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|  | MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT |
| | 214.00 BOMB THREAT /FIRE CALL RESPONSE |
| | Effective Date: March, 2013 |
| | Approved: _____  Chief of Police |

- I. Fire Calls
 - A. The Police Officer will provide traffic and crowd control at fire scenes.
 - B. The primary officer will assess the staffing needs. Additional officers will be assigned as necessary to control vehicular and pedestrian access to the fire scene.
 - C. Officers shall ensure that vehicles do not cross a charged fire hose.
 - D. At a major fire scene, a police supervisor shall respond to the Fire Incident Command Post, or shall assign an officer to that command post, to ensure adequate coordination of public safety activities.
 - E. Unless police assistance is requested by the Fire Commander or is required for law enforcement purposes, police personnel will not enter a building on fire.
 - F. In instances of large scale hazardous materials and/or biohazard situations the Mesquite Fire Department will be contacted and will respond to address the incident. The Mesquite Fire Department maintains all biohazard equipment.
- II. Bomb Threats
 - A. City Administrative Directive #2 assigns primary responsibility for bomb threats, including investigation, search and internal security, to the Fire Department. Unless police assistance is requested by the Fire Commander, police personnel will remain outside the threatened building (see Exhibit No. 200-8 Bombs and Bomb Threats for Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure).
 1. The first officer on the scene may enter the building for the purpose of advising the person in charge of the premises of the existence of the threat, if it is unknown to that person.
 2. Police personnel shall not handle a suspected explosive device.
 - B. The Public Safety Dispatcher will ensure that a Police Supervisor and the Watch Commander are notified of any bomb threat incident. A police supervisor shall respond to the Fire Incident Command Post, or shall assign an officer to that command post, to assure coordination of public safety activities.
 - C. Police responsibility at a bomb threat scene will be to provide traffic and crowd control.
 - D. Police personnel will control entry into the threatened area.
 - E. Units responding will check out before arriving at the scene. (¼ mile)
 - F. Apparatus and portable radios shall not be used within the ¼ mile distance.
 - G. Units at the scene will not transmit on their radios; however, they can receive transmissions. Dispatch will transmit any additional information deemed necessary to the units at the scene.
 - H. Communications with dispatch shall be conducted by means of commercial telephone line if within the ¼ mile distance.
 - I. Cellular telephones /MDC's may be utilized for communications if they are located a minimum of 300 feet from the incident.
 - J. Special procedures for school facilities.
 1. Responding fire companies will respond without emergency lights and siren.
 2. The Communications Shift Supervisor will ensure that the Principal of the affected school is notified immediately of the receipt of the threat and the dispatch of equipment.

3. The Communications Shift Supervisor shall also ensure timely notification of the Watch Commander, the School Resource Officer (if assigned), and the SRO supervisor.
4. The appropriate district officer and Police Supervisor shall be dispatched to the Fire Department staging area.
5. The Police Supervisor shall respond to the Fire Incident Command Post or staging area, or assign an officer to that location, to ensure adequate coordination of public safety activities.

EFFECTIVE: April, 1986; REVISED: September, 1990; FORMERLY: C/86-65; REVISED: January, 1992; FORMERLY: 216.00; REVISED: July, 2000; FORMERLY: 215.00; REVISED: August, 2011; REVISED: March, 2013

**MESQUITE FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

Subject: Bomb and Bomb Threat Response

Number: 206.01

Replaces: Bombs and Bomb Threats (12/17/97)

Date of Issue: 04/10/2008

Effective Date: 04/14/2008

I. PURPOSE

To provide structure and coordination to the management of emergency operations involving bombs, threats of bombs or explosions and to provide for the safety and health of fire department personnel and other persons involved in those activities.

II. NOTIFICATION BY DISPATCH

- A. Apparatus shall be notified by normal radio communication procedures.
- B. The term "*Signal 33*" shall be used to indicate the existence of a bomb threat situation. The term "*Signal 33A*" shall be used to indicate the existence of an actual explosive device or suspicious package.
- C. The Operations Deputy Chief and one (1) engine company shall respond.
- D. Response to bomb threats and actual devices will be without the use of emergency lights and siren.
- E. Response to explosions will be with the use of emergency lights and siren.

III. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Apparatus responding shall check out 1/4 mile before arriving at the scene.
- B. Apparatus radios and portable radios shall not be used for radio transmissions if within the 1/4 mile distance of the incident location. It shall be permissible to use radios to receive only any communications from Communications Facility.
- C. All conversations with Communications Facility shall be conducted by means of commercial telephone line if within the 1/4 mile distance.
- D. Cellular telephones may be utilized for communications if they are located a minimum of 300 feet from the incident scene.
- E. Due to frequent accidental initiation of portable radios, it is advisable that only the Incident Commander and/or the Engine Officer carry a radio when leaving apparatus.

