

	LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY	Number: G.O. 7.40
		Issue Date: March 21, 2005
		Revision Date: October 6, 2020
CHAPTER: Patrol		Related Policy:
SUBJECT: Bomb Threats/ Explosive Materials Disposal		Related Laws: ORS 166.382, ORS 166.384, ORS 166.385

POLICY: The Sheriff's Office is responsible for the preservation of human life, the public peace and order, the protection of the rights of individuals and their property, the prevention of crime, and the enforcement of state statutes and county ordinances. The Sheriff's Office will use only trained EDU teams to handle explosive materials.

DEFINITIONS:

1. A minor post-blast is a blast scene where there is only slight damage to property (e.g., vandalism by explosive).
2. A major post-blast is a blast scene where there is injury and/or major property damage. Major post-blast scenes will be treated as a major crime scene.
3. The Eugene Metropolitan Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU), composed of members of the Eugene Police Department and Lane County Sheriff's Office, responds to all explosive materials incidents in Lane County (or region) and assists in VIP/dignitary protection.

RULE: All bomb threats and suspected explosive materials are to be considered valid and taken seriously until proven otherwise.

PROCEDURE:

I. Bomb Threats

A. Any Sheriff's Office member who receives information pertaining to a bomb threat will immediately notify the Communications Center and the on duty shift supervisor. If the Sheriff's Office member receiving the threat is in the building or location that is the target of the threat, communication will be by landline telephone, as radio broadcasts may interfere with explosive devices.

1. If possible, Sheriff's Office members will obtain the following information:
 - a. The specific address and/or building location or name, floor, room number, and location in the room the device has been placed.

- b. The type of bomb, its physical description and/or container.
 - c. The time or how the device will detonate.
 - d. The reason the device was placed (motivation).
 - e. The individual or group claiming responsibility.
2. The Communication Center will dispatch, by radio, a district car to the location of the threat. In all calls involving bomb threats, a supervisor will respond to the scene when practicable.
3. Responders will use only hand-held radios within 200 feet of these calls (one block). Turn off all other devices (car radio, MDT, and place cellular phones on airplane mode).
 - a. If a device has been located, do not transmit within 100 feet or until told to do so by an EDU member.
 - b. If deputies are there in response to a bomb threat, turn off pack set until the immediate area has been searched. Never search an area with the radio on.
 - c. If you must transmit, move to an area that has already been searched.
 - d. If you are in a high-rise structure, move up or down at least two floors from the target floor to an exterior wall by a window before transmitting.
4. Deputies and supervisors will assist the person in charge of the targeted location in evaluating the bomb threat for validity and need for further action. Some of the factors to consider are specifics of the threat, nature of targeted location, time of detonation, physical access to the site, and current events at the location.
5. The person in charge of the targeted location will have the responsibility to determine if a search is to be conducted.
6. Deputies will assist in the organization and search of a building/premise, if requested.
7. Deputies will complete a written report detailing the threat and subsequent police actions. If information supports an investigation, the report will be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Section for follow-up with EDU personnel.

II. Suspected Explosive Devices and/or Known Explosives

- A. If a suspected or actual explosive device is located, deputies will clear the immediate and adjacent areas. Deputies should move at least 100 feet from the suspected device before turning on any radio communication equipment (hand-

held radio, car radio, cell phone, etc.) and notifying the Communications Center. Hand-held radios generate less radio energy; therefore they should be used for all on scene communications.

- B. Sheriff's Office members will not touch or move any suspected device. A cellular phone on airplane mode, may be used to take a photo of the device.
- C. EDU will assume command of the scene upon their arrival and until the area is declared safe to enter.

III. Evacuation Decision

- A. When a threat is received by any facility, building, and/or premise, public or private, the decision to evacuate is the responsibility of the person in charge of that facility, building, or premises. In multi-tenant buildings where an evacuation has been undertaken, deputies will ensure all tenants are aware an evacuation is occurring.
- B. In the event a suspect device is found, the deputies on the scene, or EDU member, will secure the area and start an evacuation of the immediate and adjacent areas. The initial evacuation/standoff area will be determined by the size and type of device. Refer to the DHS/FBI standoff guide.
- C. Do not route evacuating personnel by or near a suspected explosive device. Keep all persons away from glass windows and doors. Once civilians have been moved away from the suspected device(s), the deputies will also ensure public safety personnel have moved to a location that provides substantial hard cover while allowing deputies to keep a secure perimeter.

IV. Post-Blast Procedures

- A. When there is only slight damage (e.g., blown-up mail box) deputies will have the Communications Center notify the EDU. Deputies will stand by on the scene until relieved by an EDU member.
- B. Where there is injury and/or major property damage, deputies will treat this as a major crime scene. Because of the possibility of a secondary explosion, deputies will ensure that once the injured person(s) is removed, all public safety personnel move away from the blast scene to a location that provides substantial hard cover. EDU and the Criminal Investigations Section will be notified immediately.
- C. EDU will assume command of the scene on their arrival and until the area is declared safe to enter. They will provide technical assistance to the Criminal Investigation Section in processing the scene.

D. The Criminal Investigation Section will be responsible for the follow-up investigation.

V. Activation of EDU

A. Contact the Communications Section to activate EDU. Deputies should be prepared to give the Communications Section a brief description of the suspected device and location of a safe staging area for EDU. Communication section should check location for previous similar calls.

B. EDU will be activated in the following circumstances:

1. When you have a suspicious package *and* reason to believe it may be an explosive or incendiary device.
2. For any improvised explosive or incendiary device, intact or detonated, whether a crime is involved or not.
3. For any located, suspected, explosive compound, regardless of condition.
4. For any discovery of military ordnance or ammunition of .50 caliber or larger which is abandoned, illegally possessed, or voluntarily surrendered.
5. For any discovery of blasting caps.
6. For any fireworks located in large quantities or which have substantial explosive potential (e.g., multiple M-80s or M-1000s), or when legal fireworks have been altered to the degree that they make the item an improvised explosive device (e.g., several items wrapped together to enhance the blast effect).

VI. Responsibilities

A. Patrol deputies/sergeants.

1. Provide initial response to scene where explosives or a suspected device has been discovered and also ensuring the stage area has not previously been used for a bomb threat.
2. Provide initial evaluation of bomb threats and/or decision to evacuate. Refer to the DHS/FBI standoff distance guide.
3. Provide a safe approach and work area for EDU.

B. Communications Section.

Will make all necessary notifications per Communications Manual 6.140 in addition to the following:

1. Notify the EDU of any found suspected explosive or incendiary devices.
2. Forward requests from patrol members to the EDU.
3. Notify the Criminal Investigations Section of any major post-blast incidents.
4. Notify Medical Examiner if deaths occur.

C. The Eugene Metropolitan Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU)

1. Respond when activated.
2. Render safe explosives, explosive chemicals, and hazardous devices.
3. Process minor post-blast scenes in conjunction with fire and/or criminal investigators.
4. Process major post-blast scenes in conjunction with the Criminal Investigation Section.
5. The authority to decide how or if a bomb, hazardous device, or explosive is to be rendered safe rests solely with the EDU technician.

D. Criminal Investigation Section.

1. CIS Sgt. notified and advised if there are any victims, where are the victims located.
2. Provide follow-up investigations and evidence control in major post blast investigations.