

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 8

Standard Operating Procedures

90.05.02
SPECIAL OPERATIONS,
BOMB THREATS,
AND INCIDENTS



Adopted: 12/20/16
Reviewed: 11/09/22
Revised: 00/00/00
Approved: Lonnie J. Rash

Purpose: To provide guidelines for responding to incidents of bomb threats and/or bombings.

References: N/A

Procedure:

1. Bomb Threat Guidelines.

- a) Fire District 8 will respond to a reported bomb threat when dispatched or requested by a law enforcement agency.
- b) The District will assist with the evacuation of personnel and securing the scene, but shall not be involved with the search for a bomb or the removal of any device.
- c) When responding to a bomb threat the incident commander will stage all apparatus a minimum of 500 feet or one city block from the suspected bomb site, and then make contact with the person in charge. This usually should be a law enforcement officer, but could be a school principal, a business owner/occupant, or a manager.
- d) After contacting the person in charge and making a size up, the incident commander will set reasonable objectives and tactics to protect the lives of the citizens and the firefighters.
- e) Mobile radios, portable radios, or cell phones should not be used for transmission within 300 feet of any suspected bomb as the transmission could cause detonation.

2. Bombing Incident or Bomb Found Guidelines.

- a) A structural first alarm assignment will be dispatched for a bomb found or a bombing incident.
- b) Gather as much information as possible from the dispatch center or units operating on the scene. "Early" information should be used to determine initial "stand-off" distances.
- c) The Fire District will assist with the evacuation of occupants and securing the scene, but fire personnel shall not be involved with the search for a bomb or the removal of any device.
- d) When actual devices or explosives (Class A or B) have been located, identify a 1600 foot isolation perimeter for staging personnel and apparatus, and relay coordinates via radio (providing communications is at least 300 feet from the hazard).
- e) If the type of explosives has not been determined and evacuation of occupants is necessary, the Incident Commander shall stage all apparatus a

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minimum of 500 feet, or one city block, from the suspected bomb site. The IC will make contact with the person in charge of the occupancy and the in-charge law enforcement officer. After contacting the person in charge and making a size up, the Incident Commander will set reasonable objectives and tactics to protect the lives of the citizens and the firefighters within these guidelines, and other nationally recognized standards.

- f) If a device is found, do not intervene. Carry out only essential tasks that support public protection measures, maintain defensive posturing, and use the minimum number of personnel to achieve the task.
- g) Deny access to the immediate hazard area. Attempt to control main points of entry such as streets, and front and rear access to structures; do not rely on banner tape to restrict movement of people; request law enforcement assistance for such a task.
- h) Utilize the highest level of personal protective equipment available, structural firefighting clothing will offer limited protection from shrapnel and cut hazards, use protective clothing and breathing apparatus when operating inside the hazard area.
- i) Restrict/discontinue radio, cellular, and mobile data terminal (MDT) communications within 300 feet of explosives. Radio transmitters can create a field of electric energy sufficient enough to trigger electric blasting caps. Low frequency transmissions are more dangerous; use the following distances as a general guide:

<u>Transmitter Wattage</u>	<u>Stand-off Distance (Feet)</u>
5 - 25	100
50 - 100	220
100 - 250	450

- j) When possible, prevent exposure of explosives to excessive ambient heat.
- k) Request additional assistance early (greater alarms). When all resources have been committed, identify the type of technical help needed (i.e. HAZMAT, Tech Rescue, radiological, etc.).
- l) Assure law enforcement is controlling access to the outer perimeter and providing for evacuation.
- m) When establishing staging areas, consider using structures and natural barriers (topography) that can provide blast protection; plan for reflecting the over-pressure of the explosion; stay upwind.

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- n) Staging areas and evacuation refuge areas should be located away from any building containing large amounts of glass, and away from line-of-sight of the target.
- o) Identify water supply sources and prepare to establish supply lines for firefighting operations.
- p) If explosives are involved with fire, do not attempt to fight the fire, isolate the area and protect exposures (preferably with unmanned monitors). The isolation distance will depend on presenting conditions and type of material; prepare to isolate for distances up to 5,280 feet (1 mile) in all directions.
- q) Never attempt to handle or move explosives without specialized training. Bomb technicians shall be called upon to manage the hazard.
- r) Identify potential locations for medical treatment stations.
- s) If detonation has occurred, estimate the number, status, and condition of any victims and initiate MCI protocols.
- t) Identify the type of rescue level that is needed for entrapped victims, such as light, medium, or heavy rescue support.
- u) Establish a unified command and activate a personnel accountability system, clearly identify the person responsible for command and the location of the command post. Attempt face-to-face meetings to protect from “outside” eavesdropping.
- v) After evaluating the scene (size-up) communicate a situation report to the dispatch center and incoming command staff (preferably by cellular phone, MDT, land line, or face-to-face).
- w) Important: A secondary explosive device may be set to explode after the arrival of public safety personnel. **Use Caution.**