



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



532.03 BOMB THREATS AND EXPLOSIVE DEVICES 11-15-19

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures to be followed when handling incidents involving bomb threats, explosives and/or suspected explosive devices.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to handle all bomb threat and explosives calls in a systematic manner that ensures the safety of the public and officers involved.

PROCEDURE

A. BOMB THREATS

1. When a bomb threat is received, Department personnel shall obtain as much information as possible about the bomb and its location.
2. The district sergeant shall be notified of all bomb threats that occur in their district.
3. The Communications Center shall send an MDC message regarding the location of the bomb threat.

B. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The District Sergeant shall respond to the scene of the following calls when practical:
 - a. A suspicious package is located.
 - b. The call is part of a pattern or series.
 - c. A bomb threat or device call where a search is necessary.
 - d. A bomb threat involving a police facility.
 - e. A bomb threat involving a school.
2. District Sergeants shall make themselves familiar with the details of the call and shall monitor and direct searches.
3. If the bomb threat occurs at a police facility, the Watch Commander shall:
 - a. Evaluate whether an evacuation should take place and coordinate the evacuation if deemed necessary.
 - b. Ensure that the following are notified:
 - (1) The facility's captain or designee.
 - (2) Police personnel occupying the building.
 - (3) Other tenants assigned to the building, if applicable.
 - (4) The Communications Center.
 - (5) The Deputy Chief of the facility and the Chief of Police.
 - (6) All other Sacramento Police Department facilities, as necessary.
 - c. Coordinate the response from patrol and/or other units.
 - d. Coordinate a search of the building, if deemed appropriate.

C. OFFICER RESPONSE

1. [REDACTED] officers shall respond to all bomb threats.
2. If a suspicious item is located, officers shall move away from the item to a safe location behind cover that could withstand a detonation from the suspected device prior to making radio transmissions.
3. Officers shall also ensure that the public is safely evacuated away from the suspected device prior to any transmissions.
4. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit shall be called to a bomb threat when there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., past bombing location, dignitary protection, sensitive locations, etc.).



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



H. RESPONSE TO EXPLOSIONS

1. Aside from normal emergency response procedures, officer(s) responding to an actual explosion shall:
 - a. Maintain a crime scene.
 - b. Notify their chain of command so that an EOD call-out can be initiated.
 - c. Establish a perimeter at a reasonable distance from the blast site to protect themselves and the public as well as to preserve evidence.
2. Officers shall avoid handling debris unnecessarily due to the toxic nature of some explosives.



I. OTHER EXPLOSIVES/DEVICES

1. Military ordnance
 - a. Officers shall not touch or handle military ordnance.
 - b. Ammunition over .60 caliber is considered to be an explosive device and shall be handled by EOD personnel only.
 - c. Upon the discovery of military ordnance, officers shall establish a perimeter and coordinate evacuations up to 1,000 feet.
 - d. An EOD call-out shall be initiated by the Watch Commander or their designee.
2. Incendiary devices are destructive devices also commonly referred to as Molotov cocktails. They are comprised of a breakable container with a wick containing an ignitable liquid that has a flash point.
 - a. Incendiary devices or remnants of devices should not be handled by officers.
 - b. The area around the device shall be secured by officers.
 - c. When located, an EOD call-out shall be initiated by the Watch Commander or their designee.
3. Fireworks should be handled with caution as they contain a pyrotechnic powder that is explosive.
 - a. Safe and Sane fireworks, which are the only legal fireworks in California, have a California State Fire Marshal seal.
 - b. Safe and Sane fireworks can be booked into the Sacramento Police Property Section.
 - c. Some illegal fireworks, such as small bottle rockets, roman candles, and small firecrackers can be booked into the Property Section by officers.
 - d. An EOD call-out shall be initiated for the following:
 - (1) Fireworks in poor condition
 - (2) Cardboard tube "M" devices (commonly referred to as M-80's and M-100's)
 - (3) Homemade fireworks
 - (4) Commercial grade fireworks
4. Commercial explosives (e.g. dynamite, blasting agents, blasting caps, etc.) shall not be handled by officers. Officers encountering such devices shall:
 - a. Set up a perimeter and coordinate an evacuation up to [redacted] feet.
 - b. Notify their chain of command so the Watch Command or their designee may initiate an EOD call-out.
5. Homemade explosives and clandestine explosive laboratories present an extreme hazard to



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS



officers and to the public. Officers shall not handle homemade explosives, or any items contained within clandestine explosive laboratories.

If a suspected or confirmed homemade explosive is located, officers shall:

- a. Not change the environment (i.e., turn off/on lights, open doors or drawers) or touch any objects.
- b. Not attempt to test any of the chemicals.
- c. Evacuate and set up a perimeter up to [REDACTED] feet.
- d. Notify their chain of command so the Watch Commander or their designee may initiate an EOD call-out.
- e. Request Fire Department response and instruct them to stage at a safe location.

J. EOD RESPONSIBILITIES

1. On-call EOD personnel shall respond in a timely manner to any location in the City.
2. EOD bomb technicians are the only personnel authorized to handle, move, render safe, or destroy explosive materials or suspected explosive devices.
3. EOD personnel shall:
 - a. Coordinate their response with the on-scene supervisor and make recommendations for appropriate evacuations and perimeters.
 - b. Assume command of EOD bomb technician activities.
 - c. Request further EOD assets when deemed necessary.
 - d. Follow all procedures and guidelines set forth in the Bomb Squad Manual R.M. 532.16.