

# Bomb Threats and First Responder Considerations

What you don't know can kill  
you....

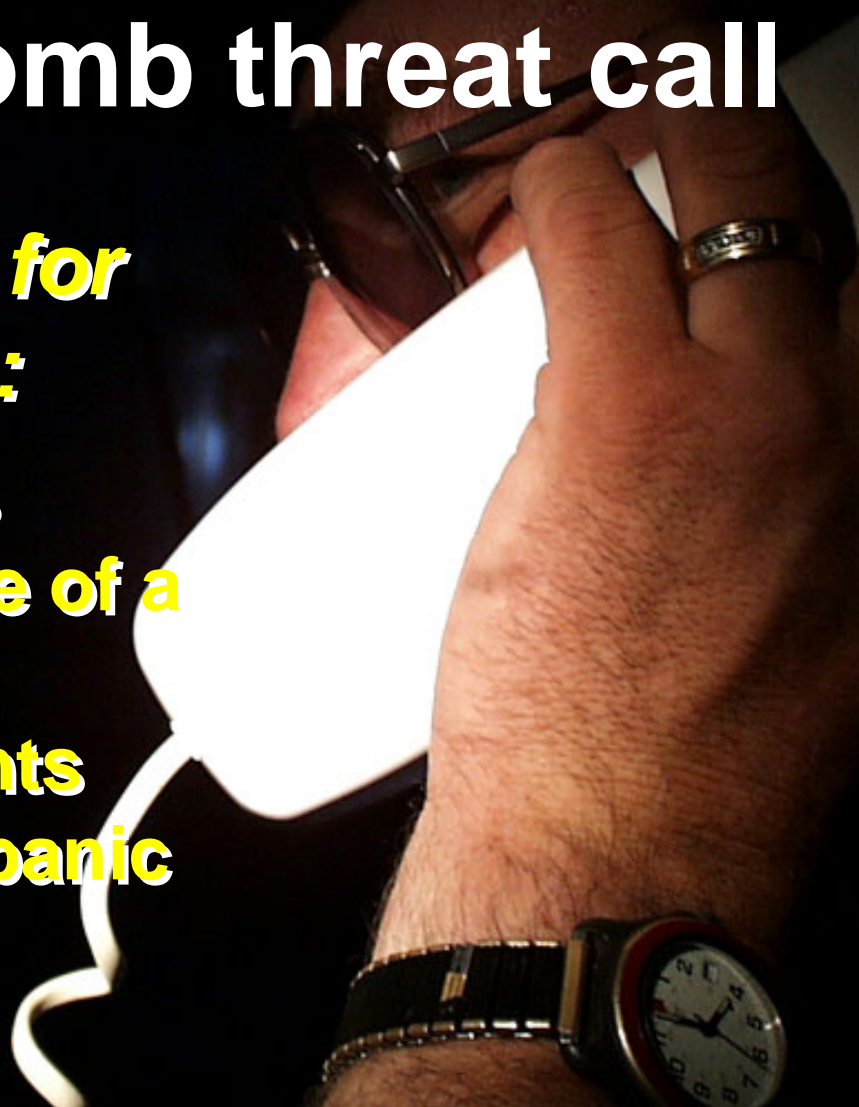
**Always remember there may a secondary device waiting when you take action to a bomb threat!**



# ALL personnel must understand how to handle bomb threat call

## *Explanations for bomb threats:*

- 📞 **Caller has knowledge of a bomb**
- 📞 **Caller wants to create panic & disrupt activities**



# Bomb Threat Actions



- ☎ **Remain calm**
- ☎ **Keep the person on the phone as long a possible if it is a threat**
- ☎ **Use the bomb threat checklist**
- ☎ **Always remember to listen closely**

# Bomb Threat Actions



- ☎ **Ask the caller to repeat the message**
- ☎ **Record every word spoken by the caller**
- ☎ **Listen closely to the voice**
- ☎ **Pay attention to background noises**
- ☎ **Remain available**

