

Response to Bomb Calls

411.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

These guidelines have been prepared to assist officers in their initial response to incidents involving explosives, explosive devices, suspected explosive devices, suspicious packages or explosion/bombing incidents. Under no circumstances should these guidelines be interpreted as compromising the safety of first responders or the public. When confronted with an incident involving explosives, safety shall always be the primary consideration.

411.2 DEFINITIONS

1. "Bomb Squad", refers to the Northern Colorado Bomb Squad, or responding military Explosive Ordinance Disposal team.
2. "Explosive Detection Canine Team", refers to a canine and its handler, specifically trained in the detection of explosives and explosive devices. (Explosive Detection Canine Teams will be notified via the Northern Colorado Bomb Squad).
3. "Responsible person", as it relates to this section, is defined as the person or entity in charge of the facility at the given time of an incident. (This might include a CSU building proctor, RD/ARD, facility manager, or business owner).
4. "Unattended package", as it relates to this section, is defined as any container, vessel, bag, or vehicle over which no one exerts ownership or control, but where no other specific, articulable suspicion exists.
5. "Suspicious package or device", as it relates to this section, is defined as any container, vessel, bag or vehicle, which has been specifically identified as possessing a higher, articulable degree of suspicion associated with it. (i.e. unusual wires, unusual vibration, unusual audible alarm, unusual lights, or identified by the reporting party/caller).
6. "Explosive device", as it relates to this section, is defined as a device placed in a manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass, or distract.
7. "Hot zone", as it relates to this section, is defined as the determined area surrounding a device or suspected device
8. "T.H.R.E.A.T.", is an acronym identified by the Hartford Consensus as, "Threat suppression, hemorrhage control, rapid extraction to safety, assessment by medical providers, and transport to definitive care".
9. R.A.I.N. is an acronym identified by FEMA and the Office of Bombing Prevention as: Recognize, Avoid, Isolate, Notify.

411.3 POLICY

It is the policy of the Colorado State University Police Department to place a higher priority on the safety of persons and the public, over damage or destruction to public or private property.

411.4 BOMB THREATS

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411.4.1 RECEIPT OF A BOMB THREAT

Department members receiving a bomb threat should obtain as much information from the individual as reasonably possible, including but not limited to the type, placement and alleged detonation time of the device. Other important information to be obtained may include:

1. The location of the facility
2. The nature of the threat. (Where the device(s) are placed?)
3. Whether the type and detonation time of the device is known. (What does it look like? Why was the device placed?)
4. The sex, approximate age, and anything unusual about the caller.
 - A. If the caller is the suspect:
 - (a) Keep the caller on the line as long as possible, collecting as much information as possible about the device, location, suspect and relay information to responding officers.
 - (b) What is your name?
 - (c) What is your address?
 - (d) Why?
 - (e) Did you place the bomb?
 - B. If the caller is affiliated to the facility:
 - (a) (a) Whether the facility is occupied and if so, the number of occupants on scene
 - (b) Whether the individual is requesting police assistance at the facility (evacuation?)
 - i. The ultimate decision to evacuate the building where no suspected device has been located rests with the responsible person of the facility when on CSU property.
 - ii. If information exists to suggest an exigent threat to life or serious bodily injury exists on CSU property, the Shift Supervisor can order an evacuation based on those articulable facts. (Note: Private property owners maintain the right to refuse services.
 - C. Whether there are any internal facility procedures regarding bomb threats, such as:
 1. No evacuation of personnel and no search for device
 2. Search for device without evacuation of personnel
 3. Evacuation of personnel without search for a device

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4. Evacuation of personnel and a search for a device

If the bomb threat is received on a recorded line, reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that the recording is preserved in accordance with established department evidence procedures.

The member receiving the bomb threat should ensure that the Shift Supervisor is immediately notified of the details. This will enable the Shift Supervisor to ensure that the appropriate personnel are dispatched and, as appropriate, the threatened location is given advance warning.

411.4.2 THREATS TO GOVERNMENT FACILITY OR PROPERTY

A bomb threat targeting a government facility may require a different response based on the government agency.

A. Colorado State University Police Department:

1. If the bomb threat is against the Colorado State University Police Department facility, the Shift Supervisor will direct and assign officers as required for coordinating a general building search or evacuation of the police department, as he/she deems appropriate.

B. Other County or Municipal Facility or Property:

1. If the bomb threat is against a county or municipal facility within the jurisdiction of the Colorado State University Police Department that is not the property of this department, the appropriate agency will be promptly notified of the threat. Assistance to the other agency may be provided as the Shift Supervisor deems appropriate.

C. Federal Building or Property:

1. If the bomb threat is against a federal building or property, the Federal Protective Service (FPS) will be notified immediately. The FPS provides a uniformed law enforcement response for most facilities, which may include use of its Explosive Detection Canine Teams.
2. If the bomb threat is against a federal government property where the FPS is unable to provide a timely response, the appropriate facility's security or command staff shall be notified.
3. Bomb threats made against a military installation should be reported to the military police or other military security responsible for the installation.

411.5 ASSISTANCE

The Shift Supervisor should be notified when police assistance is requested. The Shift Supervisor will make the decision whether the Department will render assistance and at what level. Information and circumstances that indicate a reasonably apparent, imminent threat to the safety of either the facility or the public may require a more active approach, including police control over the facility.

