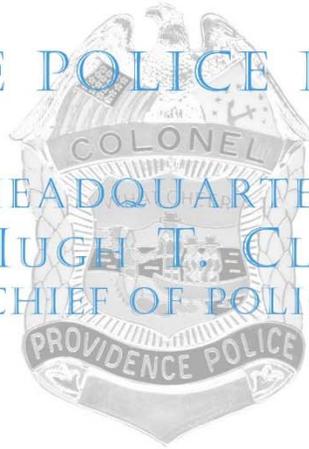


# PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS  
COLONEL HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	360.05	5/1/2020	5/1/2020
SUBJECT TITLE	PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES		
Bomb Threats	Supersedes: G.O. #23 Series 2002 Bomb Threats		
REFERENCE	RE-EVALUATION DATE		
CALEA 46.1.5	5/20/2022		
SUBJECT AREA	DISTRIBUTION		
Law Enforcement Operations	All Sworn Personnel		

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set general guidelines, within the City of Providence, applicable to the safe procedures and operations in response to a bomb threat, suspicious package/item or bombing for responding officer(s) and bomb technicians.

## POLICY

It is the policy of the Providence Police Department to establish a set of guidelines for its officers for the protection of life and property when dealing with bomb threats. Officers must be able to effectively respond to, and properly investigate bomb threats not only in preservation of life and property, but to assist in the apprehension of those responsible.

## DEFINITIONS

**Bomb Threat:** A warning by telephone, letter, fax, email, social media messaging platform, or any other form of communication, that a particular device will leak, release, spray, burn or explode causing death, bodily harm, destruction, chaos or panic.

**Bomb:** Any object possessing the capability of containing explosives, incendiary material, smoke, gas, or other substance designed to explode through the use of detonation devices either mechanical, remote or lit fuses.

**Bomb Technician:** A person designate by the Chief of Police who is trained, certified, and has demonstrated a working knowledge of inspecting, defusing, and disposal of explosive/hazardous devices.

**Explosive-Detection K-9:** A detection dog trained and certified, in the recognition of explosives.

**Suspicious Package/Item:** Any item (i.e. bag, box, package, vehicle, etc.) that is reasonably believed to contain explosives, an improvised explosive device (IED), or other

hazardous material that requires further examination by a bomb technician through the utilization of specialized equipment.

Secondary Devices: Secondary devices are designed to explode after a primary explosion or other major emergency event that has attracted a large number of emergency responders and/or spectators, to inflict damage, fear, and injury.

Render Safe: A systematic procedure performed by a bomb technician to ensure if a package/item or device, which may contain an explosive, is secure and safe from exploding.

Unattended Package/Item: An unattended package/item (i.e. bag, box, package, vehicle, etc.) of an unknown origin and content, with **No** obvious signs of it being suspicious.

Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED): An improvised explosive device (IED) placed or constructed for use on or within a common vehicle designed to create disorder, destruction and incapacitation through the use of explosives, incendiary chemicals and noxious gases. Also known as a “car bomb.”

## **I. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Communication Responsibility**

#### **1. Receiving a Bomb Threat**

- a. The primary objective of the Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) call-taker, will be to maintain a line of communication with the caller, until it has been determined that all necessary and available information has been obtained.
- b. The call-taker will gather as much information as possible, through the utilization of the “Bomb Threat” form (Appendix A), but at minimum, obtain the following:
  1. The name, address and phone number of the caller.
  2. The location of the caller, and the intended target.
  3. The location where the responding officer will meet the caller.
  4. A physical description of the bomb and its location.
- c. PSCC dispatchers will assign and dispatch a post car along with a district sergeant, as well as, any additional units as needed. The responding units will be provided with all relevant information received from the caller. PSCC will then notify the Officer in Charge (OIC), Providence Fire Alarm and Detectives.

### **B. Uniform Division Responsibility**

#### **1. Responding Patrol Officer**

- a. Officers will respond to the location of the threat in a prompt, but safe manner, while being cognizant of the potential dangers once

they have arrived. The responding officer will meet with the complainant to collect as much relevant information as possible. The responding officer will attempt to identify the individual who received the initial threat. Units arriving on scene, within practicality, shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. **Do Not** touch, tamper with, or move the package, bag, or item.
2. Refrain from using portable radios and other portable communication devices to include cellular phones within 300-feet of the location in question. Some explosive devices may be detonated by radio/cellular signals.
3. Establish perimeter/safety zone no less than 300-feet. **DO NOT** position emergency vehicle(s) within this zone.

b. Responding Patrol Sergeant

1. The on-scene supervisor will initially assume command of the incident and ensure that a secure perimeter has been established.
2. The on-scene supervisor will consult with the first responding officer and be fully briefed of the situation, thereby, evaluating the actions that have been taken prior to his/her arrival.
3. The on-scene supervisor will establish communication with the owner, occupant, or person in control of the property to assist in the search of the suspicious item.
4. The on-scene supervisor will advise the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) of the situation.

c. Uniformed Officer-In-Charge

1. If practical, the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) will respond to the scene and assume control of the incident.
2. The OIC will evaluate the situation and determine if a Bomb Technician and/or an explosive-detection K-9 are needed. If Bomb Technician and/or explosive-detection K-9 respond he/she will determine the tactical/ technical course of action.
  - **NOTE:** The Bomb Technician will not respond to perform a simple cursory search. If the Bomb Technician is unavailable the RI State Fire Marshall's Bomb Squad shall be called, (401) 222-3047.
3. The OIC shall ensure that the Chief of Police or his designee is immediately notified of the situation.

