

This guideline provides North Zone Agencies procedures for operating at a bomb threat. Many times the person calling in a bomb threat just wants to see emergency equipment, or simply wants to disturb the occupants of the building. For this reason, a response by the North Zone Agency should be as inconspicuous as possible. North Zone personnel and equipment must stay out of sight of the public as much as possible and stay clear of the building in the event an explosion does occur.

ACTIONS:

Department procedures for responding to a bomb threat are as follows:

- Notify personnel in the immediate area of the situation.
- Assure Law Enforcement is responding.
- Avoid the use of radio or cellular telephones, or two-way pagers in the immediate area.
- Avoid disturbing any suspected device.
- Consider evacuation area. Even though the evacuation of the threat area is the responsibility of law enforcement, the fire personnel has a moral responsibility to evacuate a dangerous area before the arrival of law enforcement. Every situation will vary, but consider the average safe distance to be 1,000 feet and behind protective cover. Evacuations should not be forced on businesses when there has only been a phone call threat. They should be undertaken only when there is an actual or suspected device found.
- ALL PERSONNEL SHOULD MAINTAIN A MENTAL SAFE APPROACH.

INTERACTING WITH THE PUBLIC:

When dealing with the public, personnel should consider the following:

- Avoid mention of a bomb; use “unsafe situation”, etc.
- Give firm, clear, directions as to designated areas for evacuees.
- Advise evacuees to take easily transportable personal property with them such as purses, coats, etc.
- Watch for unauthorized entry to the building.

NOTE:

Bomb threats are primarily police matters. North Zone Agency responds to provide assistance to Law Enforcement and to be in position in the event an actual explosion occurs.