

CAMBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Title: ***BOMB THREATS***

Procedure: 4.400

Date Issued:

Revised:

PURPOSE:

To provide broad guidelines for handling bomb threats with a minimum of danger and confusion.

POLICY:

The potentially serious injuries, considerable property damage and disruption of sometimes vital services dictates that our response be swift, but cautious. This Department will take seriously all threats to injure citizens and damage property.

PROCEDURE:

1. When a bomb threat is received an officer and the on duty Supervisor will be dispatched to the location. A detective will also respond to the scene.

2. The on duty Supervisor will inform all personnel responding to the scene to cease radio transmissions and sirens within 150 feet of the facility.

3. The on duty Supervisor will discuss the threat with only the owner, manager or supervisor in charge of the facility or building.

4. The person in charge of the facility or building will be in control of the situation and make all decisions until such time when a suspected bomb is located.

5. The on duty Supervisor may suggest an appropriate course of action, but will not take control until information or evidence is uncovered indicating the presence of a suspected bomb.

6. It will be the responsibility of the person in charge of the facility or building to determine if the building will be searched.

7. Police personnel will assist in any searches unless requested not to do so.

8. The on duty Supervisor may suggest that occupants familiar with the location are best suited to search for suspicious objects. However, all searchers must be instructed not to touch or move any suspicious object. All suspicious objects discovered should be immediately brought to the attention of the police.

9. The decision to evacuate the facility or building on the strength of the bomb threat will be left to the person in charge of the facility. Several factors should be considered.

How credible is the threat?

Was a time given for the explosion to occur?

How disruptive would the evacuation be?

10. If the person in charge of the facility or building orders an evacuation without a bomb or suspicious object being found, the persons leaving should be instructed not to touch anything.

11. If a suspected bomb is found, the on duty Supervisor will immediately take control and do the following:

Not move or touch the suspect device in any way.

Summon additional personnel to the scene, if necessary, to establish an outer perimeter for crowd control.

Notify the State Fire Marshall's Office

Evacuate all persons from the facility to a place of safety.

Establish a command post and staging area.

Request the fire department send an ambulance crew and appropriate fire apparatus to a safe location near the facility.

Notify the Chief of Police through the chain of command.

12. The on duty Supervisor in charge will cooperate with any assisting agency called to the scene and will remain on the scene until relieved, or the scene has been rendered safe.

13. All bomb threats will be documented on an Incident Report.