

MOUNTAIN BROOK FIRE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 105.04

VOLUME: I

SUBJECT: Operations at Bomb Threat Incidents

SIGNED: _____
ROBERT W. EZEKIEL, FIRE CHIEF

3/12/2007
DATE

SCOPE AND PURPOSE:

To provide a standard operating procedure for deployment and operations at incidents involving the potential or real threat of a maliciously set explosive device while affording the maximum degree of safety for the general public and for all City employees involved.

POLICY:

Bomb search, removal, & defusing: The search for, removal of, or defusing of explosive devices falls under the purview and responsibility of the Police Department. This is a specialized operation that requires training beyond the scope currently provided by the fire department to its personnel.

Fire Department Responsibility: The primary responsibility of the MBFD will be to provide for life safety (Rescue, Emergency Medical Intervention) and fire suppression activities at the scene. Preparation for providing this mission will begin immediately upon arrival.

Initial Response: The initial response to potential bomb threats will be one engine company, one transport unit and the Shift Commander. The response will be in a non-emergency mode. Responses to explosive devices which have detonated will be the normal response for structure fires (two engines, ladder truck, transport unit and Shift Commander) and shall be in an emergency mode.

Staging: Units arriving at a potential bombing site shall stage at least 500 feet from the incident location (preferably by a fire hydrant). The units shall report on the scene and give the unit location. Personnel shall stay with their assigned crew and shall wear turnout trousers and have full turnout gear available at all times while in staging. Full turnout gear shall be worn if the unit is committed to operations at the scene.

Shift Commander: The Shift Commander upon arrival shall park at the location which would best serve as a command post should there be an actual explosion. He will locate the appropriate pre-incident plan for the structure and interact with the Police Department Supervisor and the building official (school superintendent, principal, etc.) to coordinate activities at the scene. He will furthermore consider locations for ambulances and additional personnel should the incident become active due to an explosion.

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Upon determination by the MBPD that the threat is not a hoax, the Shift Commander shall call for additional units and notify dispatch to initiate the working fire protocol.

Radio Traffic: All **unnecessary** radio traffic should be eliminated as a safety precaution. Hand-held radios should be used rather than the truck mounted radios. No radio (truck mounted, hand held or cellular) should be keyed for any reason if the radio is within 300 feet of a suspected explosive device (the chance of detonation is increased). Face to face communications is the recommended mode of communications.

Disaster Assistance/Mutual Aid: Should there be a detonation of an explosive device with major loss-of-life and injuries coupled with a structure fire, the Fire Chief shall call for assistance under the area Disaster Assistance Agreement.