

	Abilene Police Department Operating Procedures		
	Subject: <i>Bomb Threats</i>	Issued: 10/19/2011	TBP: 8.02

Dispatch or Officer Response (TBP 8.02)

Police personnel receiving a report of a bomb threat will request the reporting party keep the suspect on the phone as long as possible. The following information should be gathered concerning the threat:

1. Suspect’s name or other identifying information;
2. Location of device;
3. Type of device;
4. Time of detonation;
5. Reason for threat;
6. Any background noises which may indicate suspect’s location and
7. Any voice indications of gender, race, slang, accent, age, speech impediments or emotional level.

If a suspicious item is found without a threat, the dispatcher will determine the location, item description and the specifics concerning why the item is suspicious. The caller will be instructed not to handle or disturb any suspicious items.

Bomb Threats

The Patrol Division is responsible for all initial investigations of bomb threat calls reported to the Department unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police, Assistant Chiefs or, in their absence, the shift commander on duty. Immediately after a bomb threat is received, an officer will be dispatched and a field supervisor will go immediately to the scene.

Evacuations for Bomb Threats

When responding to a bomb threat call, the officer will not make a decision to evacuate or not evacuate a building or specified area unless an extreme emergency exists. The decision to evacuate a building or clear an area rests with the person(s) in charge of a specified area or complex.

In an extreme situation when it is apparent the person(s) in charge of a building or area is making a serious error in judgment, the responding officer will rely on a supervisor at the scene to make the necessary immediate decision. When a field supervisor is not present at the scene, the officer will contact a Patrol commander, unless the emergency is so extreme in the officer’s judgment, immediate field action should be taken.



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Bomb Threat Searches

After a decision has been made and a course of action determined, officers will assist in searching, evacuating and taking other measures which may be necessary.

After the building has been searched and no device found, the decision to re-enter will rest with the person in charge of the building or area.

After the investigation has been completed, the officer assigned will complete a case report of the event and investigation.

Devices Located

If a suspected device, bomb or explosive-type material is located, the building or area will be secured immediately and will not be re-entered until the Bomb Squad or other qualified personnel have declared the area safe to re-enter. The minimum safe distance to evacuate is 300 feet. Do not touch or otherwise attempt to move any suspect device. Create distance while considering shielding from the device and communicate the existence of the device.