



**BOMBS AND
EXPLOSIVE DEVICES**

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INTRODUCTION

The courthouse is a place for the peaceful settlement of conflicts. Within the framework of our judicial system people can peacefully resolve their disputes and grievances in a court of law. Occasionally however, someone decides to take the law into his own hands. One method some people use to accomplish this is to plant a bomb or telephone a bomb threat.

There is a very real possibility that you could be involved in a bomb threat. A bomb threat is not an everyday occurrence in most courthouses. However, if you don't know what to do when it does occur, it is probably too late. Almost any person working in a courthouse could be involved in a bomb threat--from the clerk at the switchboard who might receive a threatening call, to the custodian who might find an unusual or suspicious object, to the presiding judge who might get a threatening call at home. When a bomb threat occurs you don't have time to read up on it or to sit back and think about it, you have to act quickly and wisely because lives may be at stake. Recently, a ten-minute delay, due to lack of knowledge, resulted in serious injuries to 14 people in a Boston courthouse bombing.

The purpose of this booklet is to give you useful information so that you will be prepared if a bomb threat ever occurs in your courthouse. Hopefully, after reading this booklet you will be able to act quickly and effectively if a threat does occur. In this booklet we will discuss the kind of people who make threats, the kinds of bombs

they make, what you can do now to prepare for this kind of emergency, and what you should do when a bomb threat is actually received.

BOOKLET OBJECTIVE

There are two objectives for this booklet:

1. KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN A BOMB THREAT IS RECEIVED.
2. MAKE SURE OTHERS IN YOUR COURTHOUSE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THEY SHOULD DO WHEN A BOMB THREAT IS RECEIVED.

COMMENTARY

BOMB THREATS AND THE COURTS

Why do people make bomb threats? They may be bored and want to generate some excitement. They may be mad at the courts for reaching a decision unfavorable to them. They may feel outraged when a friend is jailed, or a rapist is released on probation. They may feel persecuted if they are convicted while others go free. They may even feel that our whole system of administration of justice is totally unfair and should be destroyed.

Whatever their reasons, the people are sufficiently angry or upset to strike out at the courthouse. In many cases the threats are crank calls--merely attempts to harass, made by people who cannot or don't want to actually plant a bomb. Following a real bomb incident, the number of such hoax calls can rise dramatically. However, a few calls are warnings about real explosives, designed to destroy property or perhaps people. It is very difficult to determine a fake call from a real one. Even professionals have difficulty telling the difference. So the best approach for you to take is to assume that every one is legitimate and to act accordingly.

Records for the past few years show that most bombs are directed against property rather than people. In fact, a major reason for the warning call is to save people. Real warning calls usually include enough details, such as time and perhaps place, to allow evacuation of

people from the danger area. When a bomb directed against property explodes, it is likely to go off at night or in an unoccupied area.

It is a federal crime (Title 18, U.S. Code) to telephone a bomb threat or to actually plant any kind of explosive device. Violations of this law may be investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), a division of the Treasury Department. However, in practice ATF agents are usually called only when a bomb has actually been found. Finding a bomb also means calling in a bomb squad to remove and dispose of the device, since handling a bomb is a job for experts, usually from a military or other highly trained unit.

Since each court throughout the State is responsible for determining the procedures to follow and who to notify, make sure you know your court's plan for handling real bombs and bomb threats. We will discuss possible ways to handle bombs and bomb threats in later portions of this booklet.

THE NATURE OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

Actually, real "bombs" are seldom planted in courthouses. Technically, a bomb is a projectile containing an explosive device, such as those dropped from aircraft or shot from mortars. The covert, bomb-like explosive devices planted in courthouses or elsewhere are more correctly called explosive ordnance devices, or EOD's. An EOD is any explosive device which is designed for military or war-like uses. Included in this classification are bombs, land and water mines, explosive booby traps, timed explosive devices and incendiary devices such as Molotov cocktails.

