



MYRTLE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subject: *Bomb Threats & Searches*

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Approved By:

PURPOSE

To provide officers with a protocol for dealing with the threat of bombings to include response, deployment, search, evacuation and assistance to specialized units.

DISCUSSION

While many bomb threats are later determined to be hoaxes, they all present particularly serious response requirements for law enforcement agencies. It is the philosophy of this law enforcement agency that all responses to bomb threats or emergencies be conducted systematically, efficiently and in a manner that gives primary consideration to the protection of human life.

DEFINITIONS

1. Bomb Threat - A bomb threat condition exists when an explosive device has been reported or is suspected to be at a given location.
2. Bomb Emergency - A bomb emergency exists when a suspected or actual explosive device has been located or has been detonated.
3. Bomb/Explosive - A bomb or explosive is any chemical compound, mixture or devices with the capability of rapid combustion or oxidation upon application of heat, flame or shock.

PROCEDURE

1. BOMB THREATS OR WARNINGS RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE shall be handled (to the degree possible) as listed below:

- A. Keep the reporting party on the line.
- B. Identify the location of the device with as much precision as possible and determine when it will be or if it has been detonated.
- C. Determine what type of explosive device is involved. Attempt to determine:
 - 1) What the device looks like;
 - 2) The type of bomb involved;
 - 3) What will make it detonate, (e.g., radio signal, time delay fuse);
 - 4) Why it was placed.
- D. Be alert to:
 - 1) Exact wording of the threat;
 - 2) Estimate the sex, race and age of the caller;
 - 3) Voice inflections or other identifying characteristics of the caller;
 - 4) Unusual word pronunciations of the caller;
 - 5) Nature of any background noises.
- E. Dispatch appropriate police units and other emergency service personnel.
- F. Notify appropriate fire and rescue units.
- G. Notify on duty Supervisor and Division Lieutenant.
- H. Make arrangements to secure the tape of the call(s) and subsequent radio and phone traffic.

2. BOMB THREATS OR WARNINGS RECEIVED FROM INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS by Department Personnel shall be handled as listed below:

- A. Determine the location, time of detonation, appearance and any other available information concerning the nature of the threat or the identity of the perpetrators.
- B. If no explosive device has been identified, ask that the caller alert employees and others to unusual parcels or items on the premises.
- C. Dispatch appropriate police units and other emergency service personnel.

- D. Notify appropriate fire and rescue units.
- E. Notify the on duty Supervisor and Division Lieutenant.
- F. Make arrangements to secure the tape of the call(s) and subsequent radio and phone traffic.

3. RESPONDING OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Responding patrol units shall not use their portable radios nor any mobile phones within 150 feet of the location in question.
- B. Vehicle/Mobile radios shall not be used within 500 feet of the location in question.
- C. If applicable, contact the individual who received the threat and/or person in charge to obtain additional information, to include:
 - 1) Location of any suspected objects;
 - 2) Whether previous threats have been received;
 - 3) Possible motives and / or suspects;
 - 4) Vulnerabilities of equipment and personnel;
 - 5) Exploration of any basic information provided to communications.
- D. In bomb emergencies, establish and secure a minimum 300 feet perimeter.

4. SEARCHING FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

- A. If an explosive device is alleged to be within a building but has not been located, the shift supervisor or officer in charge will contact building owners/management or other responsible persons to determine if a search of the facility is desired.
- B. The decision to search, evacuate, or to reenter a structure/location during a bomb threat will be the responsibility of the individual in charge of the property.
 - 1) The shift supervisor or officer in charge at the scene shall provide information as available to the responsible parties in order to assist them in making decisions on searching, evacuation or reentry;
 - 2) If management or the responsible agent does not wish that a search be conducted, no further action by this department is warranted with the exception of a Uniform Crime Report;
 - 3) Only in cases where a real or suspected explosive device has been detected shall an evacuation be conducted regardless of the desires of building management/owner.

- C. Searches of target buildings shall be conducted only with the direct assistance of employees or others knowledgeable of the contents and layout of the building.
- 1) The shift supervisor or officer in charge will develop a search plan identifying the extent of the search depending upon the type of establishment, the motivation of the perpetrator and accessibility of the building;
 - 2) A floor plan shall be obtained whenever possible, and a systematic search organized by the shift supervisor or officer in charge;
 - 3) At no time will officers turn on/off any light switches during a search;
 - 4) The exterior of the building shall be searched carefully including the base of the building and any possible hiding places;
 - 5) The interior search shall consist of a detailed search of individual storage rooms, areas accessible to the public, electrical areas and any suspected room;
 - 6) In no case shall department personnel declare that no bomb is present or in any way make the representation that the building is safe to occupy, no matter how thorough the search.
- D. When conducting a search, officers should be particularly alert to the items listed below as indicators that there may be explosives at the location. Officers should be cautioned that absence of the following does not assure that there is no bomb present.
- 1) Explosives-related pamphlets, periodicals and books;
 - 2) Excessive amounts of galvanized or PVC pipe nipples and end caps, especially if they have drill holes in the nipple or cap;
 - 3) Low-explosive powders or other incendiary mixtures;
 - 4) Fuses of any type to include homemade burning fuses, such as string soaked in a burning powder;
 - 5) Electrical switches;
 - 6) Electrical matches, blasting caps or similar initiators.

5. LOCATING A SUSPECTED DEVICE

- A. If a real or suspicious device has been located, or paraphernalia identified, the officer in charge should:
- 1) Establish a Command Post;
 - 2) Not attempt to move or otherwise disturb the device(s);
 - 3) Proceed with immediate evacuation of the structure and / or the area to a point consistent with the threat but not less than 300 feet of the device(s);
 - 4) Define and secure the perimeter;
 - 5) Notify on scene emergency services personnel;
 - 6) Notify dispatch personnel (**By Telephone**) who in turn will notify:
 - a) The on duty or on call detective
 - b) The on duty or on call Division Lieutenant;

- 7) On scene supervisor will notify the appropriate personnel for disposal per identified department procedure.
- B. If the device is found by a citizen, an attempt shall be made to ascertain if it has been moved or touched by contacting the person who originally found the suspected package.
- C. The on duty supervisor or officer in charge is responsible for command of the scene and briefing of investigators and ordinance specialists as appropriate.
- D. The bomb disposal commander shall have functional authority at any bomb emergency to direct department personnel in a manner necessary to accomplish its mission in a safe and efficient manner.

6. POST-EXPLOSION INVESTIGATION

- A. The on duty supervisor or officer in charge will organize the responding police personnel and notify dispatch of the magnitude of the explosion. This notification shall include, but is not limited to:
 - 1) Whether or not anyone is trapped inside;
 - 2) Request additional police and rescue units and direct their placement;
 - 3) Best route to take for proper placement of responding units;
 - 4) The location of the Command Post.
- B. Secure the crime scene and ensure all evidence is secured until the arrival of appropriate crime scene units.
- C. Coordinate with the on scene bomb disposal commander or have one notified if the explosion is prior to their arrival.
- D. Coordinate with on scene Fire Department supervisor.
- E. Notify on call detective if the explosion is prior to their arrival.
- F. Notify on duty Division Lieutenant if the explosion is prior to their arrival.
- G. It is imperative that officers on the scene, fire personnel and EMS personnel work in unison to stabilize the situation as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT “A”

For

Bomb Threat and Search Policy

The on scene supervisor will contact the SLED Bomb Squad at the following number:

803 – 896 – 7000

and ask for the On-Duty Bomb Squad Technician. The SLED emergency desk operator will connect you to the Bomb Technician.