

Explosives Post-Blast Response

FIRST RESPONDER AWARENESS CARD

Post-blast (or post-detonation) response takes place after an explosion has occurred. An explosives event has the potential to overwhelm first responders due to the large number of victims, fatalities and property destruction.

DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- When responding get all the dispatch information available. Nature of the call and location are important.
- **Standard guidelines against the use of cell phones and radios may not be applicable during an actual “explosion”. There will be an overriding need for a rapid and coordinated response. If possible do not use radios within 150 feet of the blast site and use other resources such as runners in the “hot zone”.**

ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- Proceed with extreme caution for your own safety.
- Slow down when approaching the area and conduct a 360-degree scan during your scene-size up or “windshield survey”.
- Look for objects and people that seem out of place for the location or time of the call - if it looks suspicious it probably is.
- Use Staging Area to limit number of responders - don't stack up responders and resources in one location.
- Law enforcement should immediately disperse any crowds and establish an outer security perimeter.
- Avoid entering blast areas (Hot Zone) unless it is necessary to save lives.
- **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF SECONDARY DEVICES!**

APPROACHING THE AREA

- Rapidly implement the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Establish hazard Control Zones around the incident (Hot, Warm, Cold).
- Always have an escape route open to leave the scene quickly if needed.
- All responders should wear all available Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Trained bomb technicians and explosive canines should search for secondary explosive devices during and after the response.
- Appropriate agencies – Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, specialized bomb personnel, Emergency Management, and hospitals should be notified as soon as possible if there is a report of an incident or possible incident.
- ***BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY!***

Response sheet is for training and informational purposes only. Please utilize local guidelines and procedures.

RESPONSE OPERATIONS

- Law Enforcement will need to prioritize force protection resources around areas of critical operations and the scene.
- An explosives incident has the potential for large number of victims with very traumatic injuries.
- Searching the beyond immediate scene for victims unable to call for help. This may be especially needed in a dense urban environment, where persons injured in upper stories of building were injured/affected (directly by the attack or elderly suffering a health condition).
- Some seriously injured victims may have no visible wounds and some victims may be beyond help.
- Quickly remove victims from the area and render aid in a secure location. Triage must be conducted outside the hazard area. The use of SKEDS, litters or backboards is recommended.
- EMS may need to implement disaster procedures such as triage tags, casualty collection points and field treatment areas for minor injuries.
- Implement local mass-casualty/mass-fatality procedures.
- Triage will be conducted at least twice, once at the blast scene and again at the hospital.
- Expect numerous types of injuries from traumatic injuries, blast pressure or internal injuries, burns and shrapnel.
- Responders must immediately monitor for other hazards such as chemical agents, gases or radioactive materials.
- If a vehicle or structural fire is involved, Fire should conduct a rapid knockdown while considering evidence.
- Be aware of secondary hazards such as unstable structures, damaged utilities, hanging debris, void spaces and other physical hazards.
- Consider the need for other assets such as Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials Teams, Incident Management Teams, etc.
- ***Be aware of the possibility of secondary devices and attacks. This type of event has targeted responders.***

CRIME SCENE CONSIDERATIONS

- Establish as large a crime scene perimeter as possible as rule of thumb for the perimeter is to extend the perimeter 50% from where the farthest piece of evidence is located.
- Plan on an intensive media response.
- Make immediate notifications of local, state and federal resources.
- Plan on an extensive, multi-day crime scene investigation.

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO APPROACH, MOVE, HANDLE OR DISARM A CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED IED; THIS IS A JOB FOR SPECIALLY TRAINED PERSONNEL.

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