



COMMERCE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guidelines

Subject: Explosive Threats

Reference Number: 6.03

Effective Date: 3/6/2014 **Last Date Revised:** 5/7/2015

Approved By: Chief Kevin Dean

Purpose: This guideline is intended to provide a very basic framework of action in the event a explosive device is reported or other tactical violence is threatened (terrorism). Terrorism incidents may include, but are not limited to, Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical and Etiological Incidents (Weapons of Mass Destruction or WMD). It must be noted that criminal incidents are primarily police matters, and the Fire Department is present in an advisory role and if the need for fire suppression or a Hazardous Materials response should become necessary.

Policy: All personnel responding to bomb scare and/or tactical violence (WMD) incidents shall respond non-emergency to minimize attention given to the incident, unless directed differently by law enforcement personnel or if known injuries are present. All personnel arriving at the given location shall stage a minimum of 500 feet from the reported building or area. *NFPA 472, Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents*, shall be considered as a reference for this guideline.

Communications:

Because the possibility exists that a bomb may be detonated by remote control, radio signals, mobile and portable radios shall not be used within 500 feet of the reported building or area. Communications shall be made with the use of runners relating information from the incident commander to the companies in the staging area. Communications to the dispatch center shall be made by cell phone or by mobile/portable radios located greater than 500 feet from the reported building or area.

Operations:

Life Safety is normally the First Priority. In the case of Tactical Violence (WMD), that priority may be best accomplished by isolating and investigating the situation first. Utilize ICS framework for reducing hazards and managing the resources. Establish a Unified command system as soon as possible. Identification and utilization of all resources available to assist CFD in tactical violence and terrorism incidents (WMD) shall be accomplished:

- Law Enforcement CPD, JCSO, FBI and ATF
- Local Emergency Management
- Military – National Guard
- Regional Hazardous Materials Team

Maintain the scene as a Crime Scene, preserve evidence and document observations.

Maintain awareness for malicious causes at Mass Casualty Incidents as multiple patients with common symptoms may be the first sign of a possible threat.

Be aware of secondary devices meant to harm responders.

Minimize exposure to responders by the maximum use of PPE, controlled/limited entry/exit for tasks and staging of resources at a safe distance.

Establish, at least, a basic decontamination zone at any suspected incident. Perform a continual size-up and protect personnel accordingly.

Bomb Threats:

First arriving engine companies shall prepare to connect to hydrants and lay out, should the need arise. The incident commander shall meet with all parties involved with the incident. The decision to evacuate shall be made by the company owners, authorized representatives, or the company or by the City of Commerce Police Department or Jackson County Sherriff's Department; not by the Commerce Fire Department. Should detonation occur with fire, concentration should be made to contain the fire and the rescue of trapped persons.

Safety:

All members are to be in full protective clothing including SCBAs until otherwise informed by the On-scene Commander. At no time, shall Fire Department personnel be engaged in searching for bombs, incendiary devices, or similar devices. CFD personnel may be used to accompany qualified individuals who are searching for items that are "out of place" or unusual. If a potential or suspicious device is spotted or discovered, there should be no attempt to move that device by CFD personnel. Should a bomb detonate, additional caution should be used. A second bomb may detonate, designed to cause injury to emergency response personnel.