
SUBJECT	EFFECTIVE DATE	RESCINDS
BOMB RESPONSE PROCEDURES	10/8/96	

REFERENCE

Franklin County Fire Chiefs
Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad Operations
Norwich Township Fire Department SOG #18

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide a guideline for the operation at incidents or situations that may arise during the course of an operation. Each member is expected to know, understand, and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

RESPONSIBILITY:

1. All Officers are responsible for the training of firefighting personnel and for ensuring proper compliance with this guideline.
2. All members have the responsibility to adequately learn this guideline and to carry out this policy.
3. All members will show reasonable judgment in their use of this guideline.

GUIDELINE:

RESPONSE: (1) Engine (1) Medic (1) Rescue (1) Command Officer (1) Bomb Squad
(Additional equipment requested and staged by the Incident Commander)

DEFINITION: Report of a possible explosive device and/or package.

***The Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad does not respond on threats, they will respond only when a suspected device has been found. They do not search for bombs.**

1. **Arrival of a Command Officer:** When first to arrive on the scene, the Command Officer will set up Incident Command at least 500 feet from the location of the suspected device and direct incoming fire companies and the Bomb Squad.
2. **Police Function:** In most jurisdictions it will be the responsibility of the police to (1) secure the area, (2) record the facts, (3) conduct a limited search for suspicious packages and/or devices. The police will also provide support services, e.g., traffic control, crowd control, or area evacuation, as needed and requested by the jurisdictional Fire Service.

When responding to a reported bomb, no electronic devices should be turned on within 500

feet of the scene. This includes, but is not limited to vehicle or portable radios, beacons, pagers, and cellular telephones. Any device that sends or receives a signal could possibly trigger an electric blasting cap or switch to accidentally detonate a bomb.

Upon arrival, Bomb Squad personnel will need the following information:

1. Exact location of the suspected device, a description and proximity to utilities or other hazards.
2. Site/floor building layouts.
3. Location and number of persons who have been evacuated.
4. The facts leading to the Bomb Squads' response. The scene scenario.

In general if a suspected device is found during a search, the following procedures should be followed:

1. Do not touch it!
2. Note its location, description and proximity to utilities (gas lines, electric panels, etc.)
3. Notify the Command Post.
4. Command Post should immediately contact the Columbus Division of Fire and request their Bomb Squad be dispatched. Any other resources should be contacted as predetermined in preplanning.
5. Clear and secure the area.
6. Any closed doors are obstacles to the Columbus Division of Fire Robot. Chock all doors open leading from the bomb to the entrance the Bomb Squad will use.
7. A discovery of this nature does not end the search. More devices may be present. Search efforts must continue until the entire facility has been searched.
8. The Incident Commander should consider closing air space to all aircraft for approximately 1,000 feet from the incident site.

Command Issues - Different organizations are in charge at various segments of a bomb response.

1. Threat - Facility management and police.
2. Found device - Fire Department.
3. Removal - Fire Department
4. Explosion - Fire Department until transferred to police.

IF AN EXPLOSION OCCURS

1. First arriving companies will set up the Incident Command System making initial assessment.
2. Secure the area. Establish a written log for anyone entering the scene. This is a crime scene.
3. Initiate appropriate EMS response.
4. Remove the walking wounded immediately to a safe location. Always suspect a secondary device.
5. A blast might loosen or weaken a structure. Exercise caution to avoid additional injuries from such post blast hazards.
6. Do not tamper with the blast debris any more than necessary to care for any victims. Remember. This is a crime scene.
7. Normally it will be necessary to expand the secure area to the location of the furthest bomb debris. Keep in mind some evidence may be on rooftops and other locations difficult to reach or see with the naked eye.
8. Request investigators trained in post blast explosions. This may require seeking help from outside agencies as predetermined. Depending on many factors, a bombing may be local, state and/or federal investigation, and Fire Department Policy.
9. Consider obtaining a helicopter for aerial photographs.

PLANNING AND LOGISTICS

1. To request the Columbus Division of Fire Bomb Squad, call 614-221-2345.
2. The Columbus Division of Fire has (7) post blast investigators assigned to Fire Investigations. The Fire Chief must give permission for them to be used outside their jurisdiction.
3. The Franklin County Sheriff has explosive detecting canines. They can be requested by calling, 614-462-3300.
4. The Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) may be contacted at the Columbus office by calling 614-469-6717. The ATF National Response Vehicle is stationed in Toledo, Ohio and is manned by experienced post blast investigators.
5. If a military ordnance is encountered, you may notify the 71st. Army EOD unit located at Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. The 24 hour telephone number is 513-257-6314. If given the color, identification numbers, size, etc. an identification of the ordnance is usually possible. The Army will not usually respond on improvised explosive devices, but they may give advice. If the object is military ordnance they will usually pick it up.
6. A Columbus Police Helicopter may be requested by calling, 614-645-4545. The CPD Heliport number is 614-645-4656.
7. The Delaware County Sheriff has explosive detecting Canines. They can be requested by calling 614-548-4357. (Emergency Dispatch)

General

1. Fire Departments should assist Bomb technicians as requested by Bomb Squad.
2. Fire Departments and investigative agencies should cooperate with each other for the conclusion of the incident.