

Responding to a find

Module (A) Part 3

**Security Search Operations
Training V1 2023**

Aim

- The aim of this session is to train you how to respond in an appropriate and safe way to finding a suspected explosive device and / or prohibited non-explosive items during a systematic security search.

Outcomes

By the end of this session you will be able to:-

- Respond to finding a suspect explosive device during a systematic security search in a way that maintains the health, safety and welfare of everyone around
- Respond to finding prohibited non-explosive items during a systematic security search in a way that maintains the health, safety and welfare of everyone around.



DANGER
Explosive
material

Responding to a Find

- A **'find'** constitutes the discovery or suspected discovery of resources – terrorist or otherwise – or other evidential material.

Responding to a Find

- It is important that when something is found during a systematic Security Search that the correct action is taken.
- How you respond to a find depends on what the object is.
- Finds can be put into three main categories:-

Responding to a Find



Types of Find

Explosive



Non-explosive



Types of Find

Firearms



Explosive Find

- This means any item that contains or is suspected of containing, any amount of explosive.
- Safety is the immediate consideration with a suspected explosive find.
- Priority is to ensure that the suspected explosive find is not touched by anyone and that everyone is evacuated to a safe place.
- The appropriate person should be notified immediately.

Explosive Find

POSTAL TUBE IED CUT AWAY



IED TRAINING AID



Case Study

If a member *of staff discovered* a suspect package or *IED* within your location, what steps do you have in place to effectively & safely handle the situation?

You must remember that you have to ensure the safety of yourself & others above all else, so what do you do?

Firearms Find

- Firearms and suspected replica firearms should always be treated as being authentic and loaded and therefore posing a danger to life.
- Unless specially trained to make firearms safe they should not be handled by the finder.
- The appropriate person should be notified immediately.

Firearms Find



Non-explosive Find

- A non-explosive find might include items such as switches and timers or other component parts which could be used in the construction of an IED.
- In the case of anything else a non-explosive find will include whatever is being looked for in the search. (weapons, drugs, stolen items etc).
- The appropriate person should be notified immediately.

Appropriate Person

- **‘Appropriate person’** means to whom you could report, client representative, police, your manager, other agencies.
- In all three categories the appropriate person will probably notify the police.
- The police have the expertise and skills to ensure the absolute integrity of any evidence present as well as deal with dangerous items.

Appropriate Person

- The police may also wish to conceal the fact a find has been located as part of the investigation strategy.
- Firearms and non-explosive finds can ordinarily be dealt with by leaving the items alone and notifying the appropriate person.
- Explosive finds require more precise action by the finder on the grounds of safety.

Action on an Explosive find:-

- The team leader or manager must have a plan to clear the area in the event of a suspected explosive find.
- This should be formulated before the search commences and everyone briefed as to their role and how to respond..



Explosive find

The 5 C's

- Confirm
- Clear
- Cordon
- Control
- Check.



1. Confirm

DO NOT TOUCH

Confirm and report to the appropriate person

The 5 W's

- **What** was found?
- **Where** was it found?
- **When** was it found?
- **Why** is it suspicious?
- **Who** found the device?

2. Clear

- Clear the area in line with the search plan and your instructions
- Clear everyone to the agreed minimum distances in the plan.



3. Cordon

- Cordon off the area in line with the search plan to the recommended distance
- Search the cordon positions for secondary devices
- Be prepared to move the cordon on advice from Police etc.

4. Control

- Control people entering and leaving the cordoned off area
- The safety of everyone is the priority.



5. Check

- Check the cordon distance is still relevant with the appropriate person.
- Check all actions and reactions are still valid.

Implementing a Cordon

- When implementing a cordon for a suspected explosive find then the advice of the appropriate person must be obtained.
- If in doubt always overestimate the size of the cordon, the police will advise and adjust the cordon on their arrival, it is easier for them to reduce the cordon than push it out further.

Implementing a Cordon

Remember when implementing a cordon:-

- Keep Out - of direct line of sight to the suspected device.
- Keep Away - from glass and parked vehicles.
- Keep Away - from secondary hazards.
- Keep Behind - hard cover.
- Keep Upwind - in case of chemical attack.
- Keep Alert – to secondary devices.

Prohibited non-explosive find

Firearm:

- Do not handle
- Isolate the carrier if present from the weapon
- Clear the immediate area
- Notify appropriate person.



Prohibited non-explosive find

Other items:

- Consider notifying appropriate person
- Consider evidence preservation
- Police or appropriate agency may wish to leave in situ if part of ongoing investigation.

The SAFER[®] Approach

Step Back

Assess threat - **H.O.T**

Find Help

Evaluate Options

Respond - using the 4 C's

The H.O.T Protocol

- Is it **H**idden?
- Is it **O**bviously out of place?
- Is it **T**ypical of what you would expect to find?

Re-visit aim

- The aim of this session was to train you how to respond in an appropriate and safe way to finding a suspected explosive device and / or prohibited non-explosive items during a systematic security search.

The End Thank you

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