

**COUNTER-TERRORISM AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU**

**NOTICE**  
15.2

October 18, 2017

**TO:** All Concerned Commanding Officers

**FROM:** Commanding Officer, Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau

**SUBJECT:** USE OF EXPLOSIVE DETECTION CANINES ON BOMB THREAT CALLS

This Notice supersedes and replaces the previous Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau Notice, "Expanded Use of Bomb Detection Canines on All Bomb Threat Calls," dated June 18, 2015.

An Explosive Detection Canine (EDC) may be used at the scene of any bomb threat call. Prior to June 18, 2015, Department policy restricted the use of EDCs to certain types of bomb threat calls and locations. In addition, the prior policy mandated that Bomb Squad personnel had to accompany EDC teams during searches. As a result, patrol personnel were not able to fully take advantage of this important resource and were completing the walkthrough of bomb threat locations without an EDC present. An EDC is a reliable tool to detect explosive odor and is superior to a visual walkthrough of a location by patrol personnel alone.

Incident Commanders responding to a bomb threat call may request an EDC when they intend to complete a walkthrough of a location subject to a bomb threat incident. In such cases, a supervisor assigned to the Bomb Squad, Emergency Services Division (ESD), shall be contacted. The Bomb Squad supervisor will conduct a threat assessment based on the known circumstances. The Bomb Squad supervisor will determine if an EDC team is available to deploy, if the EDC team will deploy to the call alone, or if the EDC team will deploy with the Bomb Squad.

An EDC team will respond Code 3 to the call location if no Bomb Squad response is necessary. An EDC shall not be used to clear suspicious items that are encountered. In such situations, the search will be halted and Bomb Squad personnel summoned to the location. A search will also be halted and Bomb Squad personnel summoned to assist the EDC team anytime information becomes available that would warrant their response.

This expanded use of EDCs does not apply to pre-planned special events. Commanding Officers anticipating the need for EDCs at these types of events should continue to contact the Commanding Officer, ESD, as part of the event planning process.

A supervisor from the Bomb Squad can be reached anytime via Real-Time Analysis and Critical Response Division, at (213) 486-6700 or through ESD during normal business hours at (323) 342-4200.

All Concerned Commanding Officers

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If there are any questions regarding this Notice, please contact Captain Kathryn Meek, Commanding Officer, ESD, at (323)-342-4267.



**HORACE E. FRANK, Deputy Chief**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**Counter-Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau**

**APPROVED:**



**SEAN W. MALINOWSKI, Deputy Chief**  
**Chief of Staff**  
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