

**PHOENIX REGIONAL  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**POLICE ASSISTANCE/EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS**

**M.P. 206.09**

**03/12-R**

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The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the dispatch, response, deployment and communications model of Phoenix Fire Department resources and members assisting the Phoenix Police Department with the disposal of explosive materials and/or devices.

In order to provide for the highest level of customer service and to ensure for the safety of officers on scene of an EOD (Explosive Ordinance Disposal) operation, the Phoenix Police Department may request assistance of the fire department for standby medical assistance during special incidents requiring the deployment of the PPD Bomb Squad. These incidents may include "suspicious packages or letters, bomb threats etc. This procedure does not necessarily apply to incidents where injuries have already occurred. When emergency medical stand by is requested by a Phoenix PD Bomb Squad supervisor through Phoenix Fire Alarm, the on duty Car 958 Captain (Terrorism Liaison Officer) and the designated PD TLO should immediately be contacted via telephone or pager to contact the Phoenix Fire Alarm Room. During the majority of EOD operations, the C958 Captain will have already been briefed on the operation prior to Alarm Room personnel being contacted. However, no matter how the request for fire department stand by is obtained, it is **CRITICAL** that information be shared between Phoenix PD, C958 and the on duty Deployment Battalion Chief, in order to maintain situational awareness and to provide adequate resources. There may also be instances when other local, county and State law enforcement agencies will request Phoenix Fire resources to stand by for EOD operations within the City of Phoenix. When these requests are received, the same approach will be followed. The fire department will be requested only after a device and/or materials are discovered and sufficient information/intelligence is gathered by C958 and coordinated through the on duty Deployment Battalion Chief. **NOTE:** anytime Phoenix Fire resources are dispatched, the appropriate Battalion Chief must be contacted and provided situational awareness.

### **Communications**

Due to the critical need for stealth in certain police operations and easy public access to public safety radio communications, all fire department communications on Police EOD incidents will be conducted primarily through C958 on an encrypted radio channel. All pertinent information regarding staging locations, target address, and safety issues will then be relayed to the Company Officer or Command Officer that will be on scene as stand by. This communication can be made prior to the deployment and staging of resources over direct telephone line, MCT and/or face-to-face whenever possible. Units shall avoid any radio traffic in regards to the nature of the incident, address, etc. The Alarm Room TRO and/or Supervisor will also be made aware of this information for accountability and tracking purposes. The Alarm Room shall also make all appropriate notifications. Whenever possible, the C958 Captain and the PD TLO will attend the Bomb Squad briefing where the majority of the information will be shared. If time does not permit for a formal briefing to be conducted, C958 will make contact with the on scene Phoenix PD Supervisor to obtain all necessary information pertaining to the operation. Due to the fact that the C958 Captain is privy to law enforcement sensitive information, only information that is **CRITICAL** to the safety and welfare of fire department personnel on scene should be shared.

Once the "target address" is obtained by C958, he/she will determine a safe and secure staging location for fire resources. C958 will then inform the Alarm Room of the "target address" and request a premise alert for a minimum of one-quarter (1/4) of a mile for the address. This zone will allow for PD evacuation zones and routes, encompasses adjoining neighborhoods, large occupancies (apartment complexes, shopping malls, commercial buildings etc.) and provides a buffer zone for secondary devices. In this instance, it is crucial that the closest Battalion Chief and Shift Commander are notified immediately by the Alarm Room. The premise alert will ensure that no other outside fire resources are dispatched into the location.

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In the event of an incident being dispatched in proximity to EOD Operations, the Alarm Room will contact C958 to determine if the area is safe for fire department units to continue response. If conditions dictate a response, the closest Battalion Chief should be dispatched to manage the deployment of resources and to interact with PD to provide field force protection. If the on scene Command Officer deems it necessary, upgrading to a Tiered Response should be considered with the Shift Commanders making final determination. The staging location shall be determined by C958 after attending an initial briefing with the Phoenix PD Bomb Squad.

### **Deployment**

The nearest ALS fire company and rescue company will be dispatched to police EOD operations anywhere in the city. Response will be CODE 2 unless Code 3 is requested by C958 via the Alarm Room due to extended response times or critical events that may have unfolded at the EOD operation. The Deployment Battalion Chief and/or supervisor will notify the on duty Shift Commanders and apprise him/her of any situation that changes in complexity or severity.

