



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 245

GENERAL ORDERS

HOMICIDE BOMBER

PURPOSE:

The preservation of life and protection of property will be the foremost considerations of the Sheriff's Office in the event of a homicide bomb threat or a suspected homicide bomb threat. This includes the life of the suspected bomber. Upon containment and stabilization of the situation, the Sheriff's Office will assume the following additional responsibilities:

- Assist in the evacuation of persons from the scene.
- Assist in the evacuation of the injured or dead.
- The security and preservation of the crime scene.
- The security and preservation of damaged buildings and structures.
- Conducting criminal investigations regarding the incident.
- Pedestrian and vehicular traffic control.

NOTE – A homicide bombing is an act of terrorism and falls under federal statutes and control. In the event of a homicide bombing incident, the local offices of the FBI and ATF will be immediately notified.

DEFINITIONS:

HOMICIDE BOMBER - The term homicide bomber replaces what had been called a suicide bomber, since the bomber's intent is to commit murder, not suicide. The homicide bomber retains a "readiness mind set and commitment" to sacrifice his or her life in an attempt to destroy a target to advance a political goal. The bomber's objective is to kill and injure as many people as possible through the detonation of explosives concealed on his or her body and/or through the use of secondary devices.

REASONABLE SUSPICION - Also known as articulable suspicion. Suspicion that is more than a mere hunch, but is based on a set of articulable facts and circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that a crime has been committed, or is in the process of being committed, by the person or persons under suspicion. This can be based on the observations of a deputy combined with his or her training and experience, and/or reliable information received from credible outside sources.

PROBABLE CAUSE - Articulable facts exist that would cause a reasonable and trained deputy (or person of similar training and experience) to form an honest and strong suspicion that the person to be arrested has committed a crime.

TACTICAL ADVANTAGE (POSITION) – A position that provides significant advantage in the overall observance of an assigned area and/or possible threat.

LEGAL REVIEW:

REASONABLE SUSPICION TO DETAIN – This policy is cross-referenced with General Order 235; therefore, the prohibited profiling behavior of General Order 235 will apply to this order.

When developing reasonable suspicion, consider the following factors:

1. Location
2. Manner of dress
3. Suspect's overall appearance, actions, and demeanor

PROBABLE CAUSE TO USE FORCE - This policy is cross-referenced with General Order 205; therefore, the force requirements of General Order 205 will apply to this order.

There is no exception to the law or Sheriff's Office policy when encountering a suspected or confirmed homicide bomber. A deputy may not use lethal force to stop someone who is "merely" suspected of being a homicide bomber. **The deputy must have probable cause to believe the suspect is presenting an immediate threat to life before deadly force can be utilized.** If a deputy observes an explosive device attached to the suspect, and believes the suspect presents an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to him or herself, or others, deadly force is justified.

*NOTE – A homicide bomber may wear the explosive device on the upper torso in the form of a belt or vest. **Weapon impact in this area could trigger a detonation.***

HOMICIDE BOMBING CHARACTERISTICS:

HOMICIDE BOMBER - These characteristics are not all-inclusive, but may be utilized to establish reasonable suspicion to identify and detain potential homicide bombers; however, **deputies should look for more than characteristics when making their initial observations before drawing conclusions of reasonable suspicion of a homicide bomber.**

Clothing:

- Manner of dress is chosen to conceal a bomb.
- Occasionally dressed as woman (pregnant).

- Inappropriate clothing for warmer temperatures.
- Will be baggy, ill fitting, unusually long or heavy.
- Overly elegant.
- Disguised to blend into community surroundings.
- Stolen uniforms.

Physical:

- Blank stare, wide-eyed, unresponsive, perspiring or preoccupied.
- Gaunt appearance (may look ill).
- Smiling or grinning (possibly due to thinking about the rewards in afterlife).
- Muttering or talking to self (saying a prayer).
- Any other stress-related symptoms associated with imminent death.

Peculiar characteristics that may be present because of the concealed bomb:

- Torso appears unusually bulky or inflated.
- Unusual or suspicious bulges.
- Torso appears stiff, or lacks flexibility.
- Uneven gait, difficulty walking.
- Visible explosive-laden belts, protruding from under clothing.
- Carrying a heavy or unbalanced backpack, suitcase, box or knapsack.
- Switch wire hanging from the sleeve.

The following are less common, but also may be present:

- Possibly clean or freshly shaven – face and body, closely cropped hair. This is a ceremonial religious act that has become less common since it makes homicide bombers easy to identify.
- Herbal or chemical smell emitting from the person due to the presence of poison(s) added to the device.

EXPLOSIVE EVENT:

1. Secondary devices may have been deliberately placed to impact first responders.
2. Additional suspects may be in position to remotely detonate the bomb.

3. The post blast crime scene will be bloody, chaotic, and require the use of PPE.

PROCEDURE:

COMMUNICATIONS – Because there will be very little time for law enforcement intervention if the suspect is indeed a homicide bomber, Call Takers and Communications Specialists should:

1. Keep the caller on the line during the field response.
2. Obtain as much detailed information as possible.
3. Obtain detailed suspect description and specific location.
4. Obtain specific details concerning the direct knowledge of the caller as to why the suspicious person is believed to be a homicide bomber.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS - There is no precise formula for interdicting a homicide bomber; however, in all situations, deputy and public safety must remain paramount. When confronted by a possible homicide bomber in light of the totality of the circumstances, the following tactics should be **considered**.

