

SUBJECT: EXPLOSIVES AND BOMBS**SECTION:** 301.21**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 10, 2004**PAGE(S):** 3

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the fire department for incidents involving bombs or explosives.

POLICY

This policy should be followed when the department receives a bomb threat for another location, explosives brought to the station, and for explosives encountered during routine operations.

PROCEDURE

A. BOMB THREATS

1. The fire department will not respond on bomb threats when notified by the police department or by an anonymous caller. The dispatcher will send the Police OIC and one additional police unit to the scene.
2. If requested to respond to the area by the Police, respond to the area on a non-emergency basis.
3. Spot the apparatus well clear of the exact location; minimum of 200 feet away.
4. Make contact with the law enforcement officer in charge and coordinate with the same – may not be able to do so via radio or cell phone.
5. Do not become involved in the police functions of search and evacuation unless there has already been an actual explosion.
6. Do not become involved in bomb disposal operations.
7. Coordinate with law enforcement personnel concerning the establishment of an operational perimeter. (Remember unauthorized persons shall not be allowed inside the operational perimeter).
8. Standby and await instructions.
9. If an explosion and/or fire occur, be aware that secondary explosions will likely occur. Utilize any available protective cover during firefighting operations.
10. In bomb threat situations, normally the decision to search for the bomb or to evacuate the building rests with the management of the occupancy and the law enforcement agency involved.
11. Remember that the radio transmitter/cell phone may initiate detonation of some types of explosive devices.

12. During emergency operations and during overhaul, be alert for additional explosive devices (this could be anything that may seem out of place). If an object is suspected of being an explosive device, do not touch it or allow anyone else to touch it. Notify (not by radio) the bomb squad and the Incident Commander immediately.

B. EXPLOSIVES BROUGHT TO THE FIRE STATION

In the event that any person brings a suspected bomb, explosive device, or any amount of explosives into a Fire Station, Fire Department members shall be guided by the following:

1. Gently place the suspected device in the most secure area possible (away from personnel, buildings, and apparatus). Place blankets or salvage covers in a position to deflect the debris in a direction to cause the least amount of damage to personnel and property.
2. Notify the Police Department by telephone, not by radio, and request the following:
 - a. Notification and request for response of the bomb squad.
 - b. Notification of the Fire Chief.
3. Evacuate personnel and apparatus from the station.
4. Obtain identification and all pertinent information from the person(s) delivering the suspected device and retain said person at the scene until the Police Department arrives.
5. Do not use radios/cell phones in the immediate area as they could possibly initiate detonation of the suspected device.

C. EXPLOSIVES ENCOUNTERED DURING ROUTINE ACTIVITIES

Whenever explosives, suspected bombs or explosive devices are encountered during the course of routine operations, Fire Department personnel shall be guided by the following:

1. Refrain from touching or moving the suspected device.
2. Evacuate the immediate area and establish an operational perimeter. Contact officer in charge.
3. Allow no unauthorized personnel within an operational perimeter.
4. Contact the dispatcher (utilize radios/cell phones only from a distance of at least two hundred (200) feet away to avoid possible detonation) and request the following:
 - a. Response of the Police Department.
 - b. Response one of the following bomb squads:
 1. Hamilton County Sheriff Bomb Unit if you suspect a criminal act has occurred.
 2. Cincinnati Fire Division Bomb Unit for non-criminal incidents.
 3. Cincinnati Fire Division Bomb Unit or consider 71st Ordinance Detachment out of Wright Patterson Air Force Base for military ordinances.
5. Proceed as per normal bomb threat operations (see section A).

D. BOMB THREAT TO MUNICIPAL BUILDING

1. All non-essential personnel, with the exception of the police dispatcher will be evacuated from the building.
2. All radio/cell phones communication will cease.
3. A firefighter will be assigned to check the front of the apparatus doors for obstructions prior to the removal of equipment.
4. Fire Department personnel will remove all fire apparatus from the fire bays.
5. No radio/cell phone transmissions within 300 yards of the city building.
6. If the building lights are on – leave them on, if the building lights are off - leave them off.
7. Building will remain in vacant until building can be thoroughly searched.
8. Doors shall not be opened with automatic door openers but shall be manually operated.