

“There are always tons of cops in Times Square. Once we realized that this could be some kind of attack they started backing people up and expanding the evacuation area,” says Kazan, who moved his ladder truck back by another block, widening the distance between people on the street and a possible explosion.

The expanded evacuation area made the standard traffic snarls of Saturday night in Times Square much worse, and ESU had to maneuver through the jam to get to the scene, where they spent several hours finding and disabling the components of a home-made bomb—propane tanks, gasoline and fireworks.

The fire fighters’ decision to delay turning a hose onto the car and put in motion steps for further investigation of the scene later proved crucial. Several clues uncovered inside the vehicle helped the FBI swiftly track down and arrest the driver before he was able to leave the country. . . .

Both Barvels and Kazan agreed the training they have received over the years, from the basic level to post-9/11 terror attack response training, gave them the skills to help foil the attempted terrorist attack in Times Square.