### C. Evacuation

1. The decision to evacuate a building upon receiving a bomb threat will be determined by the owner, occupant or person in control of the property. The Providence Police Department will advise and provide recommendations for the evacuation of the building in connection to the potential danger/hazard of the suspected bomb; thus, assisting in the decision making to evacuate the building.
2. Officers can order the evacuation of any area or building, but only after it has been determined there is a significant or imminent threat to life or property.
3. Officers shall assist in the evacuation of the property to a predetermined designated safe area. This area shall be at a distance of 300-feet or greater from the building where the occupants can be accounted for by the owner, occupant or person in control of the property. However, officer(s) should be cognizant of a secondary device(s) in the chosen designated safe area.

### D. Searching

1. When the decision to search a building is made, officers are to be reminded that they **ARE NOT** to pick up, kick, move, or touch a suspicious item if located. Refrain from using radio and cellular phones within the 300-foot perimeter of the building.
2. A search can be conducted with the voluntary assistance of an employee of the building such as a janitor, manager, or owner. Utilization of employees is preferred and strongly recommended because of their familiarity of the building.
3. Searches should be coordinated to begin in areas accessible to public such as: stairwells, restrooms, supply closets, trash cans, elevators, etc.
4. If a suspicious item is located officers will immediately evacuate the area, noting the location of the device and any identifying features. The discovery of the item will be relayed to the Bomb Technician who will determine the tactical/technical course of action.
5. If officers locate a suspicious item they shall be cognizant that secondary device(s) could be present.

6. If it has been determined, upon the completion of the search, that no suspicious items were found, the owner, occupant or person in control of the property shall be advised of such. It shall be explained that the negative results of any search do not eliminate the possibility of a device, which may still be within the building, and that not every search is guaranteed to produce such a device.
7. It will be the decision of the owner, occupant, or the person in control of the building to reoccupy the building.

#### E. Bombing Response

1. If a bombing should occur, the Bomb Technician will be notified to respond. Providing there are no injuries or emergencies that need attending to by emergency personnel (such as fires and personal injuries), the scene will be secured within a 500-foot radius. However, depending on the extent of explosion and the need for the collection of evidence, the perimeter may differ in size.
2. The Bomb Technician will determine the tactical/ technical course of action when inspecting and rendering safe the scene. Officers are reminded to be cognizant, that some explosives may not have been detonated during the initial blast and / or secondary device(s) may be in place. Until the scene is rendered safe by a Bomb Technician no evidence will be collected and no personnel will be allowed within the determined perimeter of the crime scene.

#### F. Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED), Response

1. In the event of the discovery of a VBIED threat, uniformed officers will adhere to the procedures outlined in section B "Uniformed Division responsibility", however, a perimeter shall be established between 500 and 1000 feet, due to the concentrated amount of explosives that can be placed or contained on or within a vehicle.

#### G. Investigative Division Responsibility

1. All post-incident investigations will be conducted by Detectives with the assistance of a Bomb Technician.

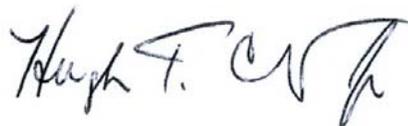
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**APPROVED:**

Handwritten signature of Steven M. Paré in black ink.

STEVEN M. PARÉ  
COMMISSIONER  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

**APPROVED:**

Handwritten signature of Hugh T. Clements, Jr. in black ink.

HUGH T. CLEMENTS, JR.  
COLONEL  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# (Appendix A)

## TELEPHONE BOMB THREAT REPORT FORM

**Incident #:**

**Name of Person Receiving Call:**

Instructions: Keep the caller on the line until located by officers, if on scene and safe to do so. Notify PPD and PFD per policy.

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>
<b>SOURCE OF TELEPHONE CALL:</b>	
Names or number displayed.	
Name/location/job title/ call-back number of caller	
<b>EXACT WORDING OF THE THREAT:</b>	

<b>QUESTIONS TO ASK:</b>	
1. When is the bomb going to explode?	
2. Where is the bomb right now?	
3. What kind of bomb is it?	
4. What does it look like?	
5. What will cause it to explode?	
6. Who placed the bomb?	
7. What is your address?	

<b>TRY TO DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING – CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE</b>	
Caller's Identity	Male   Female   Adult   Juvenile   Age _____ years
Voice	Loud   Soft   High-pitched   Deep   Intoxicated   Other _____
Accent	Local   Foreign   Region (describe) _____
Speech	Fast   Slow   Distinct   Distorted   Stutter   Slurred   Nasal
Language	Excellent   Good   Fair   Poor   Foul   Other _____
Manner	Calm   Angry   Rational   Irrational   Coherent   Incoherent
	Deliberate   Righteous   Laughing   Intoxicated
Background Noise	Office Machines   Factory Machines   Bedlam   Trains   Animals   Music
	Voices   Airplanes   Street-Traffic   Party-atmosphere   Mixed   Other

<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>
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