

Standard Operating Procedures Manual
City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue



**City of Poquoson
Fire and Rescue**

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS

SOP#: SO 7.00

Title: Explosive Device Incidents

Effective Date: 01/01/2009

Revised Date: 01/01/2009



Fire Chief's Signature



City Manager's Signature

EXPLOSIVE DEVICE INCIDENTS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to establish procedures governing the response to bomb threats as well as incidents involving suspicious packages, items, and/or possible explosive devices.

This SOP is not all-inclusive and cannot encompass all situations that may be encountered.

II. APPLICABILITY

All career and volunteer personnel

III. POLICY

The response and investigation of bomb threats is the responsibility of the Police Department. If requested, the Fire Department will assist the Police Department in a support capacity.

IV. PROCEDURES

Upon Arrival on Scene

- Establish Command and an Incident Command Post (ICP) in accordance with the Incident Command System. The ICP should be located a minimum of 500 feet from the suspect package/item. It should be noted that this distance might need to be increased depending on the size or location of the package, or at the discretion of the Police or Bomb Squad personnel. Consideration should be given to establishing a Unified Command structure and positions expanded to meet the needs of the Incident.
- **At locations where previous threats or suspected packages have occurred, the ICP shall be established in a different location each time.**
- Fire Department units will immediately report to Incident Commander upon arrival on scene.
- **Immediately upon arrival TURN OFF ALL RADIOS AND CELLULAR PHONES within 300 feet of the scene or location of the suspected device. Utilize a regular telephone for communication purposes. Do not smoke within 300 feet.**
- Utilizing scene tape, establish a safety perimeter of 500 feet from the suspect package/item. Prohibit all citizens, and Police and Fire Personnel from entering the secured area. Buildings and/or structures within the secured area shall be evaluated to determine the need for the evacuation and safety of the occupants. The area within the 500 foot area will be considered a "hot zone".

- If the Police Department makes the decision to evacuate, occupants should be advised not to secure rooms, close windows or doors, turn off lights etc. Rooms should be left in their existing condition. Where there is imminent danger (device is found, or the Incident Commander has sufficient evidence to believe a device does exist) evacuation shall be immediate and orderly.
- Keep EVERYONE outside of the hot zone until a Bomb or Hazardous Device Technician arrives on scene.
- Prepare for the arrival of responding Bomb Squad personnel.
- Once a device is found ONLY personnel requested by the Bomb Technician/Hazardous Device Technician will be allowed to enter the hot zone.
- A good rule of thumb when dealing with suspected devices is, "If you can see it, it can see you." This means that you are vulnerable to injury if the device detonates.
- If an unusual device or bomb is found by fire units operating on an emergency scene, do not attempt to disarm it or move it in any manner. The area should be immediately evacuated. The explosive may contain a motion-detecting device, and should be approached **only** by explosive experts.
- If necessary, Bomb Squad personnel along with the Incident Commander (IC) shall coordinate and determine the most direct and safe route to an explosive disposal range.
- The scene should be searched for secondary devices. This shall include both the immediate area around the ICP as well as the area beyond the safety perimeter. Explosive

Detection Canine(s) should be utilized for this purpose when possible.

- Fire and Police personnel shall not move or touch the suspected package/item under any circumstances.
- If the IC determines that the incident involves Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN)/Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) materials, they shall upgrade the response and establish the appropriate WMD incident response level.

Post Blast Scene

- Hazardous Device Technicians will clear the scene of remaining explosives before anyone enters the blast area. The scale of each incident will determine how the investigation shall be handled. Any Post Blast Scene might contain any or all of the investigative teams listed below.
- Notify dispatch and appropriate Police Department Personnel to provide initial scene security. This may require several officers since a post blast scene can involve several blocks. **NOTE: The first arriving unit (s), either fire or police should be aware of secondary devices and a search of the area should be done.**