

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Standard Operating Guidelines

4100.100

Bomb Threats

Implemented: 11/18/2022

Revised:

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Jason Catrambone, Fire Chief

PURPOSE:

This standard operating guideline is intended to provide guidance when responding to incidents involving explosives.

OBJECTIVE:

Provide specific direction in the response and mitigation of incidents involving the use or threat of explosives, military ordinance, improvised explosive devices, and/or hoax devices.

SCOPE:

All Personnel

PROCEDURE

Upon the request from law enforcement to assist with a possible explosive threat, the closest fire company shall be dispatched non-emergency

Units responding to a possible explosive threat shall not use their radios or cellular telephone equipment within 1000 feet of the incident site unless intrinsically safe and cleared by law enforcement.

Safety Considerations

Under no circumstances shall fire department personnel be utilized to search for any explosive device.

Fire department radios and cellular telephones shall not be utilized by personnel inside the designated hazard zone.

Should personnel discover a suspected explosive device that has not been detonated, the Incident Commander shall withdraw all personnel from the area, secure the area, and notify law enforcement

Due to the possibility during any explosive's incident of a secondary device, personnel shall be alert for secondary devices in an apparatus staging area or parking areas.

If a secondary device is located, the Incident Commander shall withdraw all personnel to a place of safety and notify law enforcement

Communications at the scene of explosives incidents shall be accomplished by using a runner or messenger.



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Initial Responsibilities of First Arriving Units

Establish Command.

Report to a location at least 1000 feet away from the reported location of the device.

The first arriving officer shall make face-to-face contact with law enforcement for further direction.

Establish an outer perimeter with a minimum of a 1000-foot radius from the reported location of the device. Should the actual location be determined to be at another location, the perimeter should be adjusted accordingly.

Establish a Level 2 staging area for subsequent responding units at an appropriate location outside the perimeter. A Personnel Accountability System will be established at this location. This shall serve as the controlled point of entry for all personnel entering the hazard area.

Utilize runners for all communications within the hazard zone.

Provide a building pre-fire plan to the law enforcement commander if a pre-plan is available.

Order an evacuation of the area, if appropriate

Evacuees should be steered away from automobiles, dumpsters, and other locations for secondary devices.

Direct evacuees to a location outside the danger area where they can be provided appropriate protection and services.

All members at the scene need to remain vigilant and on the lookout for any suspicious activity. Anything out of place or suspicious regardless of how small needs to be reported to law enforcement.