In this booklet we use the term "bomb" rather loosely to refer to what the experts call an EOD. An EOD contains an explosive, such as dynamite, TNT, black powder or plastics, that can be detonated by a trigger or fuse. Some characteristics of EOD's are the following:

DAMAGE

An EOD can be designed to cause damage by the following methods:

- Concussion: Causes damage by the shock waves from the blast itself. The shock waves are powerful enough to destroy structures and people.
- Fire: Once the device has started a fire, the extent of the damage depends on how well the courthouse is equipped to handle fires.

Schrapnel: Small objects or fragments of an EOD itself that are propelled through the air in all directions at great speed. Schrapnel is particularly destructive to people.

SIZE AND APPEARANCE

An EOD can be as small as a tiny pill box or as large as a case of dynamite. Most are small, to facilitate carrying and hiding, and they are usually concealed in an innocent-looking cover. Examples: cigaret pack, lunch bag, briefcase, toolbox, purse or flashlight. A more obvious bomb may appear to be harmless if it has a burned-out fuse or disconnected wire--but don't be fooled. Anyone sneaky enough to put such a device in a courthouse is sneaky enough to have a real detonator concealed elsewhere. Remember: an explosive charge the size of a thimble can kill a person.

TRIGGERING

The ingenuity used in disguising EOD's is only exceeded by the ingenuity used in triggering them. All EOD's need some form of energy to set them off. This energy can come from the following types of triggers:

- Internal: Triggers that may be a battery or spring-driven clock hand or a lighted fuse. The black powder safety fuse will burn underwater and cannot be stamped out.
- External: These are remotely controlled triggers that are wired or wireless. They may be remotely controlled or they may be activated by a gentle kick, push, or fall (two-

way radios can detonate certain types of electric blasting caps).

-Combination: These devices may be a battery-powered type that could be triggered by someone simply touching it (you?). The switch or trigger may be made of mechanical, electrical, and/or chemical components. It may also have a time delay mechanism.

A few examples. The trigger could be a clothespin, mousetrap, or other device sensitive to pressure. A slight tilt or movement could close the contact of a mercury switch. Water could overflow and short out a circuit and trigger the device. Puncturing a package could create an electrical contact between two layers of foil. Exposure to light can detonate a bomb with a photosensitive cell. Similarly, sound or heat could activate the trigger of a bomb. And of course there is the primitive, but effective, burning cigarette in a matchbook that ignites a black powder fuse.

MOST IMPORTANT

It isn't necessary for you to have a detailed knowledge of bombs (EOD's). The most important thing to remember, according to Sargeant Shranck of the San Diego Marshal's Office, is "Let them do it. Don't touch it, don't lift it, don't kick it, don't do anything. Leave it and clear the immediate area around it."

P R E V E N T I O N

There are three basic precautions that can be taken in your court which could help prevent the planting of a real bomb.

Obviously, almost any article could be a bomb in disguise. One defense against this is to make detection of any foreign or unfamiliar object easier. This can be done by:

1. Design and Housekeeping. Simplify the design and layout of the courthouse. Eliminate clutter and unnecessary objects. Keep unneeded articles put away and prevent access to unused areas. In general, reduce the number of articles that must be scrutinized.
2. Observation and Training. Learn all the details of courtroom appearance and function so that the unusual stands out. Train yourself to identify articles or packages with their owner. Know who brings what into the courtroom or office, and when it was brought in. Listen to the background sounds-- the sound of the ventilation system, steam heating equipment, water pipes, motors, and so forth. Schedule regular precautionary searches of your work areas so you can become familiar with the way

it is supposed to be and also to make you aware of potential problem areas.

3. Advance Knowledge. Use your sources to learn of any events that may cause a bombing. The courthouse is an obvious target for many reasons. Learn about the grievances and methods of political groups that may see the courthouse as a place of possible destruction...especially the groups in your area.

TELEPHONE BOMB THREATS

When a telephone bomb threat is received, it is very important to get as much information as possible while the caller is still on the line. There should be a checklist of things to observe and things to ask near every telephone in your court (see next page for sample checklist). If a checklist is printed on a distinctively colored card, it can be silently flashed in order to alert another to listen in on the call. Some courts may have a silent "panic button" that alerts the supervisor of something unusual or out of the ordinary. Some courts may have a recording device that can be used to activate a tracer on the call and also record the exact call.