The C958 Captain will act as the initial Incident Commander on scene and will establish a unified command with the appropriate police department supervisor. **CRITICAL NOTE:** C958 will act as the command and Control component on scene and will provide strategic direction for all fire department resources staged and/or deployed on scene. The main role of the C958 Captain is that of **Liaison** between Phoenix PD and Phoenix Fire resources. In the event that the operation changes in size, complexity and/or severity, C958 shall request appropriate resources and a Command Officer should be requested to assume the Command and Control piece for fire resources. For long-term, low-key situations, C958 has the option to stage fire resources in quarters until the PPD Bomb Squad is prepared to engage in high risk activities. C958 shall keep the Deployment Battalion Chief and/or supervisor apprised of site operations to ensure adequate safety, support and situational awareness. For situations of serious nature or complexity, the on scene Command Officer will assume Fire Command and remain in constant communications via C958, with Police Command. All efforts should be made to establish a single Unified Command location to enhance safety and operations. Should an unforeseen accident (critically injured police officer/civilian) occur during the removal/disposal of the explosive device or material, C958 shall request appropriate resources via the Alarm Room. If a Command Officer is not on scene, the closest Battalion Chief shall be dispatched to coordinate fire department resources. The Deployment Battalion Chief or his/her designee shall make proper notifications, including the on duty Shift Commanders. Level 2 staging shall be considered and strictly adhered to until the area is determined "secure" to enter by Fire Command and under the advisement of the Bomb Squad Supervisor. When feasible, C958 shall also request the response of additional TLO's to assist with on scene Intelligence and Operational activities.

**All members on scene of an EOD operation and/or detonation shall adhere to guidelines set forth in the PFD Risk Management Plan. It is crucial that all members maintain situational awareness and be cognizant of the possible presence of secondary explosive devices.**

**At no time should C958 or any other fire department personnel operate in an active "law enforcement inner perimeter". At NO time will fire department equipment or personnel become directly involved with a search, handling or removal of an explosive device or material.**

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Based on the determination of the PPD Bomb Squad, the device or material may be disarmed on scene of the incident or may be transported to an offsite disposal area. If an offsite disposal location is chosen, C958 and the on scene Command Officer shall evaluate the support functions of the disposal such as (Evacuation, Rehab, Fire/EMS support, Haz Mat etc.)

If the medical standby is to be of a longer than 2 hours, a rotation of companies should be considered. C958 will arrange a relief schedule in cooperation with Dispatch & Deployment.

**Special Considerations**

Occasionally the PPD Bomb Squad may be called out to assist with a suspicious package that was delivered via the United States Postal Service (USPS). If the package or letter is confirmed NOT to be an explosive device by the Bomb Squad, C958 shall coordinate efforts with on scene Hazardous Materials units, C957 and the Command Officer to assure that proper radiological and nuclear testing have been performed on the package. C958 shall also ensure that the appropriate "Field Safe Survey" is completed. C958 shall ensure that the Public Health Coordinator for the PFD Homeland Defense Bureau is notified as early as possible. The Public Health Coordinator is a critical liaison to the Arizona State Laboratory and the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. This is of great importance due to the fact that once the substance is through the "Field Safe Survey", packaged and delivered to the Arizona State Laboratory; the incident becomes an issue of Public Health (notification, treatment, follow up, etc). State and County public health entities will work in cooperation of the law enforcement investigation. C958 and the Homeland Defense Public Health Coordinator will then assist the responsible Law enforcement agency and the USPS Inspector with maintaining the chain of custody until the package is delivered to the State of Arizona Laboratory for final testing.

**NOTE: Occasionally, some County, State and Federal law enforcement agencies may request Phoenix Fire resources to provide medical stand by, as their own special duty hazardous materials squads make entry or perform field tests on suspicious packages. Once a request is received for units through the Phoenix Fire Alarm Room, C958 should be immediately notified and dispatched prior to any resources being dedicated. C958 can then interface with the respective law enforcement agency and determine the proper course of action for the resources being requested. Any information gathered by C958 from the agency can then be shared with the Deployment Battalion Chief and Shift Commanders.**