Officials: 144 injured, 3 dead, as two huge blasts rock Boston Marathon finish line
(What follows is the main online story for the day of the bombings, April 15, 2013.)

By Herald Staff

Two huge explosions rocked the Boston Marathon finish line at Copley Square just before 3 p.m. today, killing three and injuring 144 at last count, including several traumatic amputations on streets crowded with runners, spectators and post-race partiers.

Many of those injured are children — including an 8-year-old killed in the blast, the Herald has learned. Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis said tonight there is "no suspect" and the death toll is now at three.

“We will get to the bottom of this. We will find out who did this and we will find out why,” said President Obama this evening. “They will feel the full weight of justice.

“Boston is a tough and resilient town. Residents will pull together, take care of each other and move forward,” he added. “The American people are with them every step of the way.”

Obama called both Gov. Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino.

“We’ve had a horrific attack in Boston this afternoon,” Gov. Deval Patrick said at a press conference, where police confirmed two explosions at the finish line at 2:50 p.m. and a third fire or “incendiary device” at the John F. Kennedy Library, where black smoke was seen billowing.

“This is a tragedy,” said Menino today. “We’re going to work together on this.” He added he gives his “condolences and prayers” to the families of the injured and killed runners.

Davis said numerous people are being interviewed. The FBI has now taken over the case, police added.

Massachusetts General Hospital, with 22 patients, reported that six were critical, including four with traumatic amputations. Boston Medical Center reported 20 injured with two children among the injured there. Their conditions were not immediately available. Tufts Medical and Brigham and Women’s Hospital also reported scores injured and well as Beth Israel Hospital — bringing the total to 134.

Herald reporter Chris Cassidy, who was running in the Marathon, said, “I saw two explosions. The first one was beyond the finish line. I heard a loud bang and I saw smoke rising. I kept running and I heard behind me a loud bang. It looked like it was in a trash can or something. That one was in front of Abe and Louie’s. There are people who have been hit with debris, people with bloody foreheads.”

“Somebody’s leg flew by my head,” said a spectator who gave his name as John Ross. “I gave my belt to
People were yelling, “I need my kids!”

“It was horrific!” said a man who gave his name as Brian Walker. “I saw some horrific wounds. You could literally feel the rush of wind.”

Trevor Finney described “panic” and said he saw a teen girl apparently missing a leg being carried away.

City Council President Steve Murphy, who was at the finish line when the two explosions happened, said, “Police sources say they are finding more devices.”

Police have discovered at least two other devices and had a controlled detonation on at least one object.

Panicked families have begun gathering at local hospital.

“I need to see my mother!” one woman screamed to uniformed security holding media back at bay outside
Brigham and Woman’s Hospital.

A frantic scene was unfolding at Boston Medical Center, where a parade of ambulances have been arriving at the emergency room entrance, where gurneys and wheelchairs were lined up in awaiting casualties, some of whom arrived wrapped in foil survival blankets commonly given out to runners at the finish line to keep warm.

A BMC spokesman called it a "developing situation" and said hospital officials don’t yet have a full picture of what their patient toll may be.

Supervisory Special Agent Martin Feely of the FBI’s New York Bureau said there was no advance warning or hint of a planned attack on Boston today.

“Not at all,” Feely said.

Feely could neither confirm nor deny that New York has already dispatched agents to assist their Boston brethren, but said, “To the extent that assistance is needed, we certainly will.”

Federal agents and police have begun converging on the crowded hospitals, with ATF and FBI agents seen at the Birgham and Boston Medical Center, while a bomb unit was seen at Tufts Medical Center.

MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said subway service has been suspended on the Green Line between Kenmore and the Park Street stations. Runners were being told to move on to the Boston Common. People were being instructed to turn off their cell phones as multiple calls began jamming cell phone service. The Prudential Center was evacuated.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino was checking himself out of the Brigham in order to attend a press conference on the incident, spokeswoman Dot Joyce said.

Gov. Patrick, who was at the Marathon finish line hours before today’s explosion, was back at the State House this afternoon working with his staff in the aftermath of today’s events.

“We don’t have any good information yet,” he said. In a statement shortly afterward, the governor said: “This is a horrific day in Boston. My thoughts and prayers are with those who have been injured. I have been in touch with the President, Mayor Menino and our public safety leaders. Our focus is on making sure that the
area around Copley Square is safe and secured. I am asking everyone to stay away from Copley Square and let the first responders do their jobs.” Patrick said that staffers are headed back to the State House.

A White House officials said: “Shortly after being notified of the incident around 3 p.m. EDT, the President received a briefing from Homeland Security adviser Lisa Monaco and other members of his senior White House staff in the Oval Office. The President called Boston Mayor Tom Menino and Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick to express his concern for those who were injured and to make clear that his administration is ready to provide needed support as they respond to the incident.”

Athletic shoemaker New Balance was in the midst of hosting its marathon viewing party at the Solas Irish pub at the race’s finish line in the base of the Lenox Hotel on Boylston Street, when the explosion occurred across the street.

“Everyone here is okay,” a spokeswoman said in text messages sent from Solas. “The building shook, but the hotel staff made people stay inside, and we are all safe. You can smell smoke, and people are now getting carted off. It’s bad. It was right next to the finish line.”

Developing...

Laurel J. Sweet, Christine McConville, Matt Stout, Ira Kantor, Dave Wedge, Tenley Woodman, Rich Thompson, Frank Quaratiello, Joe Dwinell and Donna Goodison contributed.

Three people died that day and 260-plus were injured. (Herald staff photos by Stuart Cahill.)
Also on bostonherald.com …

* We launched a Cover it Live.com Twitter and live chat widget that drew 1 million hits. Staff tweets were also funneled through this 24/7 portal.
* The “Bulldog” blog was constantly updated with breaking stories, developments and more. It continues to be the place for the latest news.


* We also had scores of videos (see URLs in submission.)
* The Herald’s Facebook page quickly became another link for our readers. We posted our stories and multimedia elements to the page as readers turned to social media for any new
developments.
The front page the day after the bombings, April 16, 2013.

The homepage of bostonherald.com the day after the bombings.
Docs describe nails, BBs viciously blasted into Marathon patients

(From April 16, 2013, as Herald staffers hit the hospitals for breaking news.)

By Ira Kantor and Christine McConville

Doctors today described objects “clearly designed to be projectiles” removed from patients injured in yesterday’s Marathon explosions.

“There’s no question some of these objects were implanted in the device for the purpose of being exploded when the device went off,” said Dr. Ron Walls, Brigham & Women’s chair of emergency medicine.

They are “ball-bearing type” objects, “just a little larger than a BB,” said Walls, describing metallic beads about two to three millimeters in diameter. Surgeons also removed more than a dozen small “carpenter-type nails” about a centimeter to an inch in length from one patient, he said.

Citing a person briefed on the probe into the explosions, the Associated Press reported this afternoon that the bombs were made out of pressure cookers loaded with metal and ball bearings.

Authorities have told doctors to preserve as evidence any foreign material they remove from patients so it can be used as evidence.

At Boston Medical Center, five patients had their limbs amputated and others endured abdominal surgery after being wounded by what Dr. Andrew Ulrich, executive vice chairman of BMC’s Department of
Emergency Medicine called "scrap metal like material."

All told, Boston Medical Center took in 23 blast-related patients. Today, BMC still had 19 of those patients in their care. Ten of them are in critical condition, and three others are in three serious, said BMC trauma surgeon Dr. Tracey Dechert.

“The vast majority were low extremity patients, some of them had what we call traumatic amputations, due obviously to the bomb,” Dechert said. “Others had mangled extremities to the point that they we and those patients obviously required operations, and still will require operations.”

Doctors at Tufts Medical Center saw similar injuries, said Dr. William Mackey, Tuft’s surgery chief, who added that when the first casualties arrived, “we had six operating rooms open and ready to go.”

“We took in 19 patients from marathon, and 14 of them were disaster related,” said Dr. Brien A. Barnewolt, Tufts Medical Center’s emergency physician-in-chief. “Ten were admitted to hospital and are still in hospital, and of those 10, four are expected to be released sometime today,” Barnewolt said.

The other six are in serious condition and will remain in the hospital for the foreseeable future, he added. Mackey said there were no patients at Tufts that suffered amputations.

Mackey said authorities – from local, state and federal agencies – asked the medical teams to save all the “shrapnel” removed from the victims.

“The shrapnel that was removed was small metallic objects, hard to identify,” he said. “They were very small fragments, ranging from maybe a centimeter in size to a few centimeters in size. Hard to tell what they represented.”

One woman, he said, had a piece of a zipper “embedded in her ankle joint, which is indicative of the force of the explosion.”

Ulrich described three hours of controlled chaos at Boston Medical Center yesterday, as ambulances roared in with maimed marathon spectators and frantic doctors and nurses raced in behind them to help.

“Our patients range from 5 to 78 years old,” said Ulrich. The 5-year-old is in critical condition.

“The injuries we saw were very much blast-related injuries, where we saw a lot of extremity injuries, a lot of limb amputations a lot of wounds that were from the blast itself,” he said.

“We also saw some patients with head injury as well as abdominal injury,” Dechert added.
“Many will need more operations in the coming days,” Dechert said, “and we expect that those in critical condition will do well in time.”

Ulrich said most of the explosion patients were not runners.

“Most of them were in the crowd,” he said.

He said authorities were quickly at the hospital, gathering evidence.

He also said 90 percent of the BMC staffers showed up to work during that time. Some Ulrich said, even came right off the race course, and into the ER.

“I’ve never been prouder to work here,” he said. “The staff response was outstanding.”

Twelve of the 31 people who came to Massachusetts General Hospital remain there this afternoon, said Dr. George Velmahos, chief of trauma, emergency surgery and surgical critical care.

“There have been four amputations, six or seven patients total are still critical,” he said. “Most are suffering from wounds from shrapnel and burns.”

He said more surgeries were expected today and tomorrow. Regarding the amputations, “There was very little discussion with the patients, most were in a state of shock, we were rushing to save lives. It was not a time for talking, it was a time for doing.”

Velmahos also said the hospital was inundated with people offering to give blood.

Between Brigham & Women’s Hospital and its Faulkner Hospital location, 44 patients were admitted, 13 of whom are in the operating room, and six of whom are in critical condition. The youngest patient was 16 and the oldest was 62. Patients are “about half and half” men and women.

At the Brigham, nine went to the operating room, five in critical condition. One had a below-the-knee amputation. Two other patients have “threatened limbs.” The patients are being watched very closely by trauma surgeons and nurses. “These limbs are still in jeopardy,” he said.

Of the nine that went into surgery, two returned to the OR today. Several more will be returning to the OR.

Initially 13 victims were seen and treated at Brigham and Women’s Faulkner Hospital, but only five remain hospitalized as of today, according to Dr. Richard E. Larson, chief of the depart of emergency.

“One of those five is critically ill,” said Larson.
The female patient suffered loss of tissue and bone in several places, including her feet, as well as additional shrapnel wounds.

Alasdair Conn, chief of emergency services at MGH, said the governor had come to the hospital this afternoon.

“He asked me what people can do,” said Conn. “Find the people who did this.”

*Tenley Woodman, Sara Gaynes and Jed Gottlieb contributed.*
FBI cancels press conference amid conflicting reports

(Investigators close in as this breaking web story for April 17 tells as bogus reports cloud the case.)

By Dave Wedge, Joe Dwinell, Howie Carr, John Zaremba and Erin Smith

Surveillance video from the Lord & Taylor store on Boylston Street is proving to be a vital break in the Marathon bombing case, but the FBI has canceled a press conference in a day riddled with conflicting reports about a suspect caught on camera but no arrest announced.

In another twist, City Council President Stephen Murphy told the Associated Press tonight that police "may
be on the verge of arresting someone and that's good." But he backed off his statement to the AP, saying he "has not been briefed" and that his comments were based on media reports.

"I was made aware today by media sources that there was a video from Lord & Taylor that showed a suspect leaving a duffel bag," Murphy told the Herald. "I was recounting that (to the AP)."

