

JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-09 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Bomb Incidents	REVIEW DATE: Annually - October
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 24, 2011	ACTION DATE:
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: 10-09 October 31, 2008	AMEND DATE: February 15, 2011
ACCREDITATION INDEX: 46.1.2, 81.5.5 g	APPROVED:  Chief of Police

I. POLICY

Bomb threats and actual bomb emergencies present a serious threat to officers, the public, and to property. Law enforcement must be able to respond effectively to all bomb threats to ensure the public safety. Additionally, officers must be able to properly investigate bomb threat/bomb emergencies to apprehend those responsible. Officers shall display caution when responding to any bomb call: the evidentiary procedures that follow the discovery of a possible bomb or incendiary device are dangerous. For this order, a bomb threat or an actual detonation includes a class of offenses including arson, a detonation of a device, which emits hazardous or noxious fumes, or gas that threatens the health or safety of citizens, or extortion based on threats of assaults with explosives. (Refer to SOG 10-06 Unusual Occurrences and the City of Joplin Local Emergency Operations Plan, if applicable 46.1.2).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for handling bomb threats and actual bomb emergencies.

III. PROCEDURES (46.1.2)

A. Initial response

1. The investigating officer shall have the authority to implement this plan and shall assume command of the operation unless relieved by any other appropriate higher authority.
2. Bomb threats shall be investigated by patrol officers, while actual bombings require the assignment of investigators. The investigating officer may call out an investigator if the threat involves other crimes such as extortion or terrorism (see GO 2-22, criminal investigations).
3. Other agencies
 - a. If a possible explosive device is located, contact the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Bomb Disposal Unit at (573) 751-1000 or the Springfield Fire Department Bomb Disposal Unit at (417) 862-7911 / (417) 865-3624 / (417) 865-3617. When the device is part of a criminal investigation, the ATF's disposal unit may be called at (417) 864-4707.
 - b. For removal of any identified *military* chemical or explosive device, contact the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Unit at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, (573) 596-2818.

- c. Contact the FBI if a bombing or explosion has occurred, or terrorism is suspected. The FBI shall investigate bomb blasts in schools or at federal installations.

B. Duties and responsibilities of person receiving the call

The duties and responsibilities of the person receiving a bomb threat/bomb emergency call include the following:

1. Obtain as much information as possible such as:
 - a. the bomb's exact location;
 - b. the time set for detonation;
 - c. a description of the bomb;
 - d. the type of explosive or bomb; and
 - e. the reason for the bombing.
2. Notify dispatch and notify the chief of police (if a bombing has occurred).

C. Duties and responsibilities of the first responding officer

Upon notification by the dispatcher, the assigned officer shall respond immediately to the scene. Radios and cellular phones shall be turned off. Additionally, the first responder shall perform the following procedures:

1. Assess the situation and decide to notify a supervisor, command personnel, investigators, etc.
 - a. If a supervisor determines that a call back of additional officers is necessary, the dispatcher shall be instructed to do so.
 - b. Determine what outside agencies shall be notified or whose assistance must be requested such as fire, rescue, hospitals, the FBI, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, ATF, and/or Ft. Leonard Wood.
 - c. If a bomb is found, have the dispatcher contact the appropriate outside agency.
2. Interview the person who received the original call. All details, such as the caller's voice, mannerisms, background noises, and the time shall be noted. The time the call was received, and the time of detonation is most important. Play back of the tape recording of the bomb call (if one was made) may be necessary.
3. Instruct officers about traffic control in the general area.
4. Establish a security perimeter around the scene.
5. Coordinate the tasks of arriving outside agencies.

D. Duties and responsibilities of investigator

1. Upon arrival at the scene, the investigator shall assume responsibility for the completion of the preliminary investigation and begin a follow-up.

2. If an actual explosion has occurred, detailed investigation and crime scene processing shall await the arrival of the FBI or ATF as appropriate.

E. Evacuation

1. Upon receipt of a bomb threat, the building management must make the final decision to evacuate. The role of law enforcement is to provide information and recommendations that the management officials may use in making the evacuation decision.
2. If the decision is made to evacuate the building, officers may assist in the process.
3. If a building search reveals an explosive device, the on-scene supervisor shall order and organize an evacuation of the building.
4. All persons shall be evacuated to a distance of at least 300 feet from the bomb site. Elevators shall not be used during evacuation.
5. The on-scene supervisor shall set up a perimeter around the bomb site and shall prevent **anyone** from entering until bomb technicians have removed or defused the device.

F. Searching the premises

1. The decision to search a building is also a management decision, with officers providing recommendations. Since building employees are most familiar with the building and the space therein, part of the building management responsibility includes helping police/fire building search teams.
2. When the decision to search has been made, the on-scene supervisor shall designate search team(s) as needed, depending on the size of the area to be searched.
3. Officers shall coordinate the search to avoid repetition. Care shall be exercised, however, to impress upon the searchers the importance of not disturbing any suspected bomb that may be located. A floor plan of the building shall be obtained and made available for immediate reference. An explosives detection canine shall be utilized when available.
4. All areas open to the public shall be given special attention first: restrooms, trash receptacles, stair wells, elevator shafts, boiler rooms, fire extinguisher cabinets, and supply closets. Custodians shall be directed by their own supervisors, with law-enforcement assistance, to check their closets and storage areas for any unusual objects, and supervisors shall ask their subordinates to check their work areas for unusual objects.
5. Nothing shall be done to change the environment of the area searched, such as turning on light switches or thermostats until the area has been searched thoroughly using flashlights. **Do not use radios and do not smoke** when approaching or searching the area.
6. If time is a factor in the threat, recommend to management that the search be discontinued fifteen minutes before scheduled detonation time, and not to reenter the building for thirty minutes.
7. Never tell management personnel that their building contains no explosive devices. Tell them that the search revealed nothing but let them make any decisions concerning re-occupation of the building.
8. If a search reveals an unusual device or bomb, officers shall not try to disarm or move it in any manner. The explosive may contain an anti-disturbance device and should be approached only by explosive experts. The main concern is to safeguard lives by isolating

the area. A disposal team shall respond to handle the device with all necessary equipment to remove and destroy the bomb.

9. If the search reveals an unusual device or a bomb, the investigation officer or supervisor on the scene should request fire and ambulance to respond to the location and stand-by at a distance sufficient to protect personnel and equipment from possible blast damage.

G. Communications

1. Due to the danger of possible bomb detonation from radio transmissions all police radios and cell phones at the scene shall be turned off.
2. Communications between the supervisor and dispatch shall be by telephone or an officer can be sent several blocks away to transmit messages using the radio. (81.2.5 G)

H. If an explosion occurs

1. The on-scene supervisor shall seal off and protect the area until appropriate investigators arrive to begin scene processing. The supervisor shall establish a command post a safe distance from the scene.
2. Officers shall attend to injured persons.
3. Officers shall allow only emergency equipment and necessary personnel onto the scene. Except for investigators and emergency rescue personnel, no one shall be permitted to enter the scene for one hour following the explosion.
4. The on-scene supervisor shall assume that there are secondary devices that could be detonated and shall advise all arriving personnel of this possibility.

I. After-action report

1. The initial responding officer shall complete an incident report and all other officers shall contribute supplements to it as necessary.

IV. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

V. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.