

# Hamden Police Department

## General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 031-004

**Effective Date:** April 1 2012

**Section:** 31 Emergency Operations Plan

**Rescinds:** August 1, 2005

**Title:** Bomb Threats and Explosives

**Approved By:** Police Commission

**Approval Date:**

### Purpose:

To provide members of the Hamden Police Department with guidelines for the handling of incidents involving explosives and bomb threats in a safe manner.

### Policy:

Only members of the Connecticut State Police, Emergency Services Unit, Appropriate Municipal Department or an Armed Forces E.O.D. Unit will move or handle any explosives or bombs brought to the attention of the Police or Fire Departments, with the exception of fireworks, unless the quantity of fireworks creates a special hazard.

Procedures

### Procedures

#### 1. Desk Officer/Communications Technician Responsibility

- a. If the threat is received directly to this department the dispatcher or desk officer will utilize the "bomb check list" to obtain as much information as possible
- b. If the call is received at the place of the threat the desk officer should contact the establishment and talk to the person who received the threat. Again the "bomb check list" should be utilized to obtain as much information as possible.
- c. The above information will be relayed to the on scene supervisor by telephone, MDT, or hand delivered. This information will not be broadcast over the air except in an extreme emergency.

#### 2. Response to bomb threats

Responses will be made on a routine, non emergency rate of speed unless otherwise ordered by a supervisor

- a. All bomb threats will be dispatched using the appropriate dispatch code and if available the time frame of the detonation

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3. Units responding will cease radio transmissions before arriving at the scene to avoid the possibility of detonating the device by spurious radio emissions.

4. A supervisor will also be dispatched to the scene to take command

5. Dispatch will notify the Fire Commander of the situation so he will be aware of the situation in the event the Fire Department is needed

a. Under most circumstances the Fire Department will not be dispatched to the initial call

6. The decision to evacuate any building will be made by the manager or person in charge of the building. In any school, this decision shall be made by the principal or his/her designee.

7. Evacuation, if ordered, should always be complete. Doors and windows should be secured to avoid unauthorized entry. Where practicable a count should be made to assure all persons have left the building

8. If a search is to be made it will be done with employees of the building

a. Have employees look for unfamiliar items or items that seem out of place

b. All areas where a bomb could be hidden should be searched. Special attention should be given to those areas that are accessible to the public

c. The search should be done from the outside in. (The exterior first followed by the interior of the building.

d. If a time of detonation has been given, all searchers will leave the building 30 minutes before the alleged time and not return for 30 minutes after the time. The decision to return to the building shall remain with the person in charge of the facility.

9. If a suspect item is discovered it is not to be approached or handled.

a. Do not cover the device with a bomb blanket.

b. A call to an Explosive Ordinance Disposal agency will be made. The call will be placed by personnel in Central Communications

c. Once the call has been made the area will be secured until the arrival of the bomb technicians.

Upon arrival they will make the determination on how to remove the device.

a. The control of the immediate scene will be under the bomb technician coordinated through the on scene supervisor.

10. Found Explosives

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- a. Any explosives found within the Town of Hamden will not be removed until the arrival of a certified bomb technician who will make the determination on the removal.
- b. Whenever any device or explosives are located the A.T.F. in New Haven shall also be notified.

### 11. Bomb Dogs

If an on scene supervisor determines the use of a bomb dog would be required, contact can be made with Hamden's EDT K-9 Unit, New Haven Police ESU or Connecticut State Police Emergency Services Unit

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## Appendix

### Radio Discipline at bomb scenes

- Radio Frequency Energy (RFE) Radio transmissions should be kept at a minimum to lessen the possibility of initiating the explosive device. RF energy has the possibility of interfering with remote control devices and causing them to function. Many first responder radios are also not intrinsically safe.

Once explosive indicators are identified or suspected at a scene, individuals should, as rapidly as the situation allows, withdraw themselves and the public to a safe perimeter, make communications, and contact their bomb technicians for proper handling of the scene. Only qualified bomb techs should be assessing bona fide suspicious packages and vehicles

