

BOMB THREATS EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the dispatch of Fire Department equipment and personnel to assist the local police agencies with Bomb threats and / or explosive materials.

The local police agencies may request the Fire Department to provide **standby assistance** while they search for, disarm or remove an explosive device or material.

The purpose of the Fire Department response is to provide a standby rescue team at a nearby but remote staging location. **At NO time will Fire Department equipment or personnel become directly involved with a search, handling or removal of an explosive device or material.** Crews will remain staged until the Police release them, or an accident occurs and assistance is needed at the incident site.

There are only two reasonable explanations for a call reporting a bomb in a particular location:

1. The caller has knowledge of an explosive or incendiary device that has been or will be placed and wants to minimize personal injury or property damage.
2. The caller wants to create an atmosphere of anxiety and panic which will, in turn, possibly disrupt normal activities where this device is reported to be.

Panic is highly contagious and must be controlled by emergency personnel. If allowed to go unchecked, this emotional state dramatically increases the possibility of personal injuries and property damage.

Evacuation is the most serious of all decisions to be made in the event of a bomb threat. **THE MANAGER, OWNER OR OTHER PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE LOCATION MUST MAKE THIS DECISION.** Of course, in; making this choice he/she must consider the safety of occupants and/or personnel in the area as well as possible losses due to down time or equipment damage caused by lack of supervision.

In the past most of these threats have been hoaxes, but recently more of them have materialized into actual bomb incidents.

PROCEDURES:

1. Fire Alarm will dispatch unit as "special alarm".
2. Apparatus will respond "on the quiet".
3. Apparatus reports "unit responding".
4. No transmissions will take place after this until the alarm is struck out, By any radio or cell phone within a 500 ft. radius of the building.
5. If necessary to contact fire alarm it should be done so by public service land line only.
6. If fire department is first to arrive:
 - a. Position apparatus approximately 300 feet from the building and if possible at the corner of the building.
 - b. Fire Officer then should contact the responsible party or whoever is in charge of the building as to the situation.
 - c. **The decision to evacuate the building is the sole responsibility of the "person in charge" of the building involved.**
 - d. Upon arrival of a Patrol Officer, the Fire Officer will converse with the Officer as to what has taken place up to this point. **AT THIS TIME THE FIRE COMPANY BECOMES A "STANDBY UNIT".**

7. If Fire Department arrives after the Patrol Officer:
 - a. Fire Officer should make contact with the Patrol Officer and advise the Patrol Officer the Fire Department is on the scene and standing by outside.
8. All protective equipment should be worn by all Fire Department personnel.

IF AN EXPLOSION OCCURS, DO NOT TAMPER WITH THE DEBRIS. CALL FOR HELP, REMOVE ANY INJURED PEOPLE, AND SECURE THE AREA UNTIL THE BOMB TECHNICIANS ARRIVE. A BLAST MIGHT LOOSEN OR WEAKEN ADJACENT STRUCTURES. EXERCISE CAUTION TO AVOID ADDITIONAL INJURIES FROM SUCH POST EXPLOSION HAZARDS.

ALWAYS BE ALERT FOR SECONDARY DEVICES!!