



# Abilene Police Department Operating Procedures

Subject:

*Transportation Security Administration*

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## **Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Protocols**

TSA has implemented screening procedures that may require assistance from the Department. As passengers pass through the screening process, it is common for alarms to be set off by items left in pockets or worn that have not been removed. Procedures require that the passengers clear the screening successfully prior to boarding.

If this cannot be accomplished through the normal clearing procedures at the screening station, the passenger will be escorted to a secure area where a very thorough and intrusive pat down will occur. If the alarm issue is still not resolved, the Department will likely be called to monitor additional procedures to remedy the situation. If the Department receives a call from TSA and our response is requested, it should be dispatched as a high priority call.

If TSA screeners are unable to resolve a pat down to the point that the screener will not allow the passenger to board the airplane, TSA staff will contact a TSA manager. The TSA Manager will confer with the officer on the scene regarding the passenger in question. Only the TSA manager can clear the passenger to board the aircraft.

## **Communications Requirements**

When TSA contacts Communications for assistance the following is required with a response similar to the following:

- A. "Abilene 9-1-1, what is the address of the emergency?" **Abilene Regional Airport, Upper level**
- B. "What is the phone number?"
- C. "What is your name?" **TSA Agent John Doe**
- D. "Tell me exactly what happened." **We have detected a weapon at the security checkpoint and need police officers for a TSA Response. Screening through the checkpoint has been halted until their arrival.**

***Communication will immediately send out staff notifications with the appropriate information to ensure essential personnel are advised of the call for service.***

## **Police Response to Firearms Located by TSA**

In circumstances where a firearm is located TSA staff will immediately notify Communications who in turn will dispatch the closest on-duty unit, of any rank, to assist. If the closest on-duty unit is not a uniformed officer, they shall assist TSA until a uniformed officer arrives. Patrol supervisors shall not downgrade a response the assist TSA, as time is essential.