

MISSOULA POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL



<i>Subject:</i> BOMB/HAZARDOUS DEVICE THREATS		
<i>Effective Date:</i> 3/29/2016	<i>Original Date:</i> 10/02/2001	<i>Next Review:</i> 4/1/2018
<i>Chapter</i> 10	<i>Policy #</i> 10.30	<i>Distribution:</i>
<i>References:</i>		

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to provide officers with a protocol for dealing with threatened bombings to include response, deployment, search, evacuation and assistance to specialized units.

II. Policy

While many bomb threats are later determined to be hoaxes, they all present particularly serious response requirements for law enforcement agencies. It is the policy of this 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.

III. Definitions

Bomb Threat: A bomb threat condition exists when an explosive device has been reported or is suspected to be at a given location. For purposes of this policy any reference to a bomb threat or bomb will also mean any other device designed to disperse a hazardous material such as a hazardous chemical, biological material or radiological material.

Bomb Emergency: A bomb emergency exists when a suspected or actual explosive device has been located or has been detonated.

IV. Procedures

A. Dispatch of the Threat

1. If dispatch is notified of a bomb threat by a victim, dispatch will contact the shift commander and notify them of the threat.
2. Dispatch will send an officer to the site of the threat.
3. Dispatches to bomb threats or emergencies will not be done by radio. They will be dispatched by telephone, unless emergency circumstances require a radio dispatch.

B. Responding Officers' Responsibilities

1. Responding patrol units shall use only landline telephones for communication within 1500 feet of the location in question. (Radio signals and cell phones may detonate some explosive devices).

******All cell phones must be turned off.******

2. The responding officer will contact the person in charge of the site to help coordinate a possible search and/or an evacuation of the site.
3. The responding officer will offer assistance in evaluating the threat if requested to do so. The officer should consider:
 - a. Whether previous threats have been received;
 - b. Possible motives and/or suspects;
 - c. Vulnerabilities of equipment and personnel;
 - d. Information given by the person making the threat
4. The responding officer will not order an evacuation based on a threat only.
5. The responding officer will contact the individual who received the threat, if they are available, to obtain additional information, to include:
 - a. The age and sex of the caller
 - b. Background noises heard during the call
 - c. Details about the bomb as far as when it will go off, what will set it off, where it is.
 - d. Other questions that might have been asked by the call taker

C. Searching for Hazardous Devices

1. 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.
 - a. If management or the responsible agent does not wish that a search be conducted, no further action of this agency is warranted with the exception of a report of the response and investigation.
 - b. Only in cases where a real or suspected explosive device has been detected shall an evacuation be conducted regardless of the desires of the building management.
2. Searches of target buildings shall be conducted by the employees or others knowledgeable of the contents and layout of the building.
 - a. A search plan may be developed identifying the extent of the search depending upon the type of establishment, the motivation of the perpetrator and accessibility of the building.

- b. A floor plan may be obtained whenever possible; the responding officer will help organize a systematic search of the premises.
 - c. In no case shall an officer 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. Under exceptional circumstances the responding officer, with approval of the shift commander, may request the assistance of the EOD with a search.
 3. When coordinating a search, the responding officer should be particularly alert to the following items as indicators that there may be explosives at the location. Officers should be cautioned that absence of the following does not assure there is no bomb present:
 - a. Explosives-related pamphlets, periodicals and books;
 - b. Excessive amounts of galvanized or PVC pipe nipples and end caps, especially if they have drill holes in the nipple or cap;
 - c. Low-explosive powders or other incendiary mixtures;
 - d. Fuses of any type to include homemade burning fuses, such as string soaked in a burning powder;
 - e. Electrical switches; and
 - f. Electrical matches, blasting caps or similar initiators
 - g. Grenade-type pins
- D. When a suspicious item has been located.
 1. The responding officer will order an evacuation and establish a perimeter.
 - a. The evacuation distance should be based on the chart at the end of this policy and the evacuees should be behind some kind of cover such as a brick wall.
 2. The responding officer will contact the shift commander and inform him that a suspicious package has been located.
 - a. The package will not be moved or in any other way disturbed
 - b. The surroundings where the package was located shall not be changed
 3. The shift commander will contact dispatch and have the EOD Team called out.
 - The shift commander will also request that the Tactical Emergency Medical team be called out along with the fire department for a standby.
 - The shift commander will notify the appropriate staff officer of the call out.
 - In the event that the EOD team is requested to respond out of county, a staff officer will be contacted for approval.

4. The shift commander or his designee will respond to the site and establish a command post.
 - The shift commander will designate an officer to talk to the press in a separate area if the press shows up.
 - The shift commander, and any other people with valid information will remain at the scene to brief the EOD team when it arrives.
 - The shift commander will follow the EOD team's recommendations for evacuation and other safety measures to be taken.









E. Post-Explosion Investigation

This agency's designated bomb disposal unit shall have primary responsibility for investigating the physical scene of a bombing incident, to include

1. Checking the site for unconsumed explosives or secondary devices;
2. Supervising evidence recovery in accordance with agency guidelines;
3. Requesting the assistance of other agencies to determine the nature and construction of explosives and the identification of perpetrators;
4. Coordination with intelligence operations of this agency, and those of state and federal sources; and
5. Assisting in the evaluation of evacuation procedures, area and perimeter security, the availability of emergency services and coordination with the incident commander
6. Completing and submitting all required reports.



BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CHART

Threat Description Improvised Explosive Device (IED)		Explosives Capacity ¹ (TNT Equivalent)	Building Evacuation Distance ²	Outdoor Evacuation Distance ³
	Pipe Bomb	5 LBS	70 FT	1200 FT
	Suicide Bomber	20 LBS	110 FT	1700 FT
	Briefcase/Suitcase	50 LBS	150 FT	1850 FT
	Car	500 LBS	320 FT	1500 FT
	SUV/Van	1,000 LBS	400 FT	2400 FT
	Small Moving Van/ Delivery Truck	4,000 LBS	640 FT	3800 FT
	Moving Van/ Water Truck	10,000 LBS	860 FT	5100 FT
	Semi-Trailer	60,000 LBS	1570 FT	9300 FT

1. These capacities are based on the maximum weight of explosive material that could reasonably fit in a container of similar size.
2. Personnel in buildings are provided a high degree of protection from death or serious injury; however, glass breakage and building debris may still cause some injuries. Unstrengthened buildings can be expected to sustain damage that approximates five percent of their replacement cost.
3. If personnel cannot enter a building to seek shelter they must evacuate to the minimum distance recommended by Outdoor Evacuation Distance. These distance is governed by the greater hazard of fragmentation distance, glass breakage or threshold for ear drum rupture.