

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

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| SOG #: | 6.639 | Effective Date: | 7/1/2012 |
| Title: | Improvised Explosive Devices | # of pages: | 3 |
| Category: | Hazardous Materials Response | Classification: | Red |

1. **PURPOSE:** This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) defines and describes how the South Portland Fire Department (SPFD) will respond a report of an Improvised Explosive Device (either detonated or undetonated)
2. **PROCEDURES:** It is important to remember that in many Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks around the world first responders have been the primary target. When responding to a post or pre IED event or even a suspected IED event, first responders need to become more “tactical” in their thinking.

DISPATCH AND RESPONSE PHASE

- Nature of the call and location are important. When responding get all the dispatch information available via text page, cell phone, or MDB. **DO NOT** discuss over radio if possible.
- Current threat environment is applicable to an IED response. Were there any current threats, planned special events or intelligence reference the location?

ARRIVAL ON SCENE

- Slow down when approaching the area and conduct a 360-degree scan during your “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.
- Establish an outer security perimeter.
- **ALWAYS BE AWARE OF SECONDARY DEVICES!**

APPROACHING THE AREA

- Utilize Incident Command System (ICS) and the necessary components for that response. Unified Command, Staging Officer, Safety Officer, etc.
- Establish hazard Limited Access Zones (Per Hazmat SOG) around the suspected IED (Hot, Warm, and Cold). Limit the number of responders entering the Hot Zone.
- Always have an escape route open to leave the scene quickly if needed.
- Beware of locations where the suspect package or device has been placed in a choke point or other critical areas.
- The bigger the suspicious device - the bigger the Hot Zone (300 feet minimum). Do not use radios or cell phones in this area.
- Scan the area using binoculars: spotting scopes or vehicle-mounted cameras before approaching.

RESPONDERS SHOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS OF ANY ITEMS THAT AROUSE YOUR CURIOSITY

An IED can be discovered during a terrorist or criminal explosives incident response or can be discovered when conducting routine response activities. Improvised explosive devices can be designed to be concealed or look like ordinary items.

IDENTIFICATION

- **Responders should be very cautious of any items that arouse your curiosity.**
- The exterior inspection of a suspected device does not ensure its safety.
- When remotely surveying a suspected IED think how it works - it needs an explosive payload, a power source (battery), and an initiator (blasting cap). Can your item or package incorporate these three things?
- Unusual devices or containers with electronic components such as wires, circuit boards, cellular phones, antennas and other items attached or exposed.
- Devices containing quantities of fuses, fireworks, match heads, black powder, smokeless powder, incendiary materials and other unusual materials or liquids.
- Materials attached to an item such as nails, bolts, drill bits, marbles, etc. that could be used for shrapnel.
- Ordnance such as blasting caps, detcord, military explosives, commercial explosives, grenades, etc.
- **ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED ITEMS!**

EXIT STRATEGY

- If there are several strong indicators that you have an IED - leave the area and withdraw your personnel to an area outside the Warm Zone.
- Call for Bomb Squad/EOD assistance.

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



3. REFERENCES:

- August Vernon, fdtac@yahoo.com First Responder Awareness Card-Version 2, March 2008

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

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