

CHAPTER II Operations
SUBJECT 3 Emergency Operations
TOPIC 21 Hazardous Device Operations

A) PURPOSE

- 1) To establish standard operating procedures for fire suppression personnel at incidents involving hazardous devices/explosives.
- 2) To identify roles and responsibilities for the responding units.

B) OBJECTIVES (listed by priority)

- 1) To ensure safety of the Public
- 2) To promote safety for all responders
- 3) To provide for the protection and preservation of public and private property
- 4) To provide for the collection and preservation of evidence
- 5) To provide for the convenience of the public and restoration of services

C) C. SAFETY

- 1) Personnel **WILL NOT** move, open or disturb any potential hazards to confirm that a “hazard” does exist. **DO NOT APPROACH A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE.**
- 2) Units shall not stage in direct line of sight of the incident and shall position themselves, whenever possible, behind buildings or natural barriers and away from glass windows.
- 3) All responding personnel should remain cognizant of the potential for secondary devices.
- 4) CFD personnel may wear body armor and/or full protective gear, including SCBA, during operations at the discretion of Command. It is necessary to realize that public safety personnel may be the intended target.
- 5) Members shall not transmit on mobile phones or portable radios within 50 feet of the Exclusion Zone.
 - a) All radio/electrical devices must be turned OFF when operating within 50 feet of the Exclusion Zone.
 - b) Telemetry equipment and Mobile Data Computer (MDC) must also be turned off when operating within 50 feet of the Exclusion Zone.
- 6) Taking photos/video of EOD operations by members or the media is prohibited (except at the discretion of the senior ranking Bomb Technician) The Incident Commander or designee shall have the media stage away from the incident and shall not allow video or photos of downrange operations.

D) INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

- 1) Bombing/Explosive Incidents are to be treated as crime scenes, unless otherwise directed.
- 2) Due to the sensitive nature of these incidents, and the likely response of many different agencies, a unified Command Post will most likely be established.
- 3) The location of the Command Post will be coordinated with the ranking bomb technician and the incident commander. Under no circumstances shall the Command Post be within 300 feet of the suspected device or post blast scene. This distance shall be increased appropriately based on the type and nature of the threat.
- 4) Communications:

- a) All personnel shall monitor the assigned Fire Ground Channel, **DO NOT TRANSMIT** except in an emergency, The IC may transmit instructions and information as guided by the Bomb Technicians.

E) BOMB THREAT RESPONSE

- 1) CFD response to a reported bomb threat will be limited to those incidents that pose a significant threat and to those premises deemed to be priority targets.
- 2) Units shall stage at one location,
 - a) Stage a minimum of 300 feet from the incident. This distance may be increased depending upon the nature of the threat.
 - b) Units shall not stage in direct line of sight of the incident and shall position themselves, whenever possible, behind buildings or natural barriers and away from glass windows.
- 3) The decision to evacuate a premise is the responsibility of the property owner or manager until a device or suspect package is found at which time Command will mandate the evacuation
- 4) Search of a premise is the responsibility of the owner/manager. Command may have units assist by organizing search teams.
 - a) Each team must have a radio for monitoring the Fire Ground – Not to transmit.
 - b) Team will usually consist of K-9 with handler and a bomb technician. These may be accompanied by a representative of the owner/manager.
 - c) Command will coordinate search teams activities to ensure a thorough search.
 - d) If a suspicious item is located, Command will notify teams of its location and sound the evacuation. Once all teams report to Command, Bomb Techs will investigate. After the item is cleared the search may resume.
 - e) If no threat is found, Command will report this to the owner/manager. (Do not state that the area is “safe” but that no devices were found)

F) SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE / DEVICE RESPONSE

- 1) When approaching the scene, slow down to assess and observe the surroundings for suspicious activities, items, and/or persons.
- 2) First arriving unit duties:
 - a) Contact complainant and identify the location of threat, withdraw as necessary. It may be necessary to have the complainant walk out of the exclusion zone to the apparatus.
 - b) Survey area for hazards- be aware of the possibility of secondary devices that target first responders.
 - c) Establish zones and begin evacuation.
 - (i) RED ZONE – Hazard area where suspect device/explosive(s) is located. This zone should be a minimum of 300 ft. radius. NOTE: ONLY EOD PERSONNEL SHALL OPERATE IN RED ZONE – Barrier tape shall be placed ASAP
 - (ii) YELLOW ZONE – This zone shall be an area at least 50 ft. wide outside of the Red Zone. This is where EOD personnel will stage equipment. Barrier tape shall be placed ASAP.
 - (iii) GREEN ZONE –Command Post shall be staged in this zone at a location that takes advantage of existing cover.
NOTE: Civilians and media personnel shall be located a minimum of 100 ft. from the Command Post and staged emergency response vehicles.

- (iv) EOD personnel may request larger zones.
 - (v) Fire Department is responsible for evacuation of the immediate area (Red and Yellow Zones).
 - (vi) Police Department is responsible for the evacuation of the surrounding areas and securing perimeter outside of the yellow zone.
- 3) Incident Commander's duties:
- a) Establish Command.
 - b) Establish communications with Police for perimeter security / traffic control.
 - c) Assure scene is secure and suspicious item is not moved or disturbed
 - d) Assure zones are established and evacuation from the Red and Yellow zones is underway or completed.
 - e) Attempt to locate and secure witnesses.
 - f) Brief EOD team upon their arrival.
 - g) Stage any additional units at a remote location.
- 4) Engine Company duties:
- a) Locate a water supply and alternate supply and standby for possible hose line deployment.
 - b) Assist with evacuation as directed.
- 5) Ladder Company duties:
- a) Evacuate immediate area and establish zones including barrier tape.

G) POST BLAST RESPONSE

- 1) Should a detonation occur prior to the arrival of the Bomb Squad, or if units are initially dispatched for a reported explosion, personnel should take the following actions:
- a) Survey the blast area for unsafe conditions from a protected area
 - b) Evacuate all people from the area and establish control zones
 - c) Perform a PAR
 - d) Wear full protective clothing and utilize Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for any activities in the hot zone.
 - e) Limit activities in the hot zone to rescue operations until cleared by EOD.
 - f) Conduct a rapid assessment to identify the potential for chemical, biological or radiological involvement.
 - g) Estimate the number of casualties and activate the mass casualty incident procedures as necessary.
 - h) Do not disturb any potential evidence.
 - i) Personnel should be aware of the possibility of secondary devices that target first responders.