

GENERAL ORDER

08/03/94

BOMB THREATS, DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES, EXPLOSIONS

This order establishes policies, and outlines procedures for officers to follow when confronted with bomb threats, destructive devices, or explosions.

I. DEFINITION

A destructive device is any device defined in Penal Code Section 12301 which includes any bomb, explosive, military ordnance, or incendiary device.

II. POLICY

A. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL UNIT

1. **RESPONSE.** The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit (EOD) shall respond to the scene of a suspected undetonated device.
2. **DISARMING.** Disarming of all suspected devices is the sole responsibility of designated EOD personnel.
3. **SEARCH.** EOD personnel will provide assistance as requested at the scene; however, they are not to conduct routine searches.

B. E.O.D. COMMAND AUTHORITY. The EOD shall be under the authority of the officer-in-charge at the scene, except during the rendering safe procedure, when handling a suspected device, or when gathering physical evidence. During these times, the E.O.D. shall be under the direct command of its commander or supervisory officer.

C. HANDLING AND STORAGE

1. **HANDLING/DISCRETION.** Only officers designated by the Chief of Police shall touch, tamper with, transport, or store any suspected device, explosive or military ordnance. No explosive matter, either liquid or solid, may be brought into any police facility unless it has been designated as a destructive device storage facility. EOD personnel will have full discretion in determining what procedure is appropriate for the situation and deciding what methods to use. EOD personnel will evaluate, render safe, transport, and dispose or store destructive devices.

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2. **EVIDENCE.** EOD personnel will preserve and collect all destructive device evidence. Firebombs and incendiary devices will be rendered safe by the EOD, but collected and preserved by the Arson Task Force. All evidence, except for explosive, flammable or unstable materials, will be booked as property for identification and forwarded to the Property Control Section.

III. PROCEDURES

A. BOMB THREATS

1. **PATROL OFFICERS' DUTIES.** When arriving at the scene of a bomb threat, follow these procedures:
 - a. **INVESTIGATION/REPORT.** As the first officer arriving at the scene of a bomb threat, it is your responsibility to make the initial investigation and incident report.
 - b. **SEARCH.** Search or ensure a search is made for a destructive device. If specialized search procedures or technical advice is needed, contact the EOD Unit.
 - c. **EVACUATION.** Unless a device is located, do not order an evacuation of the affected area; however, you may inform the person in charge of the property of the need to evacuate. If the owner should decide to order an evacuation, assist him/her with the evacuation.
 - d. **NOTIFICATIONS.** When the threat involves a dignitary or a sensitive target, notify the Special Investigations Division during business hours, or the Operations Center at other times.

B. DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES

1. **PATROL OFFICERS' DUTIES.** If a suspected explosive device is discovered, immediately notify the Communications Division and request that a supervisor respond to the scene. Use a telephone to make this notification; do not use a radio (PIC or low band).

2. OFFICER-IN-CHARGE DUTIES

- a. **COMMAND POST/EVACUATION.** Establish a command post, evacuate the affected area if necessary, and maintain security. The authority to evacuate is Penal Code Section 409.5. Before ordering the evacuation, determine the "affected area" in consultation with the responsible person whose property is affected, taking into consideration the possible destruction the device could cause, the number of people involved, and the possible hazards involved in the evacuation.
 - b. **ESCORT/TRAFFIC CONTROL.** When requested by the EOD Unit, provide the necessary officers for escort or traffic control while EOD personnel are transporting bomb devices or explosives to the magazine or to a safe area for storage or disposal.
3. **UNASSIGNED UNITS.** All police units not specifically assigned to the scene shall stay out of the immediate area.

C. BOMB EXPLOSIONS

1. **MEDICAL ASSISTANCE/EVACUATION.** If an explosion occurs, obtain medical assistance for the injured, evacuate buildings as necessary and control crowds.
2. **COMMAND POST/NOTIFICATION.** A command post shall be established and the Communications Division notified (see DGO 8.01, Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification).
3. **INCIDENT REPORT.** District station officers shall make the initial incident report.

References

DGO 8.01, Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification
Event Management Manual, SFPD