

## Left of Boom

New tools are being developed to fight improvised explosive devices and move the battle from “left of boom” (fighting roadside bombs) to disrupting terrorist networks and facilities. One of these tools is RedXDefense’s XPAK-i — a device that identifies the source of explosive activity. It’s composed of three pieces: the XPAK, which collects and analyzes trace explosives data; the i-module, which creates a record of detection data, including GPS information and samples for further forensics; and XPAK Spotlight, which downloads and maps data to identify hot zones. The unit weighs less than 10 pounds, has the capacity to store hundreds of records and has about eight hours of battery life. [www.redxdefense.com](http://www.redxdefense.com)



## Powder Protection

Prime Alert is a portable detection system from Smiths Detection that quickly determines the presence of potentially life-threatening microbes — such as anthrax and plague, as well as biotoxins like ricin and botulinum — by providing a broad-spectrum analysis. The system tests unknown powder samples and produces on-site results. Prime Alert is composed of a palm-size reader (a fluorometer) and five sampling assay kits. [www.smithsdetection.com](http://www.smithsdetection.com)



## Self-Bagging System

Millions of sandbags are used annually in the U.S. to protect homes and businesses from rising waters. The Sandbagger, by BCB International, enables one person to fill sandbags, which is traditionally a two-person task. The wide-mouth hopper combined with the twin-bag system allows one person to fill two bags at once or two people to fill two bags continuously. The Sandbagger’s folding legs reduce its size by half, making it easy to transport and store. [www.bcb.com](http://www.bcb.com)



## Light 'Em Up

Triage tags can be difficult to see in snowy, foggy, rainy or dark conditions, but Southwest Synergistic Solutions’ Emergency/Triage Lights provide a bright alternative. The light-emitting diode lights are based on the color-coded triage system that uses red, blue and green lights to identify patients based on the severity of their injuries. The lights run on replaceable lithium batteries and, depending on the color, can stay on for 72 to 192 consecutive hours. They were developed in conjunction with the U.S. Special Operations Forces and are rated at more than 100,000 hours of use. For more information, call 956/645-5265.

