

## BOMBS AND BOMB THREATS

**Page Number:** **Effective Date:** **Reviewed with No Changes:** **Supersedes Editions:**  
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### ***RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION – FIRE DEPARTMENT USE ONLY***

**Purpose:** *To maximize safety for the public and member of the fire department, if there is a bomb threat, or detonation of a suspected explosive device.*

**Background:** The vast majority of bomb threats are hoaxes designed to interrupt a building's operation. If the Okolona Fire Department is requested to the scene, the following procedures will be used. Additionally first responders may be an intended target.

**Procedure:**

#### **BOMB THREATS**

1. One apparatus and the duty officer is to respond to the location on a non-emergency run, unless otherwise directed by the fire department duty officer, or police officer in charge.
2. When the apparatus arrives, it shall park at least 300 feet from the area, or in different location if requested by the police officer at the scene. If more than one apparatus responds, then apparatus shall park at opposing corners.
3. Avoid parking near vehicles, since these may be, or contain, the device.
4. Crews are to remain with the apparatus until instructed otherwise.
5. Radios shall be used only for dire emergencies. Call "On Scene" at least 1/4 mile before arriving. Routine messages should be made face to face. Radio signals could cause detonations, thus radio activity or cell phone activity is dangerous. Cell phones shall not be used within at least 1/4 mile of the scene.
6. Under no circumstances will members of this department participate in a search for explosive devices. A search is best done by building occupants. They are in a better position to spot unusual items.
7. The fire department does not have the authority to order an evacuation of a building on a mere bomb threat. This is a decision for the building management. No recommendations are to be given.

#### **ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE - NO DETONATION**

1. Structure fire response to be made, using redlights and siren. Upon arrival, the units are to take positions at the corners, at least 300 feet from the affected structure. ***If a request for a standby is made by the police, who are already on scene, then only one (1) unit is to respond, and the response is made non-emergency unless otherwise requested by the police.***
2. When the apparatus arrives, it shall park at opposing corners, at least 300 feet from the area or as otherwise directed by the police officer in charge.

*Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.*

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3. Avoid parking near vehicles, since vehicles may be the device.
4. Crews are to remain with the apparatus. The fire department Incident Commander shall contact the on-scene police commander for a briefing on the situation, as well as a plan for fire department action.
5. Radios shall be used only for dire emergencies. Call "On Scene" at least 1/4 mile before arriving. Routine messages should be made face to face.
6. If not present, the police bomb squad shall be requested. A unified command system will be set up with police, using the Unified Command principle.
7. Fire department personnel shall comply with instructions of police bomb technicians.
8. If a suspected explosive device is brought to a fire station, the person shall be instructed to gently set down the device. An evacuation of at least 300 feet shall be made. The device reported to police and bomb technician response requested. No member of the fire department is to handle a suspected device for any reason.
9. Under the clear and present danger principle, the Incident Commander shall direct the management to order an evacuation of the building, when a suspected explosive device is discovered.
10. Gas, electric and water trouble crews shall be requested. If deemed necessary by the Bomb Technician, utilities shall be shut off.
11. The primary consideration is for the safety of life, both the public and the firefighters. Under no circumstances shall personal safety be jeopardized for the sake of property.
12. Coordination of all involved agencies is essential for safe control of the incident. Bomb Technicians are trained for these situations and their advice shall be heeded.

### **EXPLOSIONS AND DETONATIONS**

1. The primary concern on a post explosion incident shall be for the safety of the firefighters and other emergency personnel. Frequently one device will be detonated resulting in the response of emergency personnel. ***Additional devices may have been placed to cause injury to response personnel. Fire Department personnel shall act accordingly.***
2. If the police bomb technician is present, he or she should be asked for recommendations on further action. Entry should be made only in dire emergency, by a minimum of personnel.
3. All utilities shall be disconnected at the street.
4. Even if no fire is showing at least one unit should remain near a fire hydrant to lay supply lines.

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5. Fire Line tape shall be used to secure a large perimeter in consultation with assigned investigators.
6. No debris should be moved unless absolutely necessary to protect life.
7. Check footwear before leaving scene. It is possible evidence may be embedded in boots.
8. Except for official fire department documentation/reporting purposes, photographs or videos of the explosion/detonation scene shall only be taken with the verbal permission of the Law Enforcement Incident Commander.

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