg freezing; they do not perform abortions. American Reproductive Centers is a fertility clinic that has helped more than 2000 families, including LGBTQ+ couples, become parents.

Since the fertility clinic is a reproductive health facility, some people initially wondered if the attack was related to anti-abortion extremism. However, the initial evidence points to a different extremist motive, opposing the creation of life, rather than opposing abortion.

Is Palm Springs safe following this attack?

Yes. Palm Springs Police Chief Andrew Mills and federal authorities have confirmed there is no ongoing threat to the community. This bombing appears to be an isolated incident, and there is no ongoing threat to other fertility clinics or other areas stemming from the attack. However, the City continues to remain vigilant, and local police and federal agents continue to closely coordinate with one another to maintain increased safety measures and ensure there are no further related threats.

How many people were injured, and what is their status?

Four individuals were injured in the explosion; all were bystanders. Fortunately, none of the clinic staff or patients were harmed, as there were no patients on-site at the time of the blast. All injured individuals have since been released from the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and are recovering at home.

Are the clinic's embryos and medical materials safe?

Yes. The explosion did not damage the embryos and frozen eggs stored within the clinic. The bomb destroyed the clinic's office space, but left the IVF lab intact. Emergency responders carefully secured the site, ensuring that all sensitive materials remained safe.

Will the fertility clinic reopen and continue operating?

Yes. The American Reproductive Centers said it plans to resume operations in some form today (May 19, 2025), with Dr. Maher Abdallah stating, "This moment has shaken us—but it has not stopped us." The clinic will temporarily relocate to an alternate site so it can continue serving patients while repair and investigative work continue at the original location. The City of Palm Springs will inform the community when a new location for the clinic has been identified.

What are the authorities doing to investigate this attack?

Bomb technicians surveyed the blast site over the weekend as part of the ongoing investigation, which was being led by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. They are completing a "workup" of the suspect, a rigorous background check determining what types of explosives were used and how they may have been acquired. Authorities also cleared out the suspect's neighborhood and home for an extensive search, and are reviewing the suspect's manifesto and other content. Palm Springs Police Department (PSPD) detectives were deployed and supported the investigative efforts of the FBI.

How is the City of Palm Springs responding, and what support is being provided to those affected?

Palm Springs Police Chief Andrew Mills confirmed there is "no continuing threat" to the community and reassured residents of the city's resilience. Local authorities have increased security measures, cordoned off affected areas, and are coordinating closely with federal investigators, including the FBI.

City Manager Scott Stiles announced support will be coming for affected businesses and homes, including expedited permits and potential financial assistance. Updates will be posted on Engage Palm Springs and the City's Facebook page.

City officials have also emphasized support for the IVF community and affirmed Palm Springs' values of inclusivity and safety. Residents impacted by the explosion have received prompt medical attention, and authorities continue encouraging community members to share any relevant information to assist in the investigation.

How can community members help or stay informed?

Community members can look out for updates from Engage Palm Springs as further details are released. Roads near the scene began to reopen Sunday afternoon, and updates are being posted to the City's Facebook page.

Due to the wide debris field from the explosion, which occurred within a 250-foot radius according to the FBI, officials asked residents to leave anything they believed to be debris untouched and contact the PSPD non-emergency line at 760-327-1441 for further investigation.

As mentioned before, Bartkus drove a silver 2010 Ford Fusion sedan, which was destroyed in the blast. Investigators are seeking the public's help in tracking Bartkus' movements before the bombing, particularly information about where he might have been in his sedan with license plate 8HWS848. Anyone with information about the suspect or attack can contact the FBI tip line immediately at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) or visit this website.

We also invite community members to support any fundraising pages or efforts, if they emerge, for the injured residents.