



ANDERSON COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 208

## GENERAL ORDERS

## HAZARDOUS DEVICE INCIDENTS

### **PURPOSE:**

This general order establishes policy and procedure for hazardous device incidents and the Hazardous Device Team response.

### **HAZARDOUS DEVICE CALL-FOR-SERVICE:**

**Notification of Device or Bomb Threat** - Responding beat deputy and Uniform Patrol supervisor are to proceed to incident location.

**Radio Contact** - All radio and cell phone transmissions are to cease within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the incident location. Communications is to be notified by responding deputies of their location prior to entering a one-quarter (1/4) mile radius of the incident location and their intention to cease radio traffic.

### **Arrival at Scene:**

1. Upon arrival, locate and interview a person of authority or the complainant.
2. Locate a landline telephone.
3. Contact Communications and provide preliminary information.

Determine if a search is underway or completed. If a search has not been started, recommend they immediately conduct a search using supervisory, custodial, or similar persons familiar with the location's layout and day-to-day make-up. Advise that you will stand-by until a satisfactory search is completed. Advise a person of authority that conducting a search of the premises is their responsibility and it is Sheriff's Office policy not to actively participate in the search operation unless required by exigent circumstances.

### **Search:**

1. Deploy searchers to cover the exterior and interior of the premises as quickly as possible.
2. A Uniform Patrol supervisor will assess the need for establishing a command post with telephone connections. If a post is established, search teams are to be made aware of this location and the telephone number.
3. If the threat indicated the location of the bomb, it should be checked first.
4. If no device location was indicated, recommend the following priorities:
  - Building exterior.
  - Public access areas, i.e., lobbies, restrooms, etc.
  - Stairwells.
  - Engineering space, including janitorial closets and lockers.

- Areas normally occupied by employees are the least likely and should be searched last.
5. Business staff should maintain a supervisory role, unless circumstances dictate their more active participation to successfully complete the search.

**Suspicious package or device is located:**

1. **DO NOT TOUCH THE SUSPICIOUS OBJECT.**
2. Secure a minimum three hundred-foot (300') to one thousand-foot (1000') radius surrounding the suspicious object.
3. Contact Communications by phone and request the Anderson City Police Department E.O.D. Team

**Evacuation** - The only public safety person who has the authority to order an evacuation of any building, street, or neighborhood is the Fire Chief or his designee.

The decision to evacuate the premises is usually a managerial decision made by the owner. Whoever has the responsibility must be aware that it is a mistake to move a large number of people unless complete control of the situation is maintained. The decision to evacuate should take into consideration various factors:

- The source of information about the threats.
- Is this the first time or have there been repetitive threats, search and evacuation?
- Are employees or students excused from work or school because of such threats?
- Did a first bomb call, followed by evacuation, possibly precipitate a second bomb threat?
- The size of the building, number of occupants and type of occupancy are other factors in determining whether to evacuate.

These considerations assist in evaluating the validity of threats.

**COMMAND POST AND  
PERSONNEL  
NOTIFICATION:**

A command post is set-up outside of the three hundred-foot (300') radius.

Communications is contacted by way of telephone and advised to notify the following:

1. Anderson City Police Department E.O.D. Team.
2. Sheriff.
3. Commander of Uniform Patrol.
4. Local fire department and Emergency Medical Service and request their presence at the incident scene.
5. Commander of Criminal Investigations.
6. F.B.I.
7. A.T.F.

Communications is to request all responding personnel to cease radio transmissions within one-quarter (1/4) mile of the incident location. A landline telephone is used to acknowledge their arrival at the incident location.

**TRAFFIC AND  
CROWD CONTROL:**

The Uniform Patrol supervisor at the scene is in charge of traffic control, crowd control and evacuation, in compliance with requests from Hazardous Device personnel.

No one is permitted within the three hundred-foot (300') radius without permission from Hazardous Device personnel.

**DEVICE DISARMAMENT  
AND MOVEMENT:**

The Anderson City Police E.O.D. Team is responsible for directing all activities in relation to the hazardous device.

**POST-EXPLOSION  
PROCEDURES:**

Following the actual explosion of a device, the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is immediately notified. ATF's assistance is requested in processing evidence from the explosion. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is also notified.

The scene itself is handled according to the level of damage and/or casualties present. Extensive damage may necessitate implementation of the Incident Command System.

Hazardous Device Team personnel are responsible for insuring a cooperative effort is made with ATF and local forensic evidence technicians to coordinate crime scene recovery of physical evidence.

Approved by:  
John S. Skipper, Jr., Sheriff