

THE RALEIGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

1109-07

GENERAL RESPONSE TO BOMB THREATS

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to officers who respond to bomb threats at locations other than the Municipal Building complex. The procedure may also assist other parties who wish to coordinate their response to bomb threats with the Police Department.

VALUES REFLECTED

This directive reflects our values of *Service, Courage, and Integrity*. By following these instructions we will be prepared to act effectively during risks to the community posed by bomb threats. These actions will help us keep the people, in at-risk areas, safe while we work to secure areas and search for any suspect devices.

UNITS AFFECTED

All Divisions/Sworn Officers
Emergency Communications Center
Bomb Technicians

REFERENCES/FORMS

DOI 1107-03 "Municipal Complex / Police Facilities - Bomb Threats, Fires and Evacuations"

May be Released to the Public

Effective Date: 10-06-14
Prepared By: C.L. Deck-Brown
Chief of Police

Supersedes: 03-15-06
Approved By: Ruffin Hall
City Manager

GENERAL POLICIES

Locations which are subject to receive bomb threats should be encouraged to develop response plans for dealing with such threats.

Police officers should not assume authority for evacuating a premise. Officers may advise the owner on procedures to be followed in conducting evacuations or searches, but authority for carrying out those procedures remains with the owner.

RESPONSE TO BOMB THREATS

Upon report of a bomb threat, Emergency Communications will immediately return the call to confirm the initial call.

As a recommended guideline from the FBI Bomb Data Center, if a specific time is given for detonation, the *two hour* and the *thousand foot minimum safe distance* rules apply. Responding officers should establish appropriate perimeters and maintain a safe distance for a period of one hour before and until one hour after the specified time of detonation.

Dispatch of Units

Upon receipt of a bomb threat, Emergency Communications will dispatch the closest available unit and a police supervisor. They will also alert the Fire Department of the situation.

- Responding units may utilize radios, cell phones, and MCT's during a search, however if a suspected package is identified, all radio, cell phone, and MCT transmissions should stop within one (1) block of the suspected package. Radio transmissions can detonate electronic explosive devices.
- As soon as possible, after a suspected package is identified, the police supervisor should provide Emergency Communications with a land line telephone number through which further communications can be conducted.

Validity of the Threat

The person receiving the bomb threat should be interviewed immediately to determine the validity of the threat.

- The supervisor present should contact the Watch Commander by phone concerning the perceived validity of the threat.
- A decision to evacuate the premises should be left to the person in charge of the business or institute. A decision to evacuate may be made by the Watch Commander when the threat appears valid.
- If evacuations are necessary then the appropriate perimeter should be established.

SEARCHING FOR SUSPECT DEVICES

Unless a detonation is imminent, officers should offer to assist the property owner in searching the premises, regardless of whether an evacuation is ordered.

Buildings

Persons who are familiar with the building are more likely than police to spot foreign objects. The person in charge of the property should be asked to assist in coordinating the search.

- Personnel should check the exterior of the building first, including the ground adjacent to the building, window sills, stairs and fire escapes.
- Personnel should execute the search from the basement first, working upwards. All areas available to the public, including hallways, toilets, stairways, elevators and shafts, lockers, unsecured offices, storage areas, and removable ceiling tiles should be searched. Also, search personnel should check around and under vehicles.
- Workers should search their own areas thoroughly. They should not handle any suspicious object, but should report its location to the floor monitor.
- In conducting the search, personnel should first search the area from the floor to the waist, then from the waist to the head.
- Once an area has been searched and cleared, it should be secured to prevent re-entry.
- If necessary, Fire Department personnel may be requested to assist in extensive searches.

Vehicles

Patrol officers should not attempt to search vehicles. Instead, they should notify one of the bomb technicians. Many car bombs are wired to explode once a hood or door is opened. Vehicle searches should, therefore, only be conducted by properly trained persons.

Use of Canine Units

The Watch Commander should be contacted prior to utilizing on-duty canine units for bomb searches. Bomb technicians should be deployed in conjunction with explosive detection canine teams. The Watch Commander can authorize call-backs of off-duty canine units.

Locating Suspect Devices

If a suspect device is found, it must not be touched or disturbed. An accurate description of the device should be obtained and a bomb technician contacted.

If a suspect device is found, police security should be provided for the area of the device, and further evacuation should be conducted as required. The search should be continued for additional devices.

THREATS TO THE WAKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Wake County Sheriff's Office will handle all bomb threats against the courthouse or jail and will determine the extent of any evacuation. Emergency Communications should dispatch one officer to the Sheriff's Department to file a case report for Uniform Crime Reporting purposes.

Upon request of the Sheriff's Office, the Watch Commander will deploy officers according to the Emergency Fire Evacuation Plan for the Wake County Detention Center.