

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

## *Managing the Response to a Suspicious Package, Vehicle and/or Bombing*

### Command Action Guidelines

*If any Fire/Rescue, EMS or police unit encounters a suspicious package, vehicle or device they should immediately take the following actions:*

- Begin evacuating all people from the area based on the Bomb Threat Stand-Off Guide.
- Establish control zones unless otherwise advised by the Bomb Squad.
- Stage additional responding vehicles upwind/upgrade of the hot zone while maintaining a safe distance per the Bomb Threat Stand-Off Guide. These units could be used to secure the outer control zone.
- Conduct a rapid assessment to identify the potential for chemical, biological or radiological involvement.
- Isolate and deny entry within the control zones.
- Do not approach or touch any suspicious package, vehicle or device. (Visual Assessment)
- Restrict the number of personnel and apparatus in the hot zone for the evacuation of civilians.
- Restrict all radio traffic within the hot zone.
- Provide a detailed initial report and updated situation reports as needed.
- Await the arrival of the Bomb Squad. Remember that suspicious packages, vehicles and devices may be evidence of a crime scene. The Fire/Explosive Investigation Section has sole jurisdiction of the incident until it is released. The Bomb Squad will coordinate with Fire/Rescue and Law Enforcement.

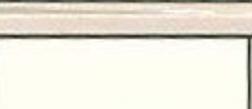
*If any Fire/Rescue, EMS or police personnel arrive on the scene of a bombing, they should immediately take the following actions:*

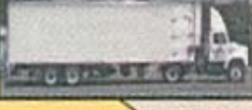
- Survey the blast area for unsafe conditions from a protected location.
- Evacuate all people from the area and establish control zones.
- Wear full protective clothing and use SCBA for any activities in the hot zone.
- Stage additional responding vehicles upwind/upgrade from the hot zone. These units could be used to secure the outer control zone.
- Conduct a rapid assessment to identify the potential for chemical, biological or radiological involvement.
- Estimate the number of casualties if any and activate Mass Casualty Incident Procedures.
- Provide a detailed initial report and updated situation reports as needed.
- Remember that the incident is a crime scene. All potential evidence should be protected and undisturbed if possible.

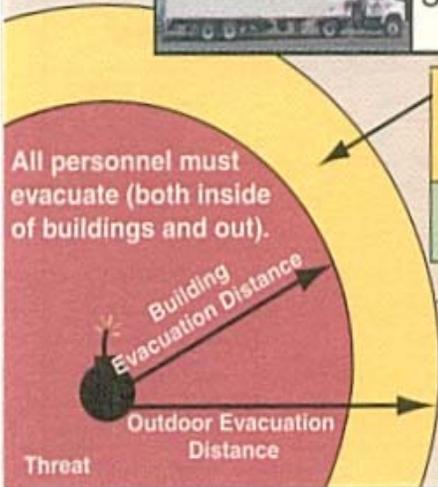
***BE AWARE OF POSSIBLE LOCATIONS OF ADDITIONAL DEVICES, e.g., TRASH CANS, NEWSPAPER BOXES, DUMPSTERS, VEHICLES, MAILBOXES, BRIEF CASES, BAGS, STORM DRAINS, PLANTERS AND CULVERTS.***



# Terrorist Bomb Threat Stand-Off

THREAT	THREAT DESCRIPTION	EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY <sup>1</sup> (TNT EQUIVALENT)	BUILDING EVACUATION DISTANCE <sup>2</sup>	OUTDOOR EVACUATION DISTANCE <sup>3</sup>
	PIPE BOMB	5 LBS/ 2.3 KG	70 FT/ 21 M	850 FT/ 259 M
	BRIEFCASE/ SUITCASE BOMB	50 LBS/ 23 KG	150 FT/ 46 M	1,850 FT/ 564 M
	COMPACT SEDAN	500 LBS/ 227 KG	320 FT/ 98 M	1,500 FT/ 457 M
	SEDAN	1,000 LBS/ 454 KG	400 FT/ 122 M	1,750 FT/ 534 M
	PASSENGER/ CARGO VAN	4,000 LBS/ 1,814 KG	640 FT/ 195 M	2,750 FT/ 838 M
	SMALL MOVING VAN/DELIVERY TRUCK	10,000 LBS/ 4,536 KG	860 FT/ 263 M	3,750 FT/ 1,143 M

THREAT	THREAT DESCRIPTION	EXPLOSIVES CAPACITY <sup>1</sup> (TNT EQUIVALENT)	BUILDING EVACUATION DISTANCE <sup>2</sup>	OUTDOOR EVACUATION DISTANCE <sup>3</sup>
	MOVING VAN/ WATER TRUCK	30,000 LBS/ 13,608 KG	1,240 FT/ 375M	6,500 FT/ 1,982 M
	SEMI-TRAILER	60,000 LBS/ 27,216 KG	1,570 FT/ 475 M	7,000 FT/ 2,134 M



All personnel must either seek shelter inside a building (with some risk) away from windows and exterior walls, or move beyond the Outdoor Evacuation Distance.

Preferred area (beyond this line) for evacuation of people in buildings and mandatory for people outdoors.

- <sup>1</sup> Based on maximum volume or weight of explosive (TNT equivalent) that could reasonably fit in a suitcase or vehicle.
- <sup>2</sup> Governed by the ability of an unstrengthened building to withstand severe damage or collapse.
- <sup>3</sup> Governed by the greater of fragment throw distance or glass breakage/falling glass hazard distance. Note that pipe and briefcase bombs assume cased charges which throw fragments farther than vehicle bombs.



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 Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service  
*Prepared by the Montgomery County Fire/Explosive  
 Investigation Section*