The Lord & Taylor store set up the cameras in the 1980s to combat thieves who would park on Boylston and do hit-and-run robberies.

Still, authorities from the FBI to Boston police denied any arrest, with BPD tweeting: "Despite reports to the contrary there has not been an arrest in the Marathon attack."

The U.S. Attorney's Office refused to answer questions about any suspects being questioned or in custody, however.

"All I can say is there is no one that has been arrested," a spokeswoman for Boston U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz said.

The FBI also released a statement today saying the same: "Contrary to widespread reporting, there have been no arrests made in connection with the Boston Marathon attack. Over the past day and a half, there have been a number of press reports based on information from unofficial sources that has been inaccurate. Since these stories often have unintended consequences, we ask the media, particularly at this early stage of the investigation, to exercise caution and attempt to verify information through appropriate official channels before reporting."

Dot Joyce, spokeswoman for Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, told the Herald today investigators "are making progress."

A Herald source and multiple news organizations are reporting authorities have identified a suspect using surveillance video from the scene of the second bombing Monday. The second bombing was in front of 755 Boylston St., where a Starbucks Coffee shop and Forum restaurant are located.

The clear video image shows the suspect placing a package and leaving the site, sources tell the Herald and multiple media outlets. The package matches a description of what police are looking for. The video used is from the Lord and Taylor store nearby at 760 Boylston Street, according to a source.

The Herald source says the feds will report that the suspect is seen passing by 755 Boylston St., dropping a bag and departing the scene.

They also have a facial image of a suspect, CNN reports. Herald sources are not giving up a description of
the suspect.

As the Herald reported today, the FBI suspects a black, nylon bag or backpack was used to carry pressure-cooker bombs -- packed with BBs, ball bearings and nails with explosives packed inside -- in the horrific ambush. Monday's attack killed three -- an 8-year-old Dorchester boy, a 29-year-old Arlington woman and a Boston University graduate student from China -- and injured more than 170, with many still critical.

The FBI has postponed today's 5 p.m. press conference due to a bomb threat at the federal courthouse, then set it for 8 p.m. only to call that one off too. It is not clear when the FBI will address the public.

Developing ...
The April 18 front page of the Herald as the hunt is on for the suspects.
While readers begin to submit photos of their own …

But the big break in the case hits late in the day …

**FBI releases video, photos of two suspects in marathon bombings**

**By Matt Stout**

The FBI has released images of two suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings and is asking for the public’s help in identifying them.

“Today we are enlisting the public’s help to identify the two suspects,” said Richard DesLauriers, FBI special agent in charge in Boston at a packed press briefing this afternoon at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston.

“Someone out there knows these individuals.”
DesLauriers said one of the suspects, in a white cap, appeared to put down a backpack in front of the Forum restaurant, the site of the second explosion on Boylston Street. The twin explosions Monday killed three people and injured 170 people just yards from the Boston Marathon finish line.

The FBI released eight photos and a video of the suspects.

The two suspects “appear to be associated” and both men were seen walking through the marathon crowd on Boylston Street toward the finish line in the vicinity of the Gloucester Street intersection, DesLauriers said. At some later point, one of the suspects is seen walking west on Boylston Street, he said.

Officials believe the men to be “armed and extremely dangerous,” said DesLauriers, adding that people should contact authorities if they have any information, no matter how small or unimportant it may seem.

“Do not take any action on your own,” he said.

DesLauriers said the FBI had identified the two suspects after working around the clock investigating thousands of leads and tips.

“Identifying and locating those responsible is now of the highest priority,” DesLauriers said. “This is our focus right now.”

The FBI tip line is 1-800-CALL-FBI (800-225-5324) or tips can also be submitted at bostonmarathontips.fbi.gov.
The April 19 front page -- the last edition as gunfire raged in Cambridge and Watertown and later that same day ...
... The manhunt is finally over, as bostonherald.com reports
`We got him' Mayor Menino announces amid cheers

By O'Ryan Johnson, John Zaremba, Matt Stout, Erin Smith, Dave Wedge, Chris Cassidy, Christine McConville and Laurel J. Sweet

"We got him" Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino declared tonight as overjoyed Watertown residents cheered in the streets as the lone surviving marauding marathon bombing suspect was taken alive.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, was captured bleeding in a boat in the backyard of a home on Franklin Street in Watertown. The homeowner spotted blood on the shrink wrap of his boat, looked inside and saw a bloody man and ran inside and called 911, Boston Police Commissioner Edward Davis said tonight.

