



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: CRITICAL INCIDENTS-BOMBS AND EXPLOSIVES NO: H-600			
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 07/07/2022	REVISED: 07/07/2022	UPDATED: 07/07/2022

POLICY

No officer, unless designated by the Sheriff-Coroner, shall at any time, attempt or cause to be moved, any bomb, suspected bomb or explosive. When a suspected bomb or explosive is located, the Kern County Sheriff's Bomb Squad shall be called and officers shall follow their instructions, lending whatever assistance the Bomb Squad may require.

When a Bomb Squad member is not immediately available, officers shall not attempt to disarm or move the explosive but shall keep the area clear until arrival of the Bomb Squad.

A member of the Bomb Squad, or in their absence, the Watch Commander or his designee, shall notify the Fire Department, as well as an ambulance, to stand by the area when they are needed. When necessary, notify utilities to shut off power and fuel lines.

For the purposes of this policy, in the absence of the Watch Commander, the supervisor on scene will assume the role of the Watch commander until relieved by a supervisor.

The United States Army has prime responsibility for non-altered military explosive ordinance disposal in all areas under the control of local government and civil authorities. Responsibility for the notification of military E.O.D. personnel rests with the Kern County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad or their designee.

Officers shall treat all explosives or suspected explosives sent or received through the mail in the same manner as other explosives. Officers shall also immediately notify the Watch Commander, who shall contact the proper postal authorities immediately.

It shall be the responsibility of the deputy investigating a bomb threat to complete a Crime or Incident report. The Bomb Squad Commander shall have the responsibility for notifying the FBI and the ATF of any actual bombings as necessary. The Bomb Squad, using the format required, will make reports to the Bomb Data Center by the Federal Government.

Personnel shall refer any requests for information pertaining to appropriation of a permit for the use of explosives to the Kern County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division, Detectives Section, Licensing Unit.

Inspection of legal explosives is the responsibility of the Kern County Fire Department. Members shall refer all requests for explosive inspections to the Arson Unit.

When a deputy seizes fireworks as evidence or contraband, the fireworks can usually be booked into property. If the quantity of fireworks is larger than items that will reasonably fit into a property locker, or if the fireworks have been improvised/altered, deputies should notify the Bomb Squad Commander for other alternatives.

BOMB THREATS

The primary responsibility for the search of the bomb threat area shall rest with the person in charge of the premises. The field unit should provide assistance and advice to the person in charge of the premises to assist in conducting the search. In the event no bomb or suspicious device is found, the responsibility to return to the threatened area shall rest with the person in charge of the premises.

In the event the target of a bomb threat is an automobile, the responsibility for the search shall rest with the Bomb Squad.

During the searching period, a decision to evacuate the area shall be the responsibility of the person in charge of the premises. The officer in charge of the scene shall notify the person in charge of the premises that this is their responsibility.

In the event the area is evacuated, the responsibility for securing the scene and preventing entry of unauthorized persons shall rest with the officer in charge of the scene. Should a bomb, explosive device, or suspicious package be located, the officer in charge may cause the area and/or premises to be evacuated.

The Watch Commander shall consider the circumstances surrounding the threat and refer to Q-700 for consideration of explosive ordinance detection canine deployment.

PROCEDURE A

Any member who receives a bomb threat directly from the person making the threat or the intended victim of a threat will:

- Keep the caller on the line as long as possible and attempt to ascertain as much of the following information as possible:
 - Location of the bomb;
 - Time set for detonation;
 - Description of the bomb;
 - Why the bomb was placed or the threat was made;
 - What person or group is responsible;
 - Gender of caller;
 - Voice characteristics;
 - Accent
 - Speech impediments
 - Ethnic or national origin

H-600-2

EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 07/07/2022	REVISED: 07/07/2022	UPDATED: 07/07/2022
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- Age of caller;
- Any background noises;
- Number called from.

DIRECTIVE A

The Communications Center will dispatch field unit(s) to the scene of bomb threats and shall notify the Watch Commander of the situation. In case of an actual bombing or upon discovering a suspected explosive device, the Watch Commander shall immediately notify the Kern County Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad, via the Bomb Squad Commander and shall notify Communications to dispatch a supervisor to the scene.

PROCEDURE B

An officer assigned as the primary unit, upon locating a suspected bomb, explosive or military ordinance, will:

- Set up a perimeter and evacuate to a minimum distance of 300 feet. Larger perimeters are desired especially when the suspected device is near a building, in a vehicle, or in an urban or congested area;
- Be aware of the possibility of secondary or multiple devices;
- After determining the item is a suspected bomb, DO NOT APPROACH THE SUSPECTED BOMB AGAIN unless authorized by Bomb Squad Personnel;
- Remain outside the perimeter;
- Request the Bomb Squad;
- Refrain from radio use within the evacuation area.

DIRECTIVE B

Should the Watch Commander be unable to contact the Sheriff’s Office Bomb Squad Commander or any Bomb Squad members, the Bakersfield Police Department’s Bomb Squad should be requested.

When both the Bakersfield Police Department’s and Kern County Sheriff’s Office’s Bomb Squads are unavailable, the Watch Commander shall notify the local office of the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) for assistance.

PROCEDURE C

Whenever an explosive device has been detonated accidentally or unlawfully, the investigating officer will:

H-600-3

EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 07/07/2022	REVISED: 07/07/2022	UPDATED: 07/07/2022
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- Render immediate care for any injured persons and request emergency services;
- Preserve the scene and all potential evidence bearing in mind that any evidence may be spread over a large area and may still pose a danger;
- Request the Bomb Squad to respond to conduct the post-blast investigation and collect evidence;
- Locate and obtain identifying information and statements from witnesses;
- Attempt to locate any potential video surveillance footage in the area;
- Request the Crime Scene Investigations Unit respond;
- Provide assistance, as requested by the Bomb Squad.

PROCEDURE D

If a bomb threat is directed toward an aircraft, the following additional procedures will be followed.

The Watch Commander will:

- Dispatch a supervisor to the scene;
- Notify the F.B.I.

The field supervisor will:

- If possible, have the aircraft removed to a remote area where an explosion would cause the least harm to life and property;
- Direct the passengers from the aircraft and allow no one to take any luggage or packages. All persons must be searched again using the airport detection devices;
- Removed passengers shall be kept together in a suitable location and secured until they have been interviewed as needed. The F.B.I. has primary jurisdiction;
- Assist personnel from the affected airlines in searching the aircraft and all luggage. Any mailbags shall be opened and searched as directed by the F.B.I.;
- When the affected airlines and the F.B.I. are satisfied that there is no explosive aboard the aircraft or in the luggage, release any emergency equipment at the scene and report the outcome to the Watch Commander.

H-600-4

EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990	REVIEWED: 07/07/2022	REVISED: 07/07/2022	UPDATED: 07/07/2022
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