

Rules and Procedures

Rule 206

January 26, 2007

Rule 206 - Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

This Rule is issued to establish Police Department procedures and policies when department personnel are responding to, investigating or handling explosive devices. Members of the department shall adhere to these guidelines to ensure that cautious and appropriate measures are taken when dealing with explosives to prevent death and injury and to protect property. This rule is effective immediately and supersedes all previously issued written orders and directives concerning this subject.

Sec. 1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS: The threat of terrorism poses a significant challenge to public safety personnel and the public worldwide. Terrorists groups and individuals are increasingly resorting to the use of improvised explosive devices to create anxiety and fear and to maim and kill. Law enforcement officers must know what actions to take when confronted with a possible explosive device to ensure their safety and the safety of others.

Sec. 2 FIRST RESPONDER PROCEDURES: When Department personnel encounter a possible explosive device they shall not touch it. Officers shall refrain from using electronic communication devices such as two-way radios and cellular telephones in the immediate proximity of the suspicious object.

In such situations, officers shall immediately move at least 300 feet from the object and notify the Operations Division of the suspicious object and give Operations its exact location and other relevant details. If the object is within a building, the officer(s) at the scene shall have the premises evacuated. The officer(s) shall ensure the safety of evacuees and persons outside the building by moving them at least 300 feet from the location of the object. If the object is outdoors, the officer(s) shall maintain the same 300-foot perimeter around the suspicious object.

If the officer at the scene cannot effectively evacuate people from a building or area due to volume or other reasons, he/she shall notify Operations and request appropriate resources to perform the evacuation and maintain a secured perimeter around the suspicious object location.

Officers must bear in mind that terrorist groups and others utilize secondary improvised devices to injure and kill first responders. Officers shall make efforts to detect additional suspicious objects in the vicinity of the primary device.

Officers must also remember that a location where an improvised explosive device is found is a crime scene. Officers must make every effort to curtail access to the scene and preserve evidence.

Sec. 3 OPERATIONS DIVISION: Upon receiving information from an officer at the scene that a possible improvised explosive device exists, the Operations Division shall immediately notify the Explosive Ordnance Unit and relay all pertinent information. The Explosive Ordnance Unit shall notify the Special Operations Division when an improvised explosive device is found. The Special Operations Division and the District of occurrence shall supply all needed support personnel and equipment.

The Operations Division shall also notify the following agencies when an improvised explosive device is found:

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

When the threat of a nuclear explosive is received the Operations Division shall notify the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When notified that military ordnance has been found the Operations Division shall notify the U.S. Army at Fort Devens.

Sec. 4 EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE UNIT: Upon notification from Operations that a suspicious object has been found, the Explosive Ordnance Unit shall immediately respond to the location and conduct an assessment of the object. Upon arrival the Supervisor or Senior Bomb Technician assigned to the Explosive Ordnance Unit will assume control and responsibility of the incident. The Supervisor or Senior Bomb Technician shall coordinate with District Supervisors to ensure all safety and security measures are in place prior to the Bomb Technicians initiating a render safe procedure. The Supervisor or Senior Bomb Technician shall also make certain that no one, except Explosive Ordnance Unit personnel, is within the 300-foot secured perimeter. Members of the Explosive Ordnance Unit shall follow approved procedures during the examination, handling, transportation and detonation of a suspected improvised explosive device.

Sec. 5 TRANSPORTATION: Only the Explosive Ordnance Unit shall transport improvised explosive devices. The Special Operations Division shall provide a police cruiser to proceed in front of the vehicle transporting the explosive and such motorcycle officers as are needed to cope with traffic.

The Explosive Ordnance Unit shall not transport explosives through tunnels. The Explosive Ordnance Unit shall not transport explosives over bridges unless there is no alternative route available.

Sec. 6 STORAGE: The only approved area for the storage of explosive devices is at the Boston Police Departments Pistol Range, and Moon Island Bunker, and the Pistol Range personnel must be notified prior to transportation to that site.

Sec. 7 DISPOSAL: The primary disposal area for explosives is the Boston Police Department revolver range on Moon Island. In addition to the procedures set forth in the previous section

(5) of this rule, the Explosive Ordnance Unit shall notify the Chief of the City of Quincy's Fire Department prior to the transportation of any explosives to Moon Island.

Before any explosive device is detonated on Moon Island, the Explosive Ordnance Unit shall notify the Logan Airport Control Tower.

In an extreme emergency, if two or more explosive devices are found in different locations at the same time it may be necessary to use an alternate disposal area. An alternate area would be an open field or park in an area close to where the explosive was found. For example:

- Downtown Boston: the Boston Common
- Brighton: Roger's Park or Smith Field
- Charlestown: Barry Playground
- Dorchester: Garvey Park, Ronan Park, Malibu Beach, Walsh Park
- East Boston: Constitution Beach, Bell Island Marsh
- Hyde Park: Kelley Field, Ross Field, Smith Field
- Jamaica Plain, Playstead Park at Franklin Park, Daisy Field on Jamaica Way
- Mattapan: Barry's Ledge; Franklin Park Ball Field
- Roslindale: Fallon Field, Healy Field
- South End: Carter Playground; Jim Rice Ball Field
- South Boston: Columbia Park, M Street Ball Field, Carson Beach
- West Roxbury: W.R. Crushed Stone, Billings Field, Millennium Park

Sec. 8 PUBLIC INFORMATION: Descriptions and photographs of improvised explosive devices have in the past resulted in groups and individuals copying or attempting to copy such devices. Therefore, no person shall give a description of an explosive device to a member of the news media. No person, other than police personnel, shall photograph an explosive device. Only the Office of Media Relations shall disseminate information concerning explosive devices.

Edward F. Davis
Police Commissioner