A helicopter with thermal imaging helped SWAT teams identify the spot. There was gunfire at the boat and Tsarnaev was soon captured.

"We've closed an important chapter in this tragedy," President Obama said tonight, adding the suspects "failed because the people of Boston refused to be intimidated."

Gov. Deval Patrick tonight thanked the "professionals who brought their A game" for bravely bagging Tsarnaev.

The arrest had people flocking to the streets all over Greater Boston. A Boston SWAT team officer in a vehicle heading out of Watertown along Mt. Auburn Street chanted "USA! USA! BPD!" over the loud speaker and residents shouted back "USA! USA!"

Homes had been evacuated on Franklin Street in Watertown after reports of shots fired in the back of a home where SWAT teams amassed and police at the scene reported the Marathon bombing suspect was pinned down.
A resident of the home where the shooting was taking place told the Herald tonight at the height of the final standoff he couldn't tell what is going on in his yard. "We don't really know. We just heard gunfire. I'm actually huddling under the bed."

Another Franklin Street resident said: "I really can't talk. I'm just too nervous to talk," Patricia Caruso said in a brief interview. "My family and everybody is crying here. I know they're looking for a suspect down the street from me. When they first came, I heard (gunfire). But now it's quiet. But they're all still here. There's a lot of police around."

Tsarnaev was finally captured after nearly a 24-hour manhunt without a fight, according to authorities, who say the wanted teen flopped over the side of a boat where he was hiding and fell into the arms of waiting officers.

“He had lost a lot of blood. He was so weak that we were able to just go in a scoop him up,” said State Police spokesman David Procopio, who said Tsarnaev was in “serious if not critical condition” at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Tsarnaev, who was injured in the shootout early this morning, did not have any explosives on his body, as law enforcement officers had feared, Procopio said.

Procopio said Tsarnaev was captured exactly 22.5 hours after the murder of MIT Police Officer Sean Collier, 26, and the wounding of MBTA cop Richard Donohue, 33.

The other marathon bombing suspect, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, was killed in the shootout early this morning in Watertown.

Lillian Campbell, whose granddaughter Krystle, 29, was among the three people killed in Monday's bombings, said she remained glued to the news throughout the day, enduring the dips in developments and finally, the joy of the capture.

“I wanted to know who did this to my granddaughter,” she said, her voice cracking. “I didn't want him to get away with it. I'm very happy. … I'm hoping he ends up in jail forever.”

Lillian said she wrestled with whether she wanted to see him taken dead or alive, but said "as far as the family is concerned, it's over because they did catch him."

“He was a snake, wiggling through the ground, and I was afraid he got away,” she said. “Honestly I though he got away. And I was very upset over that. But now I can go on with my life. I pray every night anyway. I just pray tonight everything works out OK because so many people got hurt. Not just Krystle. There's so
many more. There's enough heartache."

Little 8-year-old Martin Richard of Dorchester was also killed in Monday's heartless bombing.

In a statement, his family said: "Our family applauds the entire law enforcement community for a job well done, and trust that our justice system will now do its job .... Our community is once again safe from these two men."

Lingzi Lu, 23, a Boston University grad student from China, was also killed.

"He put shame on our family. He put shame on the entire Chechen ethnicity," the suspect's uncle Ruslan Tsarni told reporters from his home in Maryland, summing up for many the sentiment of the day.

"I can't come up with the words. Unhuman," he told the Herald. "I'm not being able to feel anything. Anger for the people they murdered."

Joe Dwinell contributed to this story.

*It came after a day few will forget as SWAT teams hunted the suspect from Boston to finally Watertown. (Herald staff photo by Christopher Evans.)*
Suspect’s uncle speaks out in ‘anger for the people they murdered’

(While Greater Boston was ordered to “Shelter in Place,” the Herald was already speaking to relatives of the Tsarnaev brothers in yet another breaking news first.)

