

Union County Standard Operating Guidelines  
**Special Operations**

**Special Operations, SOG 4.22**

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**EXPLOSIVE EMERGENCIES**

1. General

- a. Law Enforcement has the responsibility of investigating bomb threats, including search of the area involved for the suspected device.
- b. When Dispatch receives notice of a bomb threat, they will:
  - Notify appropriate Law Enforcement, the jurisdictional fire chief, and fire department duty officer about the threat and any information relative to the incident.
  - Any radio traffic will, whenever possible, be kept to a minimum, utilizing tactical frequencies whenever possible.
  - Bomb disposal units do not ordinarily respond unless an actual or suspected device is found.
- c. The fire chief's/duty officer's responsibilities, upon notification of a bomb threat, will be to evaluate the area involved as to:
  - layout of streets
  - hydrant locations
  - type of occupancies to determine what procedure would be used in the event a bomb was discovered or exploded
  - if not completely familiar with the location and layout of the area, he should respond to the area to make his evaluation
  - fire personnel should not search for bombs
  - if apparatus is dispatched to the scene, they should be staged a minimum of 400 feet from the building.

2. Actual / Suspected Device

- a. When an actual or suspected explosive device is found by the Law Enforcement:
  - They will notify the fire department immediately.
  - The senior fire official will contact the Columbus Fire Department Alarm Office and request a bomb disposal unit to respond.
  - **DO NOT USE RADIO OR CELLULAR PHONE WITHIN 400 FEET OF A KNOWN OR SUSPECTED DEVICE**
  - Apparatus will be strategically placed a minimum of 400 feet from the building, and crews will remain with their vehicles prepared to perform rescue and firefighting operations should an explosion occur.
  - Lay line to protect exposures and be ready to advance fire lines. If the building is equipped with a standpipe or sprinkler system, lines will be connected to the Siamese connection, if feasible.
  - Evacuate the building and all people within a 400 foot radius in the quickest and safest manner.

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- DO NOT TOUCH, COVER, OR MOVE ANY SUSPECTED DEVICE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
- Fire personnel should not enter the building or area except to save lives.
- If a fire is in progress, protect exposures as well as possible, but in no case advance closer than 400 feet of the bomb site.
- If explosives are burning or engulfed in flame, do not attempt to fight the fire. Evacuate everyone within 400 feet of the bomb site.
- When an unexploded device is to be removed to a local area for defusing or exploding, a chief, medic unit, and engine company will follow the removal vehicle to its destination and standby at the disposal site.

### 3. Post Detonation

- Extreme care must be exercised as there may be undetonated explosives remaining, or there may be a second device designed to explode after arrival of responding fire companies.
- Request a bomb disposal unit if not initially dispatched.
- Evacuate an area at least 400 feet around the explosion.
- Begin rescue and fire suppression operations as necessary
- Never enter a building that is on fire or has been damaged by an explosion until the structural stability of the building has been assured, except to save a life.
- Every effort should be made to safeguard any suspicious material or objects that might aid in the investigation.
- If an undetonated device is found during firefighting operations, notify ordinance personnel and take appropriate safety and security measures.