



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 208

GENERAL ORDERS

HAZARDOUS DEVICE INCIDENTS

PURPOSE:

This general order establishes policy and procedure for hazardous device incidents and the Hazardous Device Team response.

**HAZARDOUS DEVICE
TEAM:**

The Greenville County Sheriff's Office has several deputies trained as Hazardous Device Technicians serving as members of the Hazardous Device Team. Hazardous Device Team responsibility is in addition to regular assigned duty.

The Hazardous Device Team is responsible for:

1. Conducting preliminary and post-blast investigations in the event of explosions and bombings.
2. Investigating hazardous devices and explosives.
3. Investigating related hazardous incidents, as needed.

Additionally, Hazardous Device personnel handle, transport, and dispose of all hazardous devices. If needed, Hazardous Device personnel will request additional help from Identification personnel and/or Local, State and Federal agencies.

**HAZARDOUS DEVICE
CALL-FOR-SERVICE:**

Notification of Device or Bomb Threat - Responding beat deputy and Uniform Patrol supervisor are to proceed to incident location.

Radio Contact - All radio and cell phone transmissions are to cease within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the incident location.

Communications is to be notified by responding deputies of their location prior to entering a one-quarter (1/4) mile radius of the incident location and their intention to cease radio traffic.

Arrival at Scene:

1. Upon arrival, locate and interview a person of authority or the complainant.
2. Locate a landline telephone.
3. Contact Communications and provide preliminary information.

Determine if a search is underway or completed. If a search has not been started, recommend they immediately conduct a search using supervisory, custodial, or similar persons familiar with the location's layout and day-to-day make-up. Advise you will stand-by until a satisfactory search is completed. Advise a person of authority that

conducting a search of the premises is their responsibility and it is Sheriff's Office policy not to actively participate in the search operation unless required by exigent circumstances.

Search:

1. Deploy searchers to cover the exterior and interior of the premises as quickly as possible.
2. A Uniform Patrol supervisor will assess the need for establishing a command post with telephone connections. If a post is established, search teams are to be made aware of this location and the telephone number.
3. If the threat indicated the location of the bomb, it should be checked first.
4. If no device location was indicated, recommend the following priorities:
 - Building exterior.
 - Public access areas, i.e., lobbies, restrooms, etc.
 - Stairwells.
 - Engineering space, including janitorial closets and lockers.
 - Areas normally occupied by employees are the least likely and should be searched last.
5. Business staff should maintain a supervisory role, unless circumstances dictate their more active participation to successfully complete the search.

Suspicious package or device is located:

1. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SUSPICIOUS OBJECT.**
2. Secure a minimum three hundred-foot (300) to one thousand-foot (1000) radius surrounding the suspicious object.
3. Contact Communications by phone and request the Hazardous Device Team.

Evacuation - The only public safety person who has the authority to order an evacuation of any building, street, or neighborhood is the Fire Chief or his designee. If a Deputy arrives on scene before the Fire Department, they may render the area safe of bystanders and/or motorist. Once the Fire Department arrives at the scene, their OIC will take control of any evacuation order and the Sheriff's Office will provide whatever assistance is necessary.

1. The decision to evacuate the premises is usually a managerial decision made by the owner. Whoever has the responsibility must be aware that it is a mistake to move a large number of people unless complete control of the situation is maintained. The decision to evacuate should take into consideration various factors: The source of information about the threats.
2. Is this the first time or have there been repetitive threats, searches and evacuation?
3. Are employees or students excused from work or school because of such threats?
4. Did a first bomb call, followed by evacuation, possibly precipitate a second bomb threat?
5. The size of the building, number of occupants and type of occupancy are other factors in determining whether to evacuate.

These considerations assist in evaluating the validity of threats.

**COMMAND POST AND
PERSONNEL
NOTIFICATION:**

A command post is set-up outside of the three hundred-foot (300') radius.

Communications is contacted by way of telephone and advised to notify the following:

1. Hazardous Device Team.
2. Watch Commander.
3. Local fire department and Emergency Medical Service and request their presence at the incident scene.

As circumstances dictate and at the discretion of the watch commander, the following individuals may also need to be notified:

1. Sheriff
2. Chief Deputy
3. Majors
4. Commander of Uniform Patrol

Communications is to request all responding personnel to cease radio transmissions within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the incident location. A landline telephone is used to acknowledge their arrival at the incident location.

**TRAFFIC AND
CROWD CONTROL:**

The Uniform Patrol supervisor at the scene is in charge of traffic control, crowd control and evacuation, in compliance with requests from Hazardous Device personnel.

No one is permitted within the three hundred-foot (300') radius without permission from Hazardous Device personnel.

DEVICE DISARMAMENT**AND MOVEMENT:**

The Hazardous Device Team is responsible for directing all activities in relation to the hazardous device.

**POST-EXPLOSION
PROCEDURES:**

The scene itself is handled according to the level of damage and/or casualties present. Extensive damage may necessitate implementation of the Incident Command System.

Hazardous Device Team personnel are responsible for insuring a cooperative effort is made with ATF and local forensic evidence technicians to coordinate crime scene recovery of physical evidence.

**HAZARDOUS DEVICE
TEAM MANUAL:**

The Hazardous Device Team maintains a manual that dictates the more technical aspects of hazardous device response reserved for certified hazardous device technicians. The manual includes procedures regarding the security and accountability of explosives used for investigative or training purposes.


Hobart Lewis, Sheriff