By Matt Stout, Dave Wedge and Christine McConville

Friends and relatives of the Marathon bombing suspects reacted in shock today as one was killed and the other remained the target of a massive manhunt this morning.

The surviving bomb suspect is Dzhokhar A. Tsarnaev, a 19-year-old. His uncle, Ruslan Tsarni of Maryland, said Dzhokhar and the other suspect, who he said is named Tamerlan, are brothers who have been in the country since 2001.

When his wife showed him the picture of the suspects, he was “shaking.”

“Anger, anger, anger. I can’t come up with the words,” Tsarni said when asked for his response to the terrorist attacks his nephews are accused of. “Unhuman.”

Describing his emotions, he said: "I’m not being able to feel anything. Anger for the people they murdered."

Larry Aaronson, a retired Cambridge Ringe & Latin social studies teacher, said Dzhokhar graduated last year.

“I will say to you, from the depth of my heart, he couldn’t have been sweeter,” he said. “He couldn’t have been more gracious, I knew him as nothing but a wonderful kid.”

Aaronson said Dzhokhar had lived in the war zone in Chechnya.

“I would talk to him about it and he would say, ‘Larry, you just adjust to it and I’m grateful to be here.’ He had such grace and everybody loved this kid. There was no anger or rage, or feeling like he was being
bullied for being from Chechnya

He added: “This is so crazy, and it’s such a stupid thing to have done. It doesn’t make any sense. ... He
couldn’t have been a more polite, you know, you couldn’t have been more polite. He couldn’t have been
more precious. He couldn’t have been more appreciative of being here and going to school. There was
nothing that would give any indication of this.”

A man who described himself as a friend of the suspects, Ahdi Moro, 22, of Watertown, said he was
“shocked.”

“I would never think anything like that of them,” Moro said. “They were good kids.”

He said Tamerlan was a Golden Gloves boxer who is now the father of a 2-year-old and Dzhokhar was an
all-star wrestler.

“He was a really quiet kid,” Moro said. “He was very popular at school, like, the most popular kid at school.
He was a really good-looking kid. He’s as American as anybody. He grew up here. He’s like a regular
Cambridge kid.”

He described Tamerlan as big and tough, and remembered how, on the first day of school, he was “picked
on” by three kids — and beat up all three.

“These kids grew up around violence,” Moro said. “They were always not scared of anything.

Cambridge Rindge & Latin assistant wrestling coach Peter Payack said as soon as he saw the photo of
bombing suspect Dzhokar in a hoodie released early this morning, he had a sickening feeling.

“Once I saw that picture, I knew it was him,” Payack said of Dzhokar, who wrestled at Cambridge in 2010
and 2011. “I just couldn’t talk, it was like someone put a knife in my heart, I just felt like crying. Wrestling is
like a brotherhood and you feel like all the wrestlers are your son, so this was hard for me.”

Dzhokar was an all-Greater Boston League wrestler at Cambridge in 2011. He placed third in the 135-pound
weight class at the Division 1 Central sectionals that year, but failed to qualify for the All-State tournament.

According to Payack, Dzhokar returned to Cambridge as recently as six weeks ago to work with the team in
preparation for the state tournament. He remained stunned by the recent turn of events.

“He was a great kid, very dedicated to the sport and a hard worker,” Payack said. “Everyone liked him.”

Tamerlan Tsarnaev boxed in the Golden Gloves in 2010 as a heavyweight, said Terry Moran, marketing and
production director for Lowell Golden Gloves. “He was a successful fighter. He was on the New England team. I didn’t know him personally.”

He added: “We’re really sad that he was associated with the program. This doesn’t represent all the great kids, more than 100 a year, that go through this program.”

A Watertown family is escorted out of their home as SWAT teams look for the suspect. (Herald staff photo by Mark Garfinkel.)
April 19 Greater Boston ordered to “Shelter in place” …

Members of the North Metro SWAT move back up Nichols Ave. in Watertown as the search continued for the second suspect. Friday, April 19, 2013. (Herald staff photo by John Wilcox.)