None of the methods mentioned above are useful unless all court personnel are given instructions in handling telephone bomb threats. Proper training can give a sense of confidence and calm that are most important in properly handling a telephone bomb threat.

Three points to keep in mind when you have received a telephone bomb threat:

1. Keep calm.
2. Keep the caller on the line as long as possible.
3. Ask for any details that can save lives.

After you hang up the phone, some quick decisions have to be made. Make sure you know the person that should be notified first...

your supervisor?...the Clerk of the court?...the head of the security team? If you have properly used the checklist, you will be able to provide this person with some very valuable information. Information that they can use to determine the safest and most effective course of action.

Below is a sample checklist that could be located near every telephone in your court. If this checklist is printed on brightly colored paper it can serve as a signal or flat to others that you are receiving a bomb threat. Please feel free to copy this checklist and use it in your court.

CHECK LIST WHEN YOU RECEIVE A BOMB THREAT

Time and Date Reported: _____

How Reported: _____

Exact Words of Caller: _____

Questions to Ask: _____

1. When is bomb going to explode? _____

2. Where is bomb right now? _____

3. What kind of bomb is it? _____

4. What does it look like? _____

5. Why did you place the bomb? _____

6. Where are you calling from? _____

Description of Callers Voice: _____

Male _____ Female _____ Young _____ Middle Age _____ Old _____ Accent _____

Tone of Voice _____ Background Noise _____ Is voice familiar? _____

If so, who did it sound like? _____

Other voice characteristics: _____

Time Caller Hung Up: _____ Remarks: _____

Name, Address, Telephone of Recipient: _____

E V A C U A T I O N

If a decision has been made to evacuate either sections of or the entire building, it is important that an organized and calm evacuation take place. The purpose of evacuation is to protect people, so the continued safety of those being evacuated must be considered. You should not leave one area and enter a more dangerous one. The bomber's hostility could be directed against the building, the people, or a particular person. Be sure to consider all the aspects of the situation.

Fire drill evacuation instructions are to close and lock doors and turn off lights. Bomb searchers will want the doors open, lights on, and machinery unplugged to eliminate humming and ticking sounds. If an explosion is anticipated, the doors and windows should be left open to minimize damage. Thus, a special evacuation procedure for use in bomb threats should be developed and known by all employees.

Panic may arise at the very mention of a bomb. Depending upon the circumstances, it may be prudent to avoid mentioning the reason for the evacuation, for example by calling a recess in the courtroom. This is particularly true when the courtroom needs to be temporarily cleared for a search. In any case, those leaving the room should be instructed to take their personal belongings with them. This will make the search easier and also prevent theft.

There are many questions to consider in developing evacuation plans.

Where should the people go, or not go? Which exits are safe? Remember that the public areas of a building (such as lobbies and halls) and the area outside the building are most easily accessible to a bomber. What are the priorities for evacuation? If a bomb has been located, the areas within 300 feet should be cleared, especially on the floor above and the floor below. When may people return? If a time of detonation was given and no bomb has been found, a safe precaution would be to keep the area clear from fifteen minutes before until one hour past the deadline.

THE SEARCH

Before any kind of search begins, someone should have determined who will perform the search and how extensive the search will be. The chart below gives a quick listing of the advantages, disadvantages, and thoroughness of the different kinds of searches.

SEARCH SYSTEMS				
SUPERVISORY	SEARCH BY: Supervisors BEST for Covert search POOR for thoroughness POOR for morale if detected	ADVANTAGES 1. Covert 2. Fairly rapid 3. Loss of working time of supervisor only	DISADVANTAGES 1. Unfamiliarity with many areas. 2. Will not look in dirty places 3. Covert search is difficult to maintain 4. Generally results in search of obvious areas, <i>not</i> hard to-reach ones 5. Violation of privacy problems 6. Danger to unevacuated workers	THOROUGHNESS 50-65%
OCCUPANT	SEARCH BY: Occupants BEST for speed of search GOOD for thoroughness GOOD for morale (with confidence in training given beforehand)	1. Rapid 2. No privacy violation problem 3. Loss of work time for shorter period of time than for evacuation 4. Personal concern for own safety leads to good search 5. Personnel conducting search are familiar with area	1. Requires training of entire work force 2. Requires several practical training exercises 3. Danger to unevacuated workers	80-90%
TEAM	SEARCH BY: Trained Team BEST for safety BEST for thoroughness BEST for morale POOR for lost work time	1. Thorough 2. No danger to workers who have been evacuated 3. Workers feel company cares for their safety	1. Loss of production time 2. Very slow operation 3. Requires comprehensive training and practice 4. Privacy violation problems	90-100%

