




COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

"Policing Excellence through Community Partnerships"

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Subject: Section 11 - Domestic Terrorism		
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1.0 INITIAL RESPONSE

Incidents resulting from an act of terrorism present unique challenges. To effectively implement scene control and ensure public safety, officers must quickly and accurately evaluate the incident. Officers will immediately notify the Watch Commander and the Communications Center of the incident and request additional resources.

Terrorists may be among the injured or waiting for emergency responders to arrive, officers should be alert for secondary devices and individuals that may pose a threat to their safety.

The following information will be provided to the Communications Center:

- Observed warning signs or indicators, if any
- Types of injuries and/or symptoms displayed by victims, if any
- Estimated number of victims

Officers should attempt to direct persons exiting the area to a common location. These individuals are potential witnesses to the event and should be interviewed.

Officer will establish a perimeter and all entry and exit routes from the incident location must be effectively secured.

2.0 TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Terrorist acts may involve weapons of mass destruction including: chemical and/or biological warfare agents, the intentional release of industrial chemicals; or the release or explosion of nuclear or radiological materials.

Be alert for outward warning signs that may indicate the type of danger present. Just because an explosion was reported, do not discount the possibility of chemical, biological, or radiological hazards. Pay attention to casualties without apparent physical trauma as well as signs and symptoms indicating chemical exposure. A major hint of chemical exposure can be derived from the conjunction of multiple casualties and little physical injury.

When you approach any type of suspicious incident, you should do so in a cautious manner with all senses alert for the following warning signs of weapons of mass destruction:

- Explosions that disperse or dispense liquids, mists, vapors, or gas.
- Explosions that seem to only destroy a package or bomb device.
- Unscheduled and unusual dissemination of aerosol sprays.
- Abandoned spray devices.
- Numerous dead animals, fish, or birds.
- Lack (or unusual abundance) of insect life.
- Mass casualties without obvious trauma.
- Definite pattern of casualties and common symptoms.
- Panic in potential high-profile target areas such as government buildings, large public venues, etc.

3.0 LEAD AGENCY

Presidential Order 39 directs that the FBI is the lead agency in all domestic terrorism incidents and weapons of mass destruction. Federal assistance may take up to twenty-four hours to arrive, during this time the Police Department may conduct emergency operations and conduct its own investigation of the incident.

4.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The Police Department Incident Commander will be responsible for:

- Notifying the Communications Center that a STAR Incident has occurred.
- Establish a Command Post
- Determine the need to mobilize additional personnel.
- Establish location for staging incoming resources.
- Request that Federal law enforcement notifications be made.
- Identify and request additional resources.
- Secure outer perimeter.
- Identify necessary protective measures and ensure use of PPE by responders, if necessary.

The Police Department shall:

- Continually ensure the safety and security of the incident location and be alert for additional threats
- Attempt to identify ongoing criminal activity
- Determine if any victims could be possible terrorists
- Identify any secondary devices
- Gather witness statements/observations
- Photograph and diagram the incident location

5.0 PREVENTION AND DETERRENCE

While on patrol, officers should observe the areas around potential terrorist targets for suspicious behavior (loitering, cars making repeated trips around critical infrastructure, trespassing, etc.). By establishing relationships with home and business owners, bus drivers, taxi drivers, teachers, apartment managers, hotel managers, etc., officers can encourage the community to report suspicious activity for patrol and investigative follow-up.

6.0 RELAYING SUSPECTED TERRORIST INFORMATION

The Police Department's Intelligence Unit will establish and maintain liaison with the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and other local/Federal agencies to facilitate the exchange of information relating to terrorist threats and/or terrorist acts. Officers will contact the Intelligence Unit to report suspected terrorist activities for investigation/dissemination to the appropriate agency.