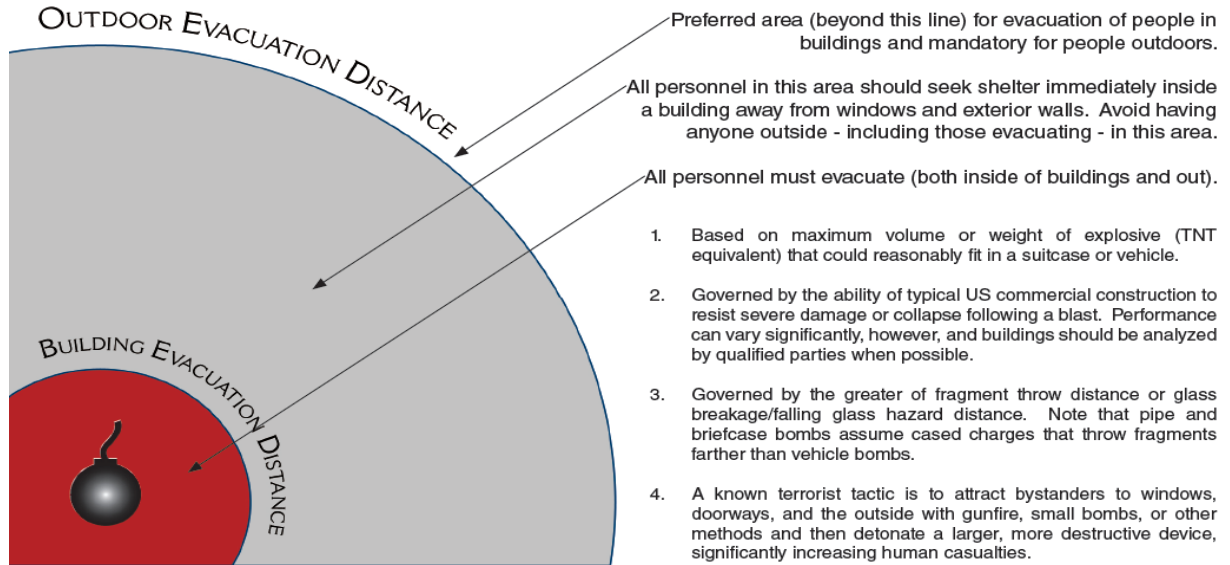
### Bomb Stand-Off Data

 <b>BOMB THREAT STAND-OFF CHART</b>			
Threat Description Improvised Explosive Device (IED)	Explosives Capacity <sup>1</sup> (TNT Equivalent)	Building Evacuation Distance <sup>2</sup>	Outdoor Evacuation Distance <sup>3</sup>
 Pipe Bomb	5 LBS	70 FT	1200 FT
 Suicide Bomber	20 LBS	110 FT	1700 FT
 Briefcase/Suitcase	50 LBS	150 FT	1850 FT
 Car	500 LBS	320 FT	1500 FT
 SUV/Van	1,000 LBS	400 FT	2400 FT
 Small Moving Van/ Delivery Truck	4,000 LBS	640 FT	3800 FT
 Moving Van/ Water Truck	10,000 LBS	860 FT	5100 FT
 Semi-Trailer	60,000 LBS	1570 FT	9300 FT

1. These capacities are based on the maximum weight of explosive material that could reasonably fit in a container of similar size.
2. Personnel in buildings are provided a high degree of protection from death or serious injury; however, glass breakage and building debris may still cause some injuries. Unstrengthened buildings can be expected to sustain damage that approximates five percent of their replacement cost.
3. If personnel cannot enter a building to seek shelter they must evacuate to the minimum distance recommended by Outdoor Evacuation Distance. These distance is governed by the greater hazard of fragmentation distance, glass breakage or threshold for ear drum rupture.

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It is important to note that the given distances do not guarantee safety, they are estimates based on test data and the area near and around the evacuation distances are still potentially dangerous. Minimum evacuation distance is the range at which a life-threatening injury from blast or fragmentation hazards is unlikely. However, non-life-threatening injury or temporary hearing loss may occur.



or office

**3. Remember - It May Be A Bomb -  
Treat It as Suspect**

## LETTER AND PARCEL BOMB RECOGNITION POINTS

- Excessive Postage
- Lopsided or Uneven Envelope
- Incorrect Titles
- Protruding Wires or Tinfoil
- Titles but No Names
- Visual Distractions
- Misspellings of Common Words
- Foreign Mail, Air Mail and Special Delivery
- Oily Stains or Discolorations
- Restrictive Markings such as Confidential, Personal, etc.
- No Return Address
- Hand Written or Poorly Typed Addresses
- Excessive Weight
- Excessive Securing Material such as Masking Tape, String, etc.
- Rigid Envelope

**FBI EXPLOSIVES UNIT-BOMB DATA CENTER  
(202) 324-2696**