Boston, surrounding communities on lockdown

By Fiona Molloy

Boston and surrounding communities are on lockdown as one Boston Marathon bombing suspect was killed early this morning and a massive manhunt continues for the second suspect.
Police are telling people in Boston, Watertown, Cambridge, Newton, Waltham and Belmont to “shelter-in-place” and stay in their homes with their doors locked. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is advising businesses in those towns to remain closed, and authorities said all traffic in and out of Watertown, where the hunt for the second suspect is centered, has been stopped. Brookline police also are asking all residents in that town to stay inside and are telling town employees to stay home.

A man who described himself as an uncle, Ruslan Tsarni of Maryland, and a friend confirmed multiple reports that the surviving bomb suspect is Dzhokhar A. Tsarnaev and the other suspect, his brother, is named Tamerlan.

The MBTA has suspended all service, including buses and commuter rail, and Amtrak has suspended service between Boston and Providence, authorities said. People at bus stops and train stations are being told to go home. All taxi service was suspended earlier today in Boston, but police said it has now been restored.

Logan Airport is open but is operating under heightened security, according to MassDOT.

MEMA is asking all state government executive branch employees working in non-law enforcement functions who live or work in affected communities to stay home.

Several Boston colleges also have canceled classes for the day including Boston College, MIT, Boston University, Emerson, Harvard.

UMass Dartmouth is also closed and students are being told to “shelter in place” according to a statement on its website that further says: “UMass Dartmouth has learned that a person being sought in connection with the Boston Marathon bombing has been identified as a student registered at UMass Dartmouth.”

Boston Children’s Hospital officials said patient appointments at its main campus in the Longwood Medical Area have been canceled and patients will not be discharged until further notice. Emergency care remains opens and the hospital is fully staffed. Boston Children’s Waltham and Boston Children’s Martha Eliot Health Center in Jamaica Plain also are closed.

Courthouses and offices in Cambridge, Brighton, Newton and Waltham are also closed today, according to a spokeswoman, and jurors summoned for today at the Suffolk Superior Court and Brooke Courthouses in Boston and in Middlesex County should stay home. The Supreme Judicial Court and the Appeals Court and their offices also are closed.
To the rescue: Heroes on the bombing

(These are from April 17 as stories begin to come out about heroes at the scene.)

NICK YANNI, STUDENT

By CHRISTINE McCONVILLE

Nick Yanni, 32, of Boston was watching his wife, Lee Ann Yanni, 31, cross the finish line of the 26.2-mile race Monday.

“Then all of a sudden, it was like a cannon went off. Honest to God, at first, I didn't think anything of it. Thought someone lit off fireworks or something like that,” said
Yanni, a student at Bunker Hill Community College who was standing on the sidewalk in front of Marathon Sports.

But it was a bomb and, Yanni said, “it shattered the window next to us, and I looked back and saw a cloud of smoke and I realized that something was going on.”

Yanni's eardrum was pierced in the blast. And his wife had shrapnel that went through her leg and shattered a bone.

“She was bleeding,” he said, and the couple staggered into Marathon Sports.

“She said, 'Grab something to make a tourniquet,' so I grabbed shirts off the rack, and I started wrapping her leg up,” he said.

Once his wife was OK, he said, he went back out on the street, where he encountered unspeakable horror.

But “there were people all over,” he said, “trying to help out.”

— christine.mcconville@bostonherald.com

JIM PLOURDE, FIREFIGHTER

By DAVE WEDGE

Jim Plourde, a stocky, fourth-year Jamaica Plain firefighter, was expecting to deal with a few fainting runners or minor bumps and bruises when he worked a detail at the marathon finish line.

But his carefree day turned into a nightmare when bombs blew up just feet away and he was thrust into an unimaginable bloodbath inside a Boylston Street candy store.

“I crawled through the scaffolding. It was an absolutely horrid scene,” he said. “There were so many people hurt, I was thinking, ‘Who can I help first?’”

