- Bomb Threat Policy
- Bornb Threat Procedure Regulation
- Bomb Threat Report
- Bomb Threat Plan
- Suspicious Packages Canada Post



BOMB THREAT

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Every year in Canada alone thousands of hours are lost as a result of bomb threats. Accurate statistics regarding the unfounded threats, however, are not available because many of them are not reported to the proper authorities. While the overwhelming majority of reported bomb threats are unfounded, some are not. Care must be taken, therefore, to deal with each incident calmly and consistently.

Most bomb threats are made over the telephone by anonymous callers. Some threats are received in the mail or by other means, but these methods are rare. In each case, though, it must be remembered that the communication should be taken seriously and that the person receiving it should be prepared. A bomb threat could be written, recorded, or communicated orally. Most bomb threats, however, are delivered by telephone. Generally, a bomb threat call is made for one of two reasons:

the caller knows or believes an explosive or incendiary device has been or will be
placed and wants to minimize personal injuries and/or property damage (the caller
may or may not be the person who placed the device); or
the caller wants to disrupt normal activities by creating anxiety and panic. This caller
may simply be a disgruntled employee wanting the day off.

Every threat must be taken seriously and dealt with in such a way as to not create panic. The person handling the call must remain calm and appear undaunted for panic is contagious and can cause personal injury and property damage.

The call recipient must remember to do many things, all of which will aid in the search for the device (unless the threat is unfounded) and provide authorities with as much information as possible for their later investigation. Bomb Threat Telephone Procedures should be kept by every phone to guide the call recipient.

If the threat is received in a tangible form, all the materials, including envelopes and containers, must be saved and contact with these materials must be minimized. Excessive handling might destroy valuable fingerprints or other evidence that may be on or in the materials.

No solution can be offered to eliminate either bomb threats or planted bombs, but one can be well or badly prepared to cope with them when such incidents happen. It is therefore essential for schools to control visitor access to the building and to design and implement a comprehensive bomb threat response plan.

Organizing a coherent contingency plan for dealing with bomb threats must begin with the establishment of clear-cut lