

MARIETTA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
AUC 305
Revised 3/25/97

DATE: March 22, 1996
TO: All Personnel
FROM: Chief of the Department
RE: Bomb Search Policies & Procedure

There is a significant probability of joint fire-police-medical operations involving the following events:

Consequence Management

Fire
Fires/Rescue/Medical
Accidental chemical release/explosion
Intentional chemical release/explosion
Structure collapse
Detonated explosive device

Crisis Management

Police
Shots fired - officer down
Hostage situation
Armed/barricaded suspect
Crisis response team deployed
Bomb threat

I. Bomb Threats/Explosive Devices

- A. Explosive devices: It is the policy of Marietta Fire & Emergency Services to respond non-emergency to bomb threats. Upon arrival, fire/rescue units will stage at least 1000 feet away from the reported location and maintain a high state of readiness i.e. personnel will remain on the vehicles, vehicles will stage with appropriate cover, no radio traffic within 800 feet, etc. In-house personnel will be utilized to search the building, grounds and vehicles.
- B. Upon notification of an explosive device threat the following procedures are recommended:
1. The ranking law enforcement official will be the Incident Commander in charge of the on-scene search, security and evidence collection activities.
 2. The Marietta Fire & Emergency Services Department will respond 2 engines, 1 truck, 1 rescue and 1 chief officer to the threat. The ranking fire officer will meet and confer with the ranking law enforcement official. All fire/rescue units will stage upwind/uphill at

least 1000' away from the target area and maintain radio silence, to include cellular phones usage and telemetric equipment, and utilize such cover as terrain/structures may provide.

3. Marietta Fire Personnel will assist in the search only at the specific request of the ranking law enforcement official. The truck company crew will be designated as the search/away team.
4. The following guidelines should be followed during a search and secure mission for both civilian and fire/rescue facilities which have received a credible threat of an explosive device on-site: Also see AUC Appendix 305.1
 - a. The ranking law enforcement official will determine the need to evacuate personnel. He/she will designate hot-warm- and cold-zones and make them known to the ranking fire/rescue official. Re-entry decision will be made by building/firm/area management officials.
 - b. In-house security, maintenance and janitorial personnel should be used to search such areas as hallways, restrooms, stairwells, elevator shafts, utility closets and areas outside the structure. Vehicles in the hot/warm zones should be checked by in-house personnel.
 - c. Personnel in-house should check their immediate area to include apparatus in-house or returning to station from alarms to determine if any object is noted that was not placed there by the employee, or a package was brought in by the employee without knowing the contents of that package, or a document/ package was delivered to the employee by someone the employee cannot readily identify.
 - d. A method to rapidly identify cleared areas should be utilized, i.e. chalk/tape/sign. Verbal, non-radio, reports will be forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement official. A sign/marker indicating "search complete-nothing found" should be posted, including completion time/date.
 - e. If a suspicious object is located, personnel involved in the search/secure mission should not touch, move, jar or make loud noises in the area surrounding the object. Confirm cellular phones, radios and telemetric equipment are off. The hot/warm zone may be expanded to 1600 feet (8 city

blocks) or more, depending on size/type of object. Remote staging should be established at least 2000' (10 city blocks) uphill and upwind from site. After a primary search/secure sweep has been accomplished, assign a secondary search/secure group to sweep the area for overlooked/secondary/tertiary or additional objects/evidence. Appropriate law enforcement personnel will secure the object and declare the area clear. Should EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) assets, civilian or military, be deployed, medical care will be provided by advanced life support tactical medics trained in post blast rescue procedures.

II. Explosive Devices/Post Detonation

- A. It is the policy of the Marietta Fire & Emergency Services (MFES) to respond to all reports of explosion(s) as if they were caused by either (1) an explosive device, (2) an intentional chemical release or (3) an accidental chemical release. The first arriving emergency unit will (1) confirm location, (2) report estimated casualties/damage, (3) wind direction/drainage. Upon confirmation of the fact that an explosive device has been detonated, incoming equipment should stage from 1000' to 3000' from zero from an assembly point to capture walking wounded and witnesses who should be guided into the safety/holding area. Additional in-coming equipment should be instructed to stage 2000' from ground zero. When multiple threats to the same location have been received, vary staging area locations. The treatment and transport sector will initially be established in this area to track all injury transports. An air control area should be requested defining at least a 3000' minimum approach distance to ground zero (NoTAMs).

- B. Upon receipt of an alarm for explosion, with or without fire, the following procedures are recommended:
 - 1. The ranking fire official should be the incident commander in charge of evacuation; patient extrication/triage/treatment/transport; damage assessment; potential for spread of fumes, flames, and/or contamination; decontamination; and preparation for transition into the evidence collection phase of the event; documentation of the event, including a roster of all emergency personnel on the scene.

 - 2. The Marietta Fire & Emergency Services Department (MFES) will respond an Augmented Task Force (2-Type I Engines, 1-Type I Ladder, 1-Type I Rescue, 1 Hazmat Tech, and 1 Chief Officer) to the staging area. All fire/rescue hazmat units should stage upwind/uphill at least 1000' away from the target area and maintain radio silence within the Hot Zone.

Protection can be afforded from such on-scene cover as terrain/structures may provide.

3. The appropriate command officer will designate, in a manner appropriate to conditions found, a safe area for incoming units/personnel. A patient collection point will be designated approximately 300' upwind and uphill from the blast area and staffed with a person who will direct the walking wounded to the triage, treatment and transport area in the warm zone. Upon completion of that function, he/she will describe the conditions found in order to define the anticipated requests for resources. This may use the terms OPCON (Operational Condition - describing the condition of the response system) or SITCON (Situational Condition - describing the site specific condition). The potential for military involvement may exist at any OPCON/SITCON level.

OPCON 5 - Normal - Event can be resolved by on-duty local resources with limited special resource requests.

OPCON 4 - Reinforced - limited special resources requested and deployed. i.e. SWAT, HAZMAT, GBI, FBI, ATF, etc. (A postulated, general threat)

OPCON 3 - Watch - Automatic deployment of special resources. Local and Regional Mutual Aid Groups deployed. (A credible threat)

OPCON 2 - Alert - State officials assume control of the event. (A significant, imminent threat)

OPCON 1 - Warning - Federal Emergency Support Function activated with Federal assumption of control of the event. (Post blast)

4. Injured victims/personnel encountered in the Hot Zone should be extricated/extracted in a "Load and Go" manner without fashioning an airway, c-spine or bleeding control management protocol. Remove patients to the designated safe area for treatment and transport. If practicable, note location of patient for evidentiary purposes. A 4-tier triage system should be established:

- walking wounded (separate witnesses)

- immediate transport (<30 minutes)

- delayed (>30 minutes)

- dead (evidence)

5. Should no immediate safe area from explosive effects be readily available, 4 fire trucks aligned in a 12' - 20' square can provide limited protection for a brief time. The underside of the vehicles should be lined with materials suitable for reducing shrapnel, i.e. backboards and tarps, ladders and hose, etc.

6. Initial Recon Teams should respond in full protective equipment, affording limited protection against shrapnel, contamination and debris. **There is a significant probability that additional devices and/or unconsumed remains of the original device will be present.** Recon/search/secure personnel should not touch, jar, move or make loud noises in the area around these items.
7. A Liaison Officer should be appointed to receive incoming State and Federal officials. This person should be authorized to match up persons needing to exchange vital information. thereby insuring a smooth transition from local to state to Federal control.
8. A risk assessment protocol should be implemented addressing at least the following:
 - structural stability
 - contamination
 - additional devices
 - environmental concerns
 - command structure
 - personnel accountability
9. A crime scene/chain of evidence group should be formed consisting of representatives of each agency on scene. This will allow for the preservation and capture of evidence to occur with sufficient security to minimize contamination and maximize preservation of the crime scene. This should also provide for evidence which may leave the scene transported by runoff, clothing, equipment, and patients.

C. Definitions:

1. Blast - Air being propelled away from the detonated device at high speed and with great force in all directions. CAUTION - Immediate and delayed onset of blast effect symptoms may occur in persons exposed to the blast wave.
2. Cold Zone/Division - The outermost zone/division of an event. It is all the area outside the warm zone/division and within the secure perimeter. This should be where the holding area for walking wounded/witnesses is located for the duration of the event. Access into this zone from outside the secure perimeter (the outermost control line) is restricted.
3. Command Post - The fixed position where the Incident Commander and Staff should be located for the duration of the event. It should be located in the Cold Zone.

4. Division - A geographical area (A.K.A. Zone).
5. FRAG (Fragmentation) - Any particle/item which is part of the device, or near enough to the device to become a projectile. (A.K.A. Shrapnel)
6. GMAG - The Georgia Mutual Aid Group - an incorporated mutual aid group composed, to date, of 14 fire/rescue departments in the Atlanta metropolitan region.
7. Ground Shock - Emergency transmission through the soil causing damage to utilities (water/sewer, power/gas, communications) and structural foundations and infrastructure.
8. Group - A designated assembly of persons (teams) with an assigned mission.
9. Hot Zone/Division - The innermost perimeter of the event. It is all the area inside the warm zone/division representing the maximum risk area. This is the area where the offending element (person/group/hazard) would inflict reversible/irreversible harm/death to personnel. It begins at ground zero progressing outward through the blast, secondary and cautious areas abutting against the warm zone. Frequently it reaches approximately 1000' from ground zero, and may be as much as 2000'.
10. Incident Commander - The individual who, by virtue of rank, training or circumstance, is accountable for coordinating resources at an event to ensure the safe, effective and efficient implementation of the incident action plan (IAP) for the event.
11. Sectors - Designated geographical areas of a structure, a subset of a division/zone. The principal entrance to a structure is designated as Side A, progressing clockwise through Sides B, C, and D. For non-structure events, cardinal compass points should be utilized.
12. Warm Zone/Division (A.K.A. Operations Area) - The area under uniform personnel control where support/decontamination activities are performed. Separates the Hot Zone from the Cold Zone.
1. Zones/Divisions - Geographical areas designated for command, control and communication purposes utilized for personnel accountability, health, safety and evidence collection.

D. Operational Guidelines - Hot/Warm Zones

1. Avoid standing near glass surfaces/structures, i.e. windows, doors,

sculptures, etc.

2. Practice appropriate hazmat scene protocol/discipline, i.e. wet areas, kicking up dust, sanitary hygiene practices, etc.
3. Command should deploy a minimum number of resources for Hot Zone Recon activities.
4. Recon activities should focus on personnel accountability, patient tracking, and structure assessment.
5. Periodically silence recon personnel to listen for sounds of trapped people, leaking gas, running water, etc.
6. Implement patient self-help activities by having those who can assist each other do so, guiding them into a patient collection/holding area. Ultimately pre-hospital treatment should be performed in a safe holding area prior to transport into a definitive care facility. Contaminated patients should receive gross field decon in accordance with established hazmat protocols. The holding area should be large enough to handle a landing zone (LZ), 30 Type 2 Rescue vehicles and up to 100+ patients. Trauma centers should be placed on alert.
7. Cover - Something that protects or shelters.

REFERENCES

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