NOTE – “Close and negotiate” tactics should not be attempted. The desire of the suspect is not suicide; it is homicide. Suspects will attempt to detonate their device if they believe they have been discovered. Switches have been on the chest area or held in the hands. Terrorist devices had made use of cell phones for command detonation. Do not discount the fact that the bomb may have a “fail safe” cell phone initiator so an observer could detonate the explosives should the bomber be incapacitated. The standard police tactic of closing distance on a “suicide” suspect to reason with him or her will only increase the probability that deputies will become homicide victims. The homicide bomber is not despondent. He or she may be religiously motivated to the point of fanaticism so attempting rational negotiations may be futile.

SEPARATION DISTANCE (safe distance from a blast) – Safe separation distances from the suspect or suspect’s vehicle must be maintained at all times. Safe distances are a minimum estimate on the surrounding structures and type of explosive if a blast occurs. The absolute minimum public evacuation distance is 900 feet (300 yards).

OTHER DISTANCE ESTIMATES IF BLAST OCCURS:

1. Minimum 350 feet radius expect “**blast fragmentation**”
2. Minimum 200 feet from detonation can result in “**moderate injuries**”
3. Minimum 100 feet from detonation can result in “**serious injuries**”

4. Minimum 50 feet from detonation can result in “**severe injuries or death**”

NOTE – These are minimum distances to serve as a guideline and should be adjusted to fit the circumstances as presented. Remember serious blast injury or death is possible outside of all of the above estimated minimum safe distances.

INITIAL RESPONDING DEPUTIES – Deputies should not approach the suspect’s location displaying blue lights and sounding sirens. A quick but discreet “robbery in progress” approach affords the best chance of not alerting the suspect and will allow deputies to choose the approach that will maximize an opportunity to intervene. A foot approach provides deputies with the ability to maintain a safe distance between themselves and the suspect. There are three general objectives to be achieved by the initial responding deputies and all three are to be accomplished in the following sequence:

1. Control/contain the suspect.
2. Protect the public.
3. Look for secondary devices or suspects.

NOTE – On communicating over the radio near a suspected explosive device, a radio transmitter can detonate an electric blasting cap. The more powerful a radio transmitter, the larger the area over which it can detonate an electrical blasting cap; see General Order 208.

If the suspect is aware of the deputy’s presence:

1. Assume cover and maintain a tactical advantage.
2. Do not approach suspect.
3. Maintain a reasonable (safe) standoff distance.
4. Request assistance.
5. Deploy responding deputies to covered positions.
6. Order the suspect to stop all movement.
7. Warn bystanders in the area to leave immediately.

If the suspect complies with the contact deputy’s direction to stop:

1. Have the suspect open the palms of both hands and demonstrate that nothing is contained within them.
 2. Have the suspect turn around and raise the outer garment to neck level.
 3. Once the suspect’s hands and waist area are visible and nothing of a suspicious nature is observed, the contact deputy may order the suspect into a High Risk Kneeling or High Risk
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Standing Position until arrival of the Hazard Device Team.
Avoid the High Risk Prone Position, since bomb switches may be located on the chest or waistband area of the suspect.

4. Deputies should remain in a position of cover and evacuate any bystanders.
5. Request the Hazardous Device Team.

If the suspect does not comply with the contact deputy's direction to stop:

1. Continue to warn bystanders to leave the area.
2. Maintain a position of cover and monitor the actions of the suspect.
3. Based on the actions of the suspect, (i.e. the deputies have established probable cause to believe the suspect is in possession of an explosive device) and they believe the suspect represents an immediate threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others, deputies may utilize deadly force to stop the suspect.
4. If the suspect is believed to no longer present a threat, deputies should stop and detain the suspect, and conduct an investigation.

When a suspect has been neutralized:

1. Do not approach the suspect.
2. Do not allow others to approach the suspect.
3. Immediately evacuate the area (the explosive device may still be detonated by other means).
4. Deputies should maintain a minimum of 300 feet on all sides of the bomber.
5. Seek and maintain cover.
6. Await the arrival of the Hazardous Device Team.

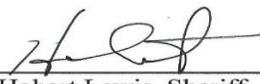
Traffic Stop of Suspect Homicide Bomber:

1. Contact communications and notify them of the impending stop or contact and location.
2. Provide communications with a complete description of the vehicle and occupants.
3. Communications shall notify the Hazardous Device Team to respond to the scene.
4. The traffic stop should be conducted in an area to minimize injury and damage if a detonation should occur.
5. Once the vehicle has been stopped all occupants should be removed and secured away from the vehicle.

6. Establish a perimeter, maintain the crime scene. *No one other than a Hazardous Device Team is to search and clear the vehicle.*

The Hazardous Device Team will be in charge of checking the vehicle and rendering safe any found explosives. The Hazardous Device Team supervisor will coordinate with the on scene Incident Commander.

ALL HAZARDS PLAN: In the event of a bomb blast, the on scene Incident Commander is responsible for implementing disaster guidelines as established in the All Hazards Plan.



Hobart Lewis, Sheriff