He came across a teenaged girl with a large leg wound that was being tended to by a civilian who tied a tourniquet to stem the bleeding.

“She was in a pool of blood,” Plourde said. “She looked at me and said, ‘I'm scared.' I
said, 'I'll take care of you.'"

Plourde scooped her up and dashed her to a waiting ambulance. She was whisked to the hospital and survived.

The former EMT rushed back in and helped more victims before heading to the medical tent to triage severely injured victims.

“It was pretty much the worst things you’d expect to see,” he said. “Things you’d expect to see on a battlefield, not at the Boston Marathon.”

— dwedge@bostonherald.com

NOAH FALCK, ROTC STUDENT AND RUNNER

By JORDAN GRAHAM
In the midst of the bloody chaos, Noah Falck, an 18-year-old ROTC student, finished running the marathon and then turned volunteer, helping frightened runners for hours.

“I'm alive, I want to do as much as I can,” he said.

Falck said he heard the two explosions from the medical tent and rushed out to try to help.

Six hours later, he was guiding runners to their bags and pitching in however he could.

He wasn't alone.

A group of four Chicago runners was given shelter in a volunteer's apartment.

“The people of Boston stepped up,” said Windy City runner Jerry Rauman.

A stranger took in South Carolina runner Lisa Deaton, too, along with another family — including a 6-month-old.

“They took us in,” she said, “kept us out of the cold and kept the baby warm.”

Runners spoke of a man who came out of his home with 10 jackets and started
handing them out, saying not to worry about returning them.

The heroes were all around.

— jordan.graham@bostonherald.com
Reporter in marathon describes horror

By Chris Cassidy

The first explosion sounded like cannon fire.

I saw a cloud of gray smoke rise up in front of me near the Boston Marathon finish line and an army of police in yellow jackets race toward it.

My first reaction — which now seems incredibly naive — was that some kids were playing a prank, maybe setting off fireworks.

I had just crossed the 26-mile marker — dedicated to the victims of the Newtown, Conn., shootings. Nothing was going to keep me from that finish line — just two-tenths of a mile away, I thought to myself.

Then I heard the second explosion behind me and saw not only pieces of a trash can blown away but casualties.

That blast rattled me. This now seemed to be an organized attack, and I immediately thought a third explosion would be next. And for few moments, I was terrified.

Absolutely nothing I experienced can compare to what the injured and victims went through yesterday, but it was the only time in my life I thought there was a real chance I was going to die — or at least get struck by flying debris from a third blast that never came.

Near the site of the second blast, I saw several severely injured spectators. I saw a woman bleeding from her forehead and drops of blood on the sidewalk on the opposite side of Boylston Street from the second blast.

Another woman lying on the ground was being attended to by a Boston police officer. A pair of brown women’s boots lay in the street.

Police and hotel staff now were pushing everyone away from the finish line.

That’s how my ninth Boston Marathon ended.
I never did finish the race. Within seconds of the second blast, I saw several runners around me high-jump the metal railings — no easy task after running 26 miles — and evacuate the course.

Wearing a race singlet and possessing only a cellphone with a nearly dead battery, I climbed over a toppled railing and scurried into Copley Place Mall. I was joined there by other fleeing runners and spectators, while unsuspecting shoppers blithely strolled past a food court.

Inside the mall we were all told to stay inside.

After a kiosk operator let me borrow his charger, I found my phone was flooded with text messages, emails, calls and Facebook messages from friends, family and even those I haven’t talked to in years — all making sure I was OK.

I had sought safety, not knowing exactly what in a post-9/11 world constitutes safety in the downtown of a big city right after an explosion.

I then thought about my teammates, several of whom were near me at the time of the blasts. But I didn’t see any of them after everyone scattered. One of my friends who was on a patio on Boylston had just yelled out to me seconds before the explosions. I soon learned everyone was OK.

None of this has sunk in yet. As I type this, I’m wearing a 2013 Boston Marathon shirt — I packed it for a post-run celebration. It just seems wrong to wear it now.

I feel lucky.

Time to get whoever did this.

Herald reporter Chris Cassidy the day of the race at the starting line in Hopkinton. (Contributed photo.)