IV. BOMB THREATS and SEARCHES

- A. On arrival, the Incident Commander should take the following things into consideration:
 - 1. Locate the Command Post and all responding equipment a minimum of 300 feet from the incident.
 - 2. Consider previous incidents at the same location and where the Command Post was located at those incidents. A change in location may be warranted due to previous incidents at the same location.
 - 3. Consider secondary devices around the Command Post and path of egress.
 - 4. Request a Mesquite FD Arson Investigator to respond to the scene.
- B. The person in charge of the threatened facility and the person who actually received the threat should be located and escorted to the Command Post to provide vital information to the Incident Commander.

Exhibit No. 200-8 Bombs and Bomb Threats

- C. Any orders to evacuate the premises should originate from the person in charge of the threatened facility. However, the Incident Commander may order the facility evacuated if he determines there is an imminent danger to life or property. If the facility is evacuated, the Police Department shall be requested to prevent entry of unauthorized personnel and to control perimeter.
 - D. The Incident Commander may provide personnel to assist in searching the threatened facility only if accompanied by individuals of the threatened facility who are familiar with the area to be searched.
 - E. If the threat identified a time for detonation, the search will be delayed for a period of at least 15 minutes before and after the indicated time.
 - F. Areas to which the general public have reasonable access should be searched first -- exterior of building, restrooms, stairwells, etc. Search remaining areas as practical.
 - G. Fire personnel assisting in the search should report the exact location and an accurate description of any suspicious objects to the Incident Commander.
- NOTE: It is imperative that personnel involved in the search be instructed that their mission is only to search for and report suspicious objects, not to move, jar or touch the object or anything attached.

V. SUSPICIOUS OBJECT LOCATED

- A. In the event that a suspicious object/package is located, the Incident Commander shall initiate, as a minimum, the following activities:
 - 1. Order the facility/area evacuated to the extent necessary to protect life. Evacuation distance is directly related to size of object/package. Maintain a minimum distance of 300 feet.
 - 2. Immediately withdraw all personnel to a safe distance and maintain a perimeter of 300 feet.
 - 3. Request Police Department assistance for perimeter control and prevent entry of unauthorized persons.
 - 4. Establish a Unified Command Post and coordinate activities with the ranking On-Scene Police Official. Consider previous incidents at the same location and where the Command Post was located at those incidents. A change in location may be warranted due to previous incidents at the same location. Consider secondary devices around the Command Post and path of egress.
 - 5. Provide as a minimum, one (1) Ambulance and one (1) Engine at the scene.
 - 6. Request the assistance of the Mesquite FD Bomb Squad and an Arson Investigator. If the Mesquite FD Bomb Squad is not available to respond, advise Communications to request the assistance of the Garland Police Bomb Squad.
 - 7. Communications shall advise the Incident Commander when contact is made with the Bomb Squad and their estimated time of arrival.

VI. STAGING AREA

- A. Any additional responding apparatus or agencies shall be instructed to report to a designated Staging Area and await assignment.

VII. POST BLAST ACTIVITIES

- A. If an explosion occurs prior to Fire Department arrival or while Fire Department personnel are at the location of a bomb threat/suspicious object, the Incident Commander shall initiate, as a minimum, the following activities:

1. Order the facility/area evacuated to the extent necessary to protect life. Evacuation distance is directly related to size of object/package. Maintain a minimum distance of 300 feet.
2. Remain alert for the presence of additional/secondary explosive devices in the immediate area.
3. Recognize that criminal activity may have occurred and the area shall be considered a crime scene area.
4. Request Police Department assistance for perimeter control and prevent entry of unauthorized persons.
5. Establish a Unified Command Post and coordinate activities with the ranking On-Scene Police Official. Select a secure area safe from explosion hazards.
6. Request the assistance of the Mesquite FD Bomb Squad and a Mesquite FD Arson Investigator. If the Mesquite FD Bomb Squad is not available to respond, advise Communications to request the assistance of Garland Police Department Bomb Squad.
7. The Communications Operator shall advise the Incident Commander when contact is made with the Bomb Squad and their estimated time of arrival.
8. Implement operations necessary to extricate injured persons and provide for medical treatment of injured persons.
9. Limit the number of personnel performing life saving activities in the hazardous area to a minimum. All patients shall be considered as "Load and Go" inside the blast area.
10. Keep appropriate Fire-EMS apparatus on-scene until the suspicious object has been removed/rendered safe and the facility has been declared safe for reentry.
11. Provide support functions to the Bomb Squad as necessary.

VIII. EOD TECHNICIAN

- A. In the event that a suspicious object/package is located or an explosion has occurred, the EOD Technician shall conduct, as a minimum, the following activities:
 1. Report to the Command Post for initial briefing from Incident Commander.
 2. Keep the Incident Commander advised of his activities.
 3. Evaluate the situation and determine when the use of radio equipment is permissible.
 4. Perform render safe activities as appropriate for the incident.
 5. Conduct all crime scene activities as appropriate for the incident.
 6. Make notifications to State and Federal authorities as deemed appropriate.

Approved by: 
Mark Kerby
Fire Chief