


SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Operations	S.O.P: 109.12
	SUBJECT: Bomb Threat Response	PAGE: 1 of 2
	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012
		Revision Date:

Purpose:

This is a guideline for the Fire Department's response to the suspected Bomb Threat. The main goal of this department is firefighter safety.

Procedure:

The vast majority of Bomb Threats are hoaxes designed to interrupt a building's operation. If the SFD is requested to the scene, the following procedure will be used.


I. Bomb Threats

1. One apparatus and the duty officer will respond to the location in a non-emergency basis, unless directed by the fire department duty officer or the police officer in charge.
2. When the apparatus arrives, it shall park at least 300 feet from the area, or in a different location if requested by the police officer at the scene. If more than one apparatus responds, then apparatus shall park at opposing corners.
3. Avoid parking near vehicles since these may be, or contain the device.
4. Crews are to remain with the apparatus until instructed otherwise.
5. First arriving Officer will make contact with the Law Enforcement officer in charge to gain information about the situation. The duty officer will only take command of the F.D. Companies on scene.
6. Radios shall be used only for dire emergencies. Call "on scene" at least ¼ of a mile before arriving. Routine messages should be made face to face. Radio signals could cause detonations, thus radio activity or cell phone activity as dangerous.
7. **Under No Circumstances** will members of this department participate in a search for explosive devices. A search is best done by building occupants. They are in a better position to spot unusual items.
8. The fire department does not have the authority to order an evacuation of a building on a mere bomb threat. This is a decision for the building management.

II. Actual or Suspected Explosive Device – No Detonation

1. Structure fire responses are to be made on emergency. Upon arrival, the companies are to take positions at the corners, at least 300 feet from the affected structure. If the police, who are already on-scene, make a request for a standby then only one unit is to respond non-emergency unless otherwise requested by the police.
2. When the apparatus arrives, it shall park at least 300 feet from the structure positioning at the corners, unless directed to other locations outside of 300 feet by the police.
3. Avoid parking near vehicles, since these may be devices.
4. Crews are to remain with the apparatus. The F.D. duty officer shall contact the police command for a briefing on the situation, as well as plan the F.D. actions.
5. Radios shall be used only in dire emergencies. Call on-scene at least ¼ of a mile before arriving. Routine messages shall be made face to face.
6. Under the clear and present danger principle, the I.C. shall direct the management to order an evacuation of the building, when a suspected device is discovered.

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7. Gas, electric and water trouble crews shall be requested. If deemed necessary by the Police, utilities shall be cut off.
8. The primary consideration is for the safety of firefighter and the public. Under no circumstances shall personal safety be jeopardized for the sake of property.
9. Coordination of all involved agencies is essential for safe control of the incident. Bomb Technicians are trained for these situations, and their advice shall be heeded.

III. Explosions and Detonations

1. The primary concern on a post explosion incident shall be for the safety of the firefighters and other emergency personal. Frequently one device will be detonated resulting in the response of emergency personal. Additional devices may have been placed to cause injury to response personal. Fire Department personal shall act accordingly.
2. If the police have a Bomb Technician on-scene, he or she should be asked for recommendations on further actions. Entry should only be made in dire emergencies, by a minimum of personal.
3. All utilities shall be disconnected at the street.
4. Even if there is no fire showing at least one company shall remain near a fire hydrant to lay supply lines.
5. Fire line tape shall be used to secure a large perimeter.
6. No debris shall be moved unless absolutely necessary to protect life.
7. Check footwear before leaving the scene. It is possible evidence may be embedded in your boots.