

<b>TITLE</b> OPERATIONS MANUAL	<b>STANDARD</b> <b>INSTRUCTION 02</b>		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE
<b>SUBJECT</b> FIRE SUPPRESSION: PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES AND PRIORITIES FOR EXPLOSIVE DEVICE INCIDENTS	<b>SECTION</b> 27	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 3	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> <b>12/06/2011</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

The following guidelines and priorities have been developed to assist Fire-Rescue personnel when responding to incidents involving explosive devices, fireworks, ammunition, military ordinance and suspected explosive hazards.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all SDFD Personnel.

**III. AUTHORITY**

The Fire Chief in coordination with the Assistant Fire Chief of Operations, Deputy Chief Shift Commanders authorizes the information within this policy.

**IV. POLICY**

A. First-Responder Roles

In many cases, the San Diego Police Department will be the first responding agency to explosive device incidents and consequently will request a Metropolitan Arson Strike Team (MAST) Bomb Squad response.

Fire-Rescue crews responding should consider the following guidelines during emergency operations involving explosive device incidents:

1. Evacuate the area a minimum of 300 feet in all directions
2. If fragmentation hazard is suspected (pipe bomb), increase evacuation distances to 900 feet in all directions
3. For Large Vehicle Bombs (LVB), use the following evacuation distance guidelines:

<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>Evacuation Distance</b>
Compact Sedan	1,500'
Full Size Sedan	1,750'
Passenger Van	2,750'
Small Box Van	3,750'
Box Van	6,500'
Semi Trailer	7,000'

4. Protect the Incident Command Post (ICP) and Staging Area by performing a search for secondary devices.
  - a. Anticipate a second or third device will be used in a terrorist event.

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- b. If anything suspicious is located, reassess evacuation distances and report findings to the Incident Commander (IC) and MAST.
5. Radio traffic should be kept at a minimum, and made ONLY from outside the evacuation area.
  - a. An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) may be sensitive to radio frequencies.
  - b. Use landline if possible.
6. For most incidents, an engine company and an ALS medic unit will be dispatched to a scene where the MAST Bomb Squad are already on-scene  
 These resources will remain on standby in the event of fire or medical issues.

**B. Bomb Threat Responses**

The primary responsibility for Bomb Threats lies with the SDPD. Police officers will respond and take a report. If a suspicious item is located a MAST Bomb Squad response will be initiated.

**C. MAST Bomb Squad Incident Response**

1. The MAST supervisor will serve as an advisor to the IC or Operations Section Chief.
2. Upon arrival at scene the MAST supervisor will assume the role of Bomb Squad Group Supervisor and will consult with the Bomb Technicians to discuss the proper handling of the incident.
3. A Site Safety Plan shall be developed or produced for all incidents in which the MAST Bomb Squad is assigned and in which other SDFD resources are on scene.
4. After investigating the suspect item(s), the technician shall meet with the Bomb Squad Group Supervisor to discuss the next course of action, while maintaining control of the item.
5. The Bomb Squad Group Supervisor will inform the IC or Operations Section Chief as to the course of action.
6. The IC will be responsible for all required Fire-Rescue staff notifications.
  - a) The MAST Supervisor will be responsible for any appropriate notifications to other agencies, i.e.: FBI, ATF
  - b) Staff notification page will be sent regarding all response actions.
7. The Group Supervisor will advise the IC if additional evacuation is necessary.
8. No personnel other than the Bomb Technicians will approach the suspect item.
9. All necessary safety precautions shall be in place prior to the Bomb Technicians approach.

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D. Accepting Fireworks or Ammunition Procedures

Small amounts of fireworks and ammunition (under 5 lbs. or less than .50 caliber) may be accepted at the Fire Station under the following circumstances:

1. The accepting company officer shall contact Fire Communications Center (FCC) and generate an incident at the time of acceptance of the material. The generation of the incident is a means of documentation of the acceptance of the items at the fire station.
2. FCC will notify the MAST Supervisor that there are fireworks or ammunition at the accepting fire station and a certified Bomb Technician will respond.
3. The Bomb Technician will reopen the assigned incident at the time of their response to recover the items from the station.
4. When large amounts of fireworks and ammunition (over 5 lbs. or over .50 caliber) are located and/or brought to a fire station, the company officer shall contact FCC to generate a Bomb Squad response as in item 1 of this section.
5. A Certified Bomb Technician will respond to the location and take possession of the item(s).

E. Bomb Threat at Lindbergh Field

All bomb threats at Lindbergh Field will initially be investigated by the Harbor Police Department (HPD).

1. In the event a Fire-Rescue Bomb Squad response is necessary, HPD will contact FCC
2. FCC will notify the MAST Supervisor and initiate the appropriate Bomb Squad response

F. Investigation

In all instances where an explosion takes place or a device is found within the City of San Diego, MAST shall be dispatched to the scene, via FCC, to perform an investigation

Prior to MAST initiating an investigation of a site where an explosion has occurred or a device is found, Certified Bomb Technicians shall conduct a sweep for possible secondary devices.