

## **BLOOMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

#### **HANDLING BOMB THREATS**

Reviewed by: Lt. Clayton Arnold	Effective Date: February 27, 1990
Authorized by: Chief Daniel Donath	Revision Date: November 12, 2019

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this SOP is to give the officer guidelines for responding to a bomb threat or actual bombing incident.

#### **PROCEDURE**

When an Officer is dispatched to a bomb threat or actual bombing the Officer should acknowledge the call via radio. Once the Officer is in close proximity to the target location the Officer will turn off his radios along with cell phone, MDC, and any other RF (Radio Frequency) device he may have. The officer should notify dispatch that he will be off the air until the situation has been made secure. This is done to reduce the chance of the aforementioned equipment detonating an explosive device if an actual device exists.

The Bloomington Police Department, when contacted by whatever means, will assist and offer guidance to facilities and individuals toward which such a threat was targeted. This Department will not make a decision to evacuate a facility/institution or structure. This decision will rest with the management or owner of the facility.

When a bomb threat or related threat is received by the Department, it will be the responsibility of the person receiving the initial report to glean as much information as possible from the reporting party. If possible, and if necessary, the incoming call should be traced as soon as possible by the telephone company.

If the initial call is received by this Department from a means other than the threatened establishment, this Department will contact the targeted facility via the fastest means and notify the authorities of the specifics of the situation. At the same time adequate personnel should be sent to the scene to assist in a search of the premises and/or assist with a safe evacuation of the premises if the determination has been may to do so. If at all possible, a staff officer should be present on the scene to direct Department personnel in evacuation and/or search activities if needed. The staff officer will act as the liaison with the management.

When it has been determined to search a structure, it should be done in a systematic and well-planned manner. It will be the responsibility of the institution to be searched to use personnel from the institution who are familiar with the normal contents of the building along with the general

layout of the facility. Officers will assist their personnel with the search, and upon the discovery of an unusual find, report such immediately to the staff officer in order to make the proper decision as to what precautionary steps to take next. Upon finding an unusual circumstance, if the determination is made to evacuate the area, it should be done in a calm and orderly fashion. At the same time, the Department of Police, Secretary of State, in Springfield, Illinois should be notified for possible bomb removal. This can be accomplished by telephoning either **(217) 785-5373 day time (before 4:30 P. M.) or (217) 785-0309 (after 4:30 P. M.)**. The Bloomington Fire Department will also be notified of the situation. Department personnel will not attempt to disarm or remove any real or suspected explosive device without a command staff officer's approval. Upon receipt of a report of an actual bombing, the Fire Department will be notified and the appropriate number of police officers will be detailed to assist at the scene.

Care should be taken in all circumstances. A trend is to lure emergency personnel into the blast area with a small detonation of a device and have another larger device that is secreted and timed to go off after emergency personnel are on the scene. Always suspect multiple devices. A staff officer will take command of the scene to oversee Department involvement in rescue and security of the area. This staff officer will see that appropriate agencies and additional manpower are summoned to the scene as the need arises.

In searching a commercial passenger vehicle, this Department will assist the responsible representative of such a business with requesting each passenger to identify and examine the contents of his/her luggage in the presence of Department personnel after the luggage has been removed to a safe location by terminal or company employee. This Department will assist the company representatives in conducting a search of the commercial passenger vehicles and/or aircraft. If a real or suspected device is found in a vehicle the following evacuation distances are suggested by the ATF.

Compact size car	1500 feet
Full size car	1750 feet
Passenger or cargo van	2750 feet
Small box van	3750 feet
Full size box van	6500 feet
Semi tractor-trailer	7000 feet

In the event a bomb threat is received from the Central Illinois Regional Airport, the Fire Department will be advised immediately via the business phone by our Department of such threat. This concurs with their Master Security Plan. Officers should respond to these calls as they would a bomb threat at a business.