# PACKAGE BOMB ACTIONS

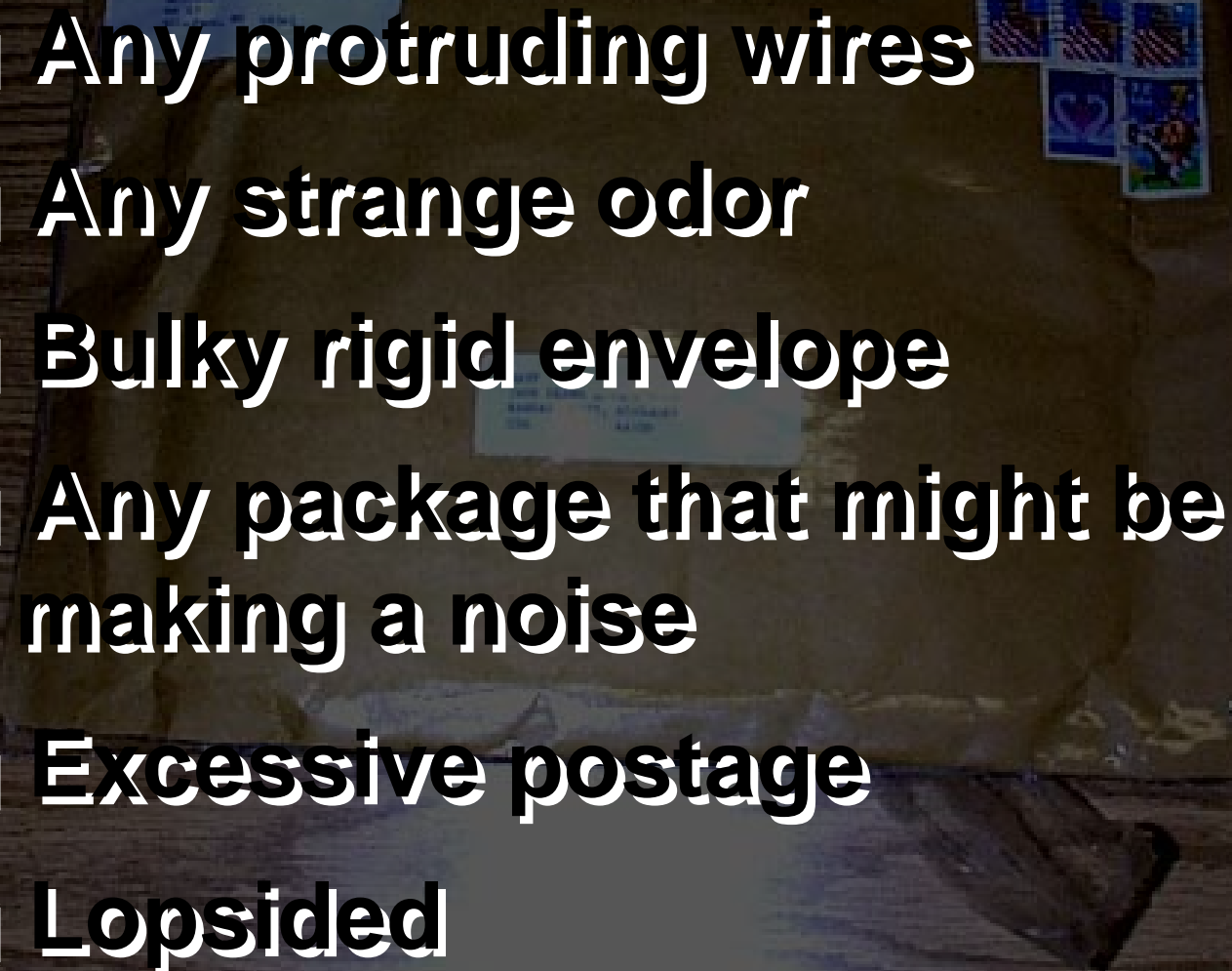
**Do not handle a package that you feel may contain a bomb**

**Contact the appropriate authority immediately**

**Handle items as little as possible**



# *Items to look for on a suspicious letter or package:*

- ✘ Any protruding wires
  - ✘ Any strange odor
  - ✘ Bulky rigid envelope
  - ✘ Any package that might be making a noise
  - ✘ Excessive postage
  - ✘ Lopsided
- 
- A photograph of a brown, rectangular envelope standing upright. The envelope has several postage stamps on the right side, including a blue stamp with a heart and a green stamp with a cartoon character. There is a return address label on the front. The envelope appears to be part of a collection of suspicious items, as indicated by the list of items to look for.

**Addressed to title only**

**No return address**

COUNTRY Collector  
BOONE Court House  
65201

**Oily stains**

PERSONAL

**Restrictive markings**

SPECIAL DELIVERY

**Misspelled words**

# Emergency Evacuation Plan or Alternatives

## Ignore the threat:

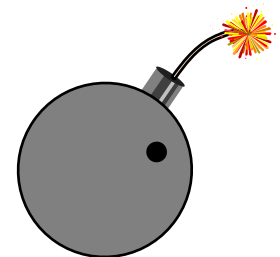


- 💣 **Very few bomb threats are real**  
***Less than 5% of bombings were preceded by a threat (FBI Bomb Data Center)***
- 👉 **Morale problems with employees**
- 👉 **If the person making the threats feels that you ignored them they might take actual steps to make a bomb**

# Emergency Evacuation Plan or Alternatives

## Evacuate immediately:

- ➡ May appear to be the preferred approach but is the most costly
- ➡ If the caller knows that this is your policy then they may continue to make the calls
- ➡ A bomber could use this to send employees out of an exit where a secondary device might be planted



# Emergency Evacuation Plan or Alternatives

## Search & Evacuate If Warranted:



- 💣 **May be most desirable approach**
- 💣 **This may satisfy the desire to do something when a threat is received**
- 💣 **If a device is found, the evacuation can be accomplished expeditiously while at the same time avoiding the potential danger area of the bomb**

# Search Teams

## Occupants of the area

- † They know the area the best
- † They do a better job of searching because they know what belongs in the area
- † They must be trained in what to look for and what not to do

# SEARCH TECHNIQUES

☞\* When the two person team enters the area, they should stand quietly with their **eyes closed** & listen for any **unusual sounds**

☞\* Background noise is always disturbing during a building search

# SEARCH TECHNIQUES


- ☞\* The individual in charge of the search should determine how to divide the **area** for searching based on **height & number of objects present**
- ☞\* Divide the **room** into **two** virtually equal parts

# ROOM SEARCH

The image shows two men in a room with large, curved tables and chairs. One man, wearing a white t-shirt and blue pants, is crouching on the floor, looking down. The other man, wearing a white t-shirt and blue pants, is leaning over a table, looking down. The room has a brick wall in the background.


💣 **The first searching sweep should cover all items resting on the floor & up to hip height**

# ROOM SEARCH



💣 **The second sweep should cover the area from waist to chin high**

# ROOM SEARCH

 **The third sweep should cover the area from chin level to the ceiling**

A photograph of a room with rows of brown chairs. A person in a white shirt is sitting in the foreground, and a person in a grey shirt and blue jeans is standing and leaning over a chair in the background. The room has a brick wall. The text is overlaid on the image.

**Search by height  
& assigned area**

**Overlap for  
better coverage**

# *POTENTIAL TARGETS*



ALLEY

TRUCK

TRASH  
CONTAINERS

SHRUBS

CAR

CAR

# *LOCATING A SUSPICIOUS OBJECT*

**Personnel involved in a search must be instructed that their only mission is to search for & report any suspicious objects**

# *LOCATING A SUSPICIOUS OBJECT*

**Under no circumstances  
should anyone move, jar,  
or touch a suspicious  
object or anything  
attached to it**

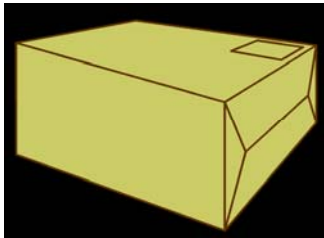
**If a suspicious object is discovered:**

- 1. Report the location & an accurate description to the appropriate authority**
- 2. If necessary, place sandbags or mattresses - never metal shields - around the suspicious objects. *Do not attempt to cover the object***

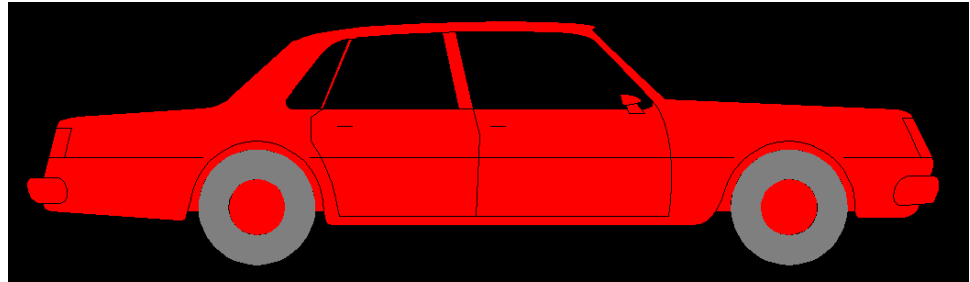
**If a suspicious object is discovered:**

- 3. Identify the danger area & block it off with a clear zone**
- 4. Check to see that all doors & windows are open to minimize primary damage from a blast & secondary damage from fragmentation**

# Evacuate the building & area



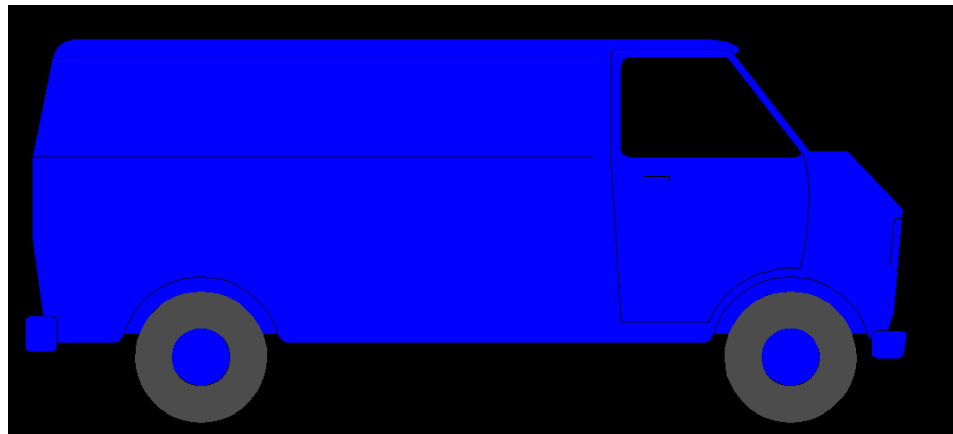
**Package bomb  
1,000'**



**Car bomb  
1,750'**



**Pipe bomb  
500'**



**2,750'**

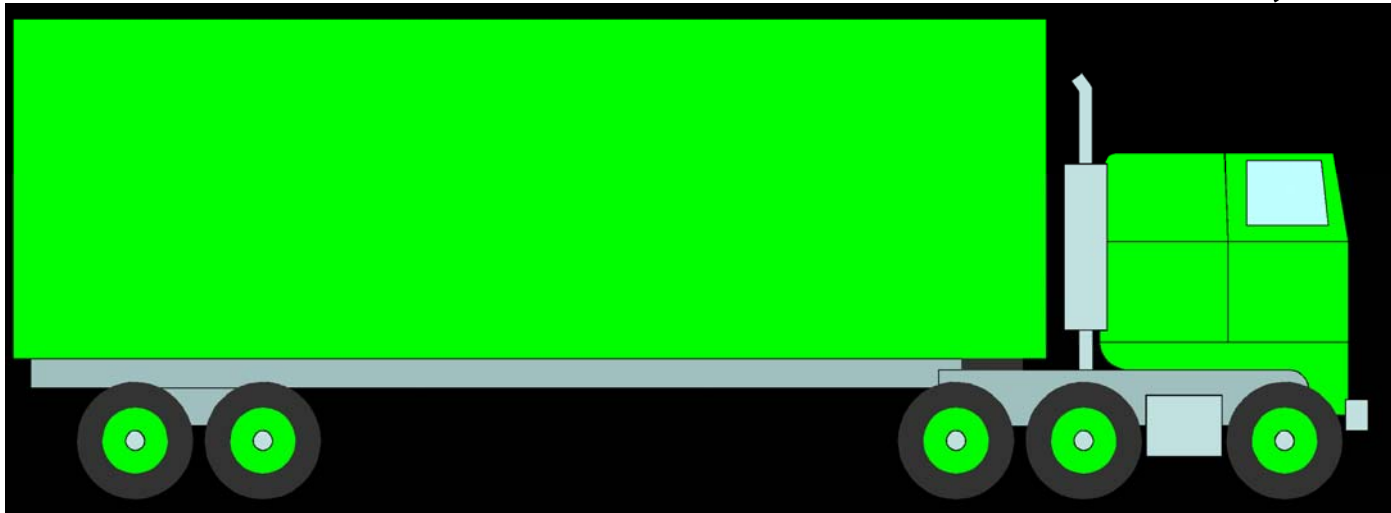
# Evacuate the building & area



**14' Box van bomb  
3,750'**



**Box van bomb  
6,700'**



**Semi-trailer  
bomb  
7,000'**

**If a suspicious object is discovered:**

**Do not permit re-entry to the area until the device has been removed or rendered safe & the building has been declared safe for re-entry**

