



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2020	CHAPTER: 4 - Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 4	NUMBER: 4.02.03
SUBJECT: BOMB SQUAD AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PROTOCOLS			
CHIEF: <i>Calvin D. Williams, Chief</i>			

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for utilizing the Bomb Squad and protocols related to Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).

POLICY: **It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police** to utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to manage incidents involving the Bomb Squad.

DEFINITIONS:

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) - a homemade bomb constructed and deployed in ways other than in conventional military action. IEDs are fabricated in a manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and are designed to destroy or incapacitate personnel or vehicles. IEDs are also used to distract, disrupt, or delay an opposing force, facilitating another type of attack. IEDs may incorporate military or commercially-sourced explosives, and often combine both types, or they may otherwise be made with homemade explosives.

Incident Commander - *any officer* in charge on the scene of a riot, catastrophe, disaster, serious police incident, large scale event, or other multiple-unit operation. The initial Incident Commander may be any officer from the district of occurrence. Depending upon the scale and seriousness of the incident, the role of the Incident Commander may transfer to other officers within the chain of command.

Incident Command System (ICS) - a standardized hierarchical structure that allows for a cooperative response by multiple responders or agencies, to organize and coordinate activities without compromising the decision-making authority of local command. The ICS ensures that the most pressing needs are met and that precious resources are used without duplication or waste.

PROCEDURES:

- I. Bomb Squad Call Up Situations
 - A. Known or suspected improvised explosive devices, incendiary devices, explosive chemicals, military ordnance, bulk amounts of pyrotechnics, and ammunition.
 - B. To transport, dispose of or store explosives and explosive material.
 - C. In the event of known or suspected clandestine drug labs.
 - D. When the command or superior officer believes the Bomb Squad has an advantage in resolving an incident because of their special training and equipment.
 - E. As stated in the Incident Action Plan and the standard operating manual of the Bomb Squad.

PAGE: 2 of 4	SUBJECT: BOMB SQUAD AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PROTOCOLS	NUMBER: 4.02.03
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- F. *To assist with post-blast processing, to assist the investigating agency and Intelligence Unit, and to search for secondary devices.*

II. Requesting the Bomb Squad

- A. Superior officers shall request the Bomb Squad to respond to an **emergency** by notifying the Communication Control Section (CCS).
- B. Superior officers may request the Bomb Squad to respond to a **non-emergency** by contacting the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Bomb Squad or by contacting CCS.

III. Incident Commander Responsibilities

A. Role of the Incident Commander

1. For bomb incidents that require the activation of an ICS response, the role of the Incident Commander may be transferred to either of the following as operations require:
 - a. Deputy Chief of Homeland Special Operations.
 - b. Commander of the Bureau of Special Services.
2. The Unified Command Post called for in an ICS shall be comprised of no less than one superior officer from each of the Divisions of Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Service (EMS).
3. The Cleveland Division of Police shall be the lead agency for bomb threats and unexploded devices. The Cleveland Division of Fire shall be the lead agency for post-detonation incidents.

B. Prior to the arrival of the Bomb Squad, the Incident Commander shall:

1. Establish perimeter control to restrict the movement of suspects and ensure the safety of persons in the immediate area. In the instance of an IED or other explosive device, ensure evacuation of a *minimum of* 300 feet (the length of a football field) from the device. The evacuation area may be expanded or contracted based on the suspected explosive strength of the device per the attached bomb threat chart.
 - a. In prolonged situations, establish a Command Post uphill and upwind of the incident as possible to prevent chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear exposure.
 - b. Use the ICS to maintain the appropriate span of control.
 - c. Use the ICS to establish branches, divisions, groups, strike teams, task forces, and single resources as needed.

PAGE: 3 of 4	SUBJECT: BOMB SQUAD AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PROTOCOLS	NUMBER: 4.02.03
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2. Ensure personnel maintain adequate distance and cover from the device behind a solid structure and do not remain within the line of sight of the device.
3. Ensure that no untrained person moves, touches, or covers the device.
4. Ensure that no electronic devices (e.g., handheld two-way radios, cell phones) are used by personnel within a 300-foot radius.
5. Relay the location of the Command Post and other vital information to the CCS dispatcher.
6. Advise responding units of the safest approach routes.
7. Establish access and egress routes. *Include a clear pathway to the target location for Fire and EMS in the event their services are needed (e.g., injured persons, fire, hazardous materials, etc.).*
8. Designate a staging area outside of the inner perimeter.

C. Upon arrival of the Bomb Squad, the Incident Commander shall:

1. Brief the Bomb Squad with all information.
2. *Assign supervision to a sector supervisor for the outer perimeter, command the outer perimeter, and relinquish command of the inner perimeter to the Bomb Squad.*
3. Provide support as requested by the Bomb Squad.

D. In prolonged operations, the Incident Commander shall provide for parking and security of emergency vehicles and equipment.

IV. When the Scene is Rendered Safe

A. The Bomb Squad shall:

1. Release the scene to the sector supervisor.
2. Assist investigative personnel in the recovery of evidence and provide technical assistance *including post-blast incidents.*
3. Provide statements, reports, and testimony.

B. The Incident Commander shall direct the completion of necessary reports.

1. The originally assigned unit shall make arrests, seize evidence, process and transport arrestees, and complete *incident reports.*

PAGE: 4 of 4	SUBJECT: BOMB SQUAD AND IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE PROTOCOLS	NUMBER: 4.02.03
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2. Field commanders may delegate these tasks.

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.