

General Order

Houston Police Department



ISSUE DATE:

May 23, 2018

NO.

600-36

REFERENCE: Supersedes all prior conflicting Circulars and Directives, and General Order 600-36, dated December 16, 2013

SUBJECT: BOMB THREATS, EXPLOSIVE DEVICES, EXPLOSIONS

POLICY

Employees shall handle suspected explosive devices and components, and explosions in accordance with the guidelines established in this General Order.

This General Order applies to all employees.

DEFINITIONS

Blast Seat. Point of detonation of a bomb or improvised explosive device (IED).

Bomb Squad Commander. The highest ranking classified police officer certified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Hazardous Devices School and assigned to, or a commander of, the HPD Tactical Operations Division Bomb Squad.

Bomb Technician. A classified HPD officer who has successfully completed the FBI Hazardous Devices School Basic Certification Course as approved by the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board and who is assigned to the HPD Bomb Squad.

CBRNE. The five categories of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) materials including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive.

Explosive Detection K-9 Team. A law enforcement canine handler and the canine partner with exceptional abilities selected and trained for the detection of explosive material odors.

Explosive Weapon. Any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket, or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror. Also includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting of an explosive weapon.

Improvised Explosive Device (IED). A device placed or fabricated in a makeshift manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract. It may incorporate military explosives, but is normally devised from nonmilitary components.



[REDACTED]



[Redacted]

Patrol Responsibilities

[REDACTED]

A bomb technician will not normally be dispatched to a threat-only scene, but can be requested in the event of unusual circumstances. An Explosive Detection K-9 Team shall be dispatched if requested by an on-scene supervisor or a bomb technician.

The Explosive Detection K-9 handler shall work with the on-scene supervisor and bomb technician to determine the most effective and safe way to deploy the K-9 team during the incident.

Patrol supervisors shall ensure that all information necessary for the incident report and continuing investigation is obtained and made available to the bomb technician immediately upon arrival at the scene. The patrol supervisor in charge of the scene shall ensure that the responding officer completes an original incident report and that the Command Center is advised of the *significant event* as directed in General Order 200-10, **Emergency Management**. The patrol supervisor shall complete a *Significant Event Report* for the Chief of Police regarding any explosion or the discovery of a suspected explosive device, component, or precursor and there is a criminal intent in its use.

Patrol officers shall coordinate any search but shall not enter a suspected area unless a suspicious object is found. Only personnel familiar with the area shall conduct a search of the suspected area. Only the property owner or the property agent may determine if total evacuation is necessary prior to a suspected explosive device being found.

Upon locating a suspected IED or any explosive weapon, the highest ranking classified HPD supervisor on the scene shall be responsible for evacuating the crime scene according to the standard minimum evacuation distance listed in the *General Guidelines* section of this General Order.

On-scene officers shall secure the evacuation area from all persons including fire department and law enforcement personnel unless, after consultation with a bomb technician, an alternative evacuation plan is established.

Officers are expected to exercise due caution and safety, and never act with undue haste or emotional behavior that might incite panic. Responding and on-scene officers shall conduct a search of their immediate assigned area (e.g., perimeter security, traffic control) for unusual or suspicious objects (e.g., secondary or entrapment devices) that may require the attention of a bomb technician.

Investigative Responsibilities

Upon arrival at the incident location, the senior bomb technician shall take charge of the scene and determine the necessary action to ensure safety for all persons present.

The Command Center shall be notified if it appears necessary to recommend the establishment of a command post.

The Bomb Squad in conjunction with other responsible divisions shall investigate all bombings, suspicious explosions, suspected explosive devices and materials, hoax devices, bomb threats, and related incidents. [REDACTED]

Criminal Intelligence Division (CID) Responsibilities

The on-call CID supervisor shall be notified by the Command Center of all bombings, bomb threats, or suspected or known explosive devices or materials.

CID shall support the Bomb Squad, Homicide Division, and any other responsible divisions or law enforcement agencies in the investigation of CBRNE incidents including bomb threats, explosive devices, and explosions. CBRNE incidents are detailed in General Order 600-41, **Weapons of Mass Destruction**.

CID shall complete an intelligence report for the Chief of Police regarding CBRNE incidents in which a device or substance is discovered and there is a criminal intent in use. This report shall include information regarding the initial investigation; the results of any laboratory analysis performed; any local, national, or world trends; and the probability of future threats. If deemed necessary, CID shall complete an intelligence report for the Chief of Police regarding CBRNE incidents in which no device or substance is discovered.

Outside Agency Notification and Jurisdiction

Upon recommendation from the on-scene bomb technician, Command Center personnel shall be responsible for the notification of any federal law enforcement agency or other outside agency of any bomb related incidents involving their jurisdictions.

Outside agencies shall normally be in charge of the follow-up investigation involving their jurisdictions. Requests from other agencies for assistance may be approved by only the assistant chief or designee over Homeland Security Command.

6 INTERNAL THREATS

Any employee upon learning of a bomb threat against an HPD facility shall immediately notify the Command Center.

The Command Center is responsible for implementing the emergency notification procedures as directed by General Order 200-10, **Emergency Management**.

The Command Center shall also notify ECD, Bomb Squad, and CID. An Explosive Detection K-9 Team shall be dispatched if requested by an on-scene supervisor or a bomb technician. The Explosive Detection K-9 handler shall work with the on-scene supervisor and bomb technician to determine the most effective and safe way to deploy the K-9 team during the incident. The Downtown Division commander shall be contacted as well as the on-duty Downtown Division supervisor. If it is after hours the Night Command Division commander shall be contacted.

Upon notification of a bomb threat at the Edward A. Thomas Building (Police Headquarters), the commanding officer of each division or unit in the Police Headquarters building shall be responsible for the search of his or her area as directed by Command Center personnel. Upon notification of a bomb threat at any other HPD facility, the commanding officer at that facility shall be responsible for search operations of the facility or area. The commanding officer shall utilize an Explosive Detection K-9 Team if necessary.

If a suspected bomb is located on any HPD property, the Command Center shall be notified immediately. The Command Center shall then follow their notification procedures including notifying the on-call bomb technician. An Explosive Detection K-9 Team shall be dispatched if requested by an on-scene supervisor or a bomb technician to help search for secondary devices. The possible blast radius of the initial device shall be taken into consideration when deploying a K-9 team or any additional personnel.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7 POST EXPLOSION (POST BLAST)

Officers responding to the scene of an explosion shall use caution by utilizing distance and shielding upon approach. Post blast scenes have many dangers (e.g., unconsumed explosives, fragmentation, shrapnel, structural instability, blood-borne pathogens). A primary danger could be secondary devices placed to harm first responders.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Post Incident Investigation

The Downtown Division shall initiate an incident report for any bomb related incident involving the Edward A. Thomas Building. It shall be the responsibility of the Central Division to initiate an incident report for any such incident at the Central Police Complex.

The Bomb Squad in conjunction with other concerned investigative divisions shall be responsible for conducting any follow-up investigations for the type of incidents outlined in this General Order.

Homicide Division shall be the primary division for post-blast investigations involving injuries or a death.

8 STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

All investigative and field operations shall be conducted in compliance with approved SOPs for bomb related incidents. Each unit having authority or responsibility in this area shall coordinate their SOPs with the Bomb Squad to ensure a high degree of consistency, operational readiness, safety, and appropriate search procedures.

[REDACTED]

9 RELATED GENERAL ORDERS

- 200-10, Emergency Management
- 600-05, Special Threat Situations
- 600-17, Response to Resistance
- 600-41, Weapons of Mass Destruction


Art Acevedo
Chief of Police