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Should the Shift Supervisor determine that the Department will assist or control such an incident, he/she will determine:

- A. The appropriate level of assistance
- B. The plan for assistance
- C. Whether to evacuate and/or search the facility
- D. Whether to involve facility staff in the search or evacuation of the building
 - 1. The person in charge of the facility should be made aware of the possibility of damage to the facility as a result of a search.
 - 2. The safety of all participants is the paramount concern
- E. The need for additional resources, including:
 - 1. Notification and response, or stand-by notice, for fire and emergency medical services

Even though a facility does not request police assistance to clear the interior of a building, based upon the circumstances and known threat, officers may be sent to the scene to evacuate other areas that could be affected by the type of threat, or for traffic and pedestrian control.

In working with a facility to determine whether an evacuation should take place, versus exercising police control over a facility, the supervisor should take into account the following:

- A. The credibility of the threat/ report
- B. Whether a device has been found
 - 1. Suspected device versus unattended package
- C. Whether life is threatened by the presence of a device versus damage to property only

411.6 FOUND EXPLOSIVES/ SUSPECTED DEVICES

When an officer responds to a call of a suspected explosive device, the following guidelines shall be followed utilizing "R.A.I.N":

- A. A device should never be touched or transported to any other location, except by the bomb squad or military ordinance disposal team.
- B. No known or suspected explosive item should be considered safe regardless of its size or apparent packaging. The Northern Colorado Bomb Squad ("Bomb Squad") should be notified and requested for assistance.
- C. Care should be taken not to transmit on any equipment that produces radio frequency energy in close proximity to a suspected or actual device.

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- D. A minimum perimeter of 400 feet should be secured around the location depending on the size of the device, or an otherwise safe distance depending on the surrounding physical environment allowing for an entrance for support personnel, including, but not limited to, paramedics and fire department personnel. (Exterior evacuation distances are exponentially greater. See Stand-off Card)
- E. As much initial information as possible should be relayed to the Shift Supervisor without touching the device, including:
 - 1. Time of discovery
 - 2. Exact location of the device
 - 3. Full description (size, shape, markings, construction)
 - 4. The anticipated danger zone and perimeter (See Stand-off Card)
 - 5. The areas to be evacuated or cleared

The ultimate decision to evacuate a building rests with the responsible person of that building when on CSU property, unless information exists to suggest an exigent threat to life or serious bodily injury exists whereby the Shift Supervisor can supersede that decision.

*(Note: Private property owners maintain the right to refuse services).

Officers should advise additional support personnel such as paramedics and fire department personnel of the route of safe travel to and from the staging area for the incident.

Consider evacuation of buildings and personnel near the device or inside the, "Hot zone", and the safest exit route. A search of the staging areas, evacuation routes, and incident command location should be conducted for other multiple devices, or other objects that are hazardous or foreign to the area prior to the establishment of those areas.

411.7 EXPLOSION/ BOMBING INCIDENTS

When an explosion has occurred, there are multitudes of considerations which may confront the responding officers. As in other catastrophic events, a rapid response may help to minimize injury to victims, minimize contamination of the scene by gathering crowds, or minimize any additional damage from fires or unstable structures.

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411.7.1 CONSIDERATIONS

Officers responding to explosions, whether accidental or a criminal act, should consider the following actions:

- A. Assess the scope of the incident, including the number of victims and extent of injuries.
- B. Establish command and designate communications.
- C. Establish a "Hot Zone" area, an inner perimeter to include entry points and evacuation routes, and an outer perimeter. Search for additional devices or threats in each area.
- D. Request additional personnel and resources as appropriate.
- E. Identify and take appropriate precautions (PPE) to mitigate scene hazards, such as collapsed structures, bloodborne pathogens and hazardous materials.
- F. Assist with first aid (T.H.R.E.A.T.)
- G. Assist with safe evacuation of victims, if possible.
- H. Identify witnesses

411.7.2 NOTIFICATIONS

When an explosion has occurred, the following people should be notified as appropriate through the chain-of-command:

- A. Poudre Fire Authority
- B. Northern Colorado Bomb Squad
- C. Additional department personnel, such as investigations and forensic unit.
- D. Shift Supervisor
- E. Division Commander and Chain of Command
- F. Other law enforcement agencies, including local, state or federal agencies, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- G. Other governmental agencies as appropriate

411.7.3 CROWD CONTROL

Only authorized members with a legitimate need should be permitted access to the scene. Spectators and other unauthorized individuals should be restricted to a safe distance as is reasonably practicable given the available resources and personnel.

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411.7.4 PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE

As in any other crime scene, steps should immediately be taken to preserve the scene, but will not supersede safety and preservation of life efforts. The Shift Supervisor should assign officers to protect the crime scene area, which could extend over a long distance. Consideration should be given to the fact that evidence may be imbedded in victims, surrounding vehicles, nearby structures (including rooftops), or trees and bushes.

411.8 BOMB THREAT STANDOFF REFERENCE CARD

Threat Description		Explosives Capacity	Mandatory Evacuation Distance	Shelter-in-Place Zone	Preferred Evacuation Distance
	Pipe Bomb	5 lbs	70 ft	71-1199 ft	+1200 ft
	Suicide Bomber	20 lbs	110 ft	111-1699 ft	+1700 ft
	Briefcase/Suitcase	50 lbs	150 ft	151-1849 ft	+1850 ft
	Car	500 lbs	320 ft	321-1899 ft	+1900 ft
	SUV/Van	1,000 lbs	400 ft	401-2399 ft	+2400 ft
	Small Delivery Truck	4,000 lbs	640 ft	641-3799 ft	+3800 ft
	Container/Water Truck	10,000 lbs	860 ft	861-5099 ft	+5100 ft
	Semi-Trailer	60,000 lbs	1570 ft	1571-9299 ft	+9300 ft