

Drill – Actions Upon Alert to Suspicious Item

Task: Organize security and response efforts when faced with a suspicious item.

Condition: Upon notification of a suspicious item (possible Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and/or Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED)) in an area or location where civilians and bystanders are present. Bomb Techs/Bomb Squad are not on-scene but may be requested.

Standards: Upon arrival at the incident scene, conduct size-up, establish incident command, secure the crime scene; and organize response.

Performance Measures.

1. Conduct Size-Up (assessment of the situation). Identify location of the suspicious item.
2. Establish Incident Command. Move Incident Command Post to a position that provides cover and stand-off from effects of IED/VBIED.
3. Limit use of cellular telephones by responders.
4. Designate an initial inner perimeter (stand-off distance computer in accordance with the DHS Bomb Threat Standoff Chart) to control access to the target location.
5. Based upon the situation, responding officer(s) should consider the following possible actions:
 - Assign officers to scan/search area and egress routes for possible IEDs/VBIEDs or follow-on attacks
 - Direct as many civilians out of the inner perimeter as possible while employing all means reasonable possible to avoid alerting suspect(s). Officers should be aware of possible attempts by adversaries to join in with evacuating bystanders.
 - Deploy officers for surveillance and force protection outside the perimeter (handlers or accomplices may be prepared to remotely detonate and explosive device or secondary explosive devices planted in the area, or may be planning a secondary attack on responders following the detonation.
 - Establish roadblocks or enact other containment options to control ingress and egress to the scene.
 - Divert pedestrian and vehicular traffic from the target area
 - Request a no-fly zone for helicopters and other light aircraft within a reasonable radius of the target location
 - Ensure selection of separate staging areas outside of standoff distances for uniformed police, responders and medical personnel and provide their exact locations to communications. If the suspect(s) is presumed to be unaware of

police presence, request that responders use routes that will not alert the suspect and direct that they do not use audible emergency warning devices.

- Direct plain-clothes officer to selected positions in order to gain additional information on the reality and nature of the threat. These officers should be prepared to use deadly force if provided confirmation of a suicide bomber.
 - Assign officers to the staging area(s) to brief arriving personnel and to maintain communication with the Incident Commander. All staging areas shall sweep their locations and establish force protection to prevent or repel possible attack from threat accomplices
 - Designate a third staging area to direct and manage media personnel
6. Be prepared to brief arriving Bomb Techs on locations and descriptions of suspicious items.