



TRANSIT POLICE

BOMBS / EXPLOSIVES

Effective Date: May 9, 2005

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Review Frequency: As Required

Office of Primary Responsibility: Deputy Chief Officer Operations

POLICY

Definitions:

Bomb – A container filled with explosive, incendiary material, smoke, gas, or other destructive substance, designed to explode using a triggering mechanism such as a time mechanism, remote-control device, or lit fuse.

CSO – Community Safety Officer; a Designated Law Enforcement Officer of the Transit Police.

EDU – Explosive Disposal Unit (i.e., RCMP Lower Mainland Bomb Disposal Unit or Vancouver Police Department Emergency Response Unit / Explosive Disposal Unit).

ERU – Enhanced Response Unit of the Transit Police.

Explosive – An explosive is a reactive substance or combination of substances, that, when triggered, rapidly releases a large amount of energy through a violent chemical reaction, generating heat, light, shock waves, and gases.

Improvised Explosive Device (“IED”) – A homemade or makeshift explosive device that is created and deployed with malicious intent. IEDs are typically constructed using readily available materials and improvised techniques.

Incident Command System – An organizational structure employed by many companies and government agencies in British Columbia to manage major emergencies.

JPD – Jurisdictional Police Department.

HOT – A principle applied to assess threat of an item, based on the premise that genuinely lost articles are: Not **H**idden, Not **O**bviously suspicious, and Not **T**ypical of what is regularly encountered as lost /found property.

Member – Designated Constable (all ranks), a Deputy Chief Officer, Chief Officer and Designated Law Enforcement Officers of the Transit Police.

Metro Vancouver Transit Police (“Transit Police”) – The operating name of the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority Police Service (Designated Policing Unit and Designated Law Enforcement Unit).

OCC – Transit Police Operations Communication Centre.

Suspicious Package – A confirmed threat or assessed by a Member or other trained persons in the HOT principle.

General

1. Transit Police must be prepared to react, respond to and mitigate bombs/explosive threats.
2. According to the [Transit Police – Jurisdictional Police Operational MOU](#) (“Transit Police-JPD MOU”)¹, the JPD will be the lead investigating agency on bomb/explosive threats; however, Transit Police will likely find themselves playing an active role as first responders and assisting the JPD, if required.
 - (1) During bombs/explosive threats, Transit Police will employ basic first responder protocols with respect to initial threat assessment, scene containment, evacuation and investigation (consistent with the Incident Command Management System).
3. Protection of life must be given prime consideration. Property and infrastructure is of secondary importance. Members must not approach a suspected bomb/explosive.
4. Pursuant to the BCPPS², Transit Police will develop a written plan for handling situations involving bombs/explosives that will provide for the following:
 - (1) The role of personnel in ascertaining details from the bomb threat caller;
 - (2) The notification of appropriate persons in the Transit Police chain of command;
 - (3) The establishment of a security perimeter, both inner and outer;
 - (4) The organization of search teams;
 - (5) Search and evacuation procedures;
 - (6) The notification of the appropriate jurisdictional EDU personnel, if a suspected device is located;
 - (7) Coordination with the fire department and BC Ambulance Service;
 - (8) Communications procedures; and
 - (9) Use of an explosive detection dog team.
5. All TransLink property and infrastructure are within the jurisdiction of the Transit Police when it relates to deployment of an explosive detection dog. If a Transit Police explosive detection dog team (“Transit Police Dog Team”) is not available, one will be called out to the incident when required. **[Refer to Transit Police policy chapter [OK060 – Police Dogs.](#)]**

¹ Section B.13 of the Transit Police – JPD MOU.

² Requirements arising from BC Provincial Policing Standards/Addendum 1 – D13.1.2C and D13.2.7.

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