

12.300 INVESTIGATION OF BOMBS AND BOMB THREATS, DISPOSAL OF DANGEROUS WAR SOUVENIRS AND EXPLOSIVES

Reference:

Procedure 12.143 – Explosive Ordnance Detection Canine Operations

Definitions:

Terrorism - the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Terrorist Incident - a violent act, or an act dangerous to human life, in violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any State, to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof in furtherance of political or social objectives.

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of all citizens and public safety personnel in the area of suspected explosive devices.

Policy:

Officers will immediately respond and thoroughly investigate threats of bomb and explosive devices. Explosive Ordnance Detection (EOD) canines will conduct a thorough search of the premises when deemed necessary.

Information:

During large public events, i.e., Riverfest, stadium sporting events, etc., police officers should pay particular attention to unattended packages or packages in suspicious areas.

Procedure:

- A. Bomb Threats
 1. Immediately advise Police Communications Section (PCS) after receiving a bomb threat.
 - a. PCS will dispatch a beat car and a supervisor to the scene.
 2. Notify PCS of arrival before reaching a minimum 1000 feet (approximately two city blocks) from the bomb threat scene. Turn off all radios, mobile phones, Mobile Data Computers, and other types of electronic transmitting devices.

3. The first officer on the scene will consult with the person in charge of the property regarding evacuation. The person in charge of the property must decide to evacuate immediately or wait for a search before evacuation.
4. The on-scene supervisor will evaluate the situation and determine whether an EOD canine team should respond. A search of the premises can occur with or without evacuation.
 - a. When possible, use citizen volunteers familiar with the premises to assist in the search.
 - b. The EOD canine handler may assemble a search team consisting of other police officers and/or citizen volunteers. There will be a maximum of three persons on a team.
 - c. When possible, place officers at entrances and exits of buildings to stop and investigate suspicious individuals leaving the building and advise individuals entering the building of the situation.
 - d. Instruct personnel involved in the search not to touch suspicious objects or anything attached to them. Also instruct them not to interfere with the EOD canine and handler during the search and remain behind the handler.
 - e. List the areas searched on the Form 311G, Confidential Investigative Notes General.

B. Locating Suspicious Items or Bombs

1. If a police officer or a citizen identifies a suspicious package or explosive device, a police supervisor will determine if an EOD canine is to be utilized.
2. When finding suspicious items or possible explosive devices, the on-scene supervisor will evacuate all civilians at least 600 feet away from the suspicious object.
 - a. If it is impractical to evacuate civilians 600 feet away from a suspicious object or possible explosive device inside a building, evacuate a minimum of three floors above and below the object.
 - b. Officers should be aware there is always a possibility of secondary explosive devices.
 - 1) Supervisors should consider requesting an EOD canine team respond to sweep and clear the operational area of potential secondary devices.

3. Call PCS from a landline telephone at least 600 feet away from the object and request the Fire Department's EOD Disposal Unit.
 - a. PCS will notify the following:
 - 1) Fire Department EOD Unit.
 - 2) Criminal Investigation Section.
 - 3) Intelligence Section.
 - 4) Tactical Planning Unit.
 - a) A Tactical Planning Unit supervisor will evaluate the incident and activate the Terrorism Early Warning Group if it is determined to be a terrorist act or a potential terrorist act.
 - 5) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, if an actual explosive device is located or an explosion occurs.
 - 6) The Night Chief, when applicable.
 - 7) Utility services: Duke Energy, Cincinnati Water Works, Cincinnati Bell Telephone Company, if necessary.
 4. Assign officers to a mobile patrol ensuring all electronic transmitting devices within 1000 feet of the object are off.
 - a. Keep news representatives outside of 1000 feet of the object and advise them not to broadcast.
 5. Seal off the perimeter with an adequate number of police officers.
 6. Wait for the Fire Department's EOD Unit.
 - a. Once the Fire Department's EOD Unit is on scene, a designated team member will direct them to the location of the object.
- C. Bomb Disposal
1. Upon arrival, the ranking Fire Department supervisor will assume command of the operation and responsibility for the disposal of suspicious items or explosive devices.
 - a. Only Fire Department EOD personnel will operate within 300 feet of the object. They may request a larger or smaller evacuation area and will determine if military aid is necessary.

2. The Police Department will provide support personnel for area security and marked police vehicles for escorting the bomb disposal vehicle.
 - a. The Fire Department EOD Unit will determine the proper number and order of vehicles for bomb escorts.

D. Reports

1. The on-scene supervisor will ensure a Form 301, Incident Report, is completed for either:
 - a. Making False Alarms, 2917.32 Ohio Revised Code (ORC), (Bomb Threat) when there is no evacuation.
 - b. Inducing Panic, 2917.31 ORC, (Bomb Threat) when evacuation occurs.
2. The on-scene supervisor will submit a Form 17 to the Police Chief whenever an explosive device is found or an explosion occurs.

E. Dangerous War Souvenirs & Explosives

1. Whenever a police officer discovers or a citizen turns over any war souvenirs, live ammunition, dynamite, percussion caps, fuses, or other explosives and devices, the following applies:
 - a. Citizens will be advised they are relinquishing all property rights to the items surrendered, so as to prevent requests for the Department to deactivate and return souvenirs.
 - b. Each item will be considered potentially dangerous. Do not handle any explosive devices found.
 - c. An inquiry will be made as to whether anyone has attempted to deactivate the device, and this information will be forwarded to the Fire Department upon arrival.
 - d. If an officer discovers an explosive device on-scene, follow Sections A. through C. of this procedure.
 - e. If a citizen brings an explosive device to a police facility:
 - 1) Immediately turn off police radios.
 - 2) If the item is a war souvenir, it is safer to get the item outside and limit access to it until the Fire Department's EOD Unit arrives. An alternative is to evacuate the building and wait for EOD to respond.
 - 3) If an item appears to be a bomb or is suspicious, immediately evacuate the building.
 - 4) Notify PCS from a phone line to have the Fire Department respond to the scene.

- 5) Upon arrival, the ranking Fire Department supervisor will assume command of the operation and the responsibility for the disposal of suspicious items or bombs.