If you are a member of a search team there are some very specific procedures that should be considered. And since you may not know until the time that a search has to be performed, it is important for you to read the next several pages on search procedure.

SEARCH PROCEDURE

Once the courtroom has been cleared, it should be searched for anything that doesn't belong where it is. Thus, at least one member of the search team should be familiar with the room and the habits of the people assigned to it. The search will proceed faster if that person has a partner. More than two people per room can easily lead to confusion about who searches where, and it also puts additional people in danger if a bomb explodes in the room during the search.

A Room Search. Upon entering the room, the team should be alert for any strange sounds or odors. With eyes closed, they should listen for clock-like sounds in several places in the room. It is amazing how many little sounds there are, and how well these sounds carry through ducts, pipes, and walls.

Upon locating any suspicious object, the team should report it to the supervisor without touching it. The team's responsibility is to search, not to evaluate.

Systematic Division. If a particular area is suspected for some reason, it may be searched first, but the most effective and efficient way to search a room is by systematic division and examination. It is easier to plant a bomb low in the room than up high, and the act of planting is less noticeable if the bomber stays near the walls. Therefore, the searchers start at the most likely bomb sites--the area on and near the

floor. Check the wall area before checking the central region.

The characteristics of the room determine how it should be divided. Each person on the search team should search half the room. The division should be based on the number and type of objects to be scrutinized, rather than on floor area.

Each half of the room is searched two to four times; the searcher directs his attention to a different level each time. The height of objects to be searched determines the dividing lines for the various levels. Convenient dividing lines could be chair or table height, shoulder height, or ceiling height. The first searching sweep would cover low wall fixtures, such as air ducts, heaters, built-in cabinets, etc., and also the floor, including under the rug.

Begin the Search. The search team begins by standing back-to-back and systematically searching their way around the room--checking all items on or near the floor close to the walls. Then the team works back through the central region to the starting point. Searching the lower levels of a room usually takes more time and effort than searching the higher levels. On the second searching sweep the partners retrace their steps and examine objects at intermediate level, including wall hangings and lamps, tall furniture, etc. The third level usually includes high wall air ducts, hanging light fixtures, etc. If there is a false or suspended ceiling, another sweep is necessary to check the various structures and utilities concealed above it. If time permits, the partners may exchange halves and repeat the multi-level search.

Search Procedure Summary. This search procedure can be used for large or complex areas. The basic steps are:

1. Listen.
2. Divide the area into parts and levels.
3. Search lowest level first, then work up.
4. Start back-to-back, then work toward each other.
5. Work around the walls, then into the center.

If nothing suspicious is found in the area searched, the team should mark all doors with tape to indicate "search complete." An obvious place for the tape mark is on the door above the doorknob.

Suspicious Object. Any suspicious object should be reported to the person in charge of the search. If it appears likely that a bomb or explosive has been found, do the following:

1. Call the bomb squad.
2. Prevent anyone other than the bomb disposal squad from approaching or handling the object. Use tape or paper to direct bomb squad to EOD.
3. Alert individuals who may be in danger.
4. Open doors and windows if possible. Damage is increased if a bomb explodes in a confined space. The force of the blast must go somewhere. If it is directed up or out open windows, the damage is reduced. Do not cover the bomb or explosive with anything. The only safe shields are sandbags, mattresses, or similar materials circling (but not covering) the bomb or explosive to direct the blast upward. Placement of a shield is a very risky act, especially since vibrations or a timer may be triggered by the movement.
5. Alert fire and rescue squads.

Most Important. With any bomb or explosive, leave the heroics to the experts. Your first mistake may be your last. Above all, DO NOT TOUCH ANY SUSPECTED BOMB.

CONCLUSION

A bomb threat is different from most other emergencies that might arise in the courthouse. The threatener wants to disrupt the normal functions of the courts in one of two ways:

1. If the threat is real, either the bomb(s) must be found and disarmed or personnel must be evacuated for safety.
2. If the threat is false, this misrepresentation must be established with reasonable certainty to avoid unnecessary evacuation, possible panic, or the consequences of ignoring a real bomb.

Unfortunately, even a thorough search reveals only that "No bomb has been found," rather than "There is no bomb." This element of uncertainty, even after extensive investigation, is the weak spot in dealing with bomb threats. It takes strength of leadership, in addition to good planning and training to effectively counter a bomb threat.

THE BASIC PLAN

1. Obtain as much information as possible from threatener.
2. Appraise the threat.
3. Carry out necessary actions.
 - a. Alert emergency staff.
 - b. Search.
 - c. Evacuate if necessary.

Information about a bomb threat is usually received by telephone. If all telephones have a checklist near them, and if all employees have been trained to remain calm and follow procedures, the threatener can often be induced to say more.

The hardest part is appraising a bomb threat--is it possible, probable, or actual? All subsequent actions depend upon this decision. The person that makes this decision should be in charge from the start and know what he or she is doing. He or she can then act quickly and appropriately as soon as information becomes available.

ONE FINAL SUGGESTION

The most important aspect of bombs and bomb threats that should be emphasized is PREPAREDNESS. When your court is equipped with an organized plan, most bomb threat problems can be resolved with minimal personal injury and property. So, as they say in the Boy Scouts, BE PREPARED!

G L O S S A R Y

Anti-personnel: a bomb or EOD designed and planted to destroy or injure people.

Bomb: a projectile containing a highly explosive charge, usually dropped from an aircraft or propelled at low velocity by a mortar. "Bomb" is a subcategory of the larger category "explosive ordnance devices."

Concussion: alternating waves of air (pressure and vacuum) that are emitted from the point of explosion.

Covert: concealed, hidden, secret.

Detonation: an extremely rapid, self-continuing explosion of certain types of materials.

Explosive: a chemical that will react from a trigger and convert chemical energy into mechanical forces; the chemical reaction usually occurs by generating a large quantity of gas at high temperatures.

Explosive Ordnance

Device (EOD): any device containing explosives; EODs are specifically designed for military uses.

High explosives: explosives that detonate rapidly, TNT or dynamite are high explosives.

Incendiary: capable of producing intense heat or flame.

Low explosives: explosives that burn; black powder is a low explosive.

Projectile: an object that is moved or projected by an exterior (outside) force.

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Both government and private sources have aids dealing with bomb threats and bombings. Among those available on request from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Washington, D.C. 20226:
 - a pamphlet explaining Title XI of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act.
 - a booklet of Questions and Answers on Federal Law concerning explosives under Title XI.
 - an excellent pamphlet, "Bomb: Threat and Search Techniques" ATF P 7550.2 (4/75).
2. "Property Protection During Civil Disturbances" is available from Factory Insurance Association, 85 Woodland Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06102.
3. The publishing house of Charles C. Thomas, 301 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62717, has four books on the subject of bombs and bombings:
 - Explosives and Homemade Bombs, by Stoffel
 - Bombs and Bombings, by Tom G. Brodie
 - Explosives and Bomb Disposal Guide, by Lenz
 - Protection Against Bombs and Incendiaries, by Pike.
4. Three films entitled, "Bombs I, II, and III," are available from Motorola Teleprograms, Inc., Suite 26, 4825 N. Scott St., Schiller Park, Illinois 60176, ATTN: Mr. Lloyd Singer, President. These are available on 16 mm, Super 8 mm, videotape and videocassettes. They also have a workbook on bomb scare planning and they conduct seminars. Mail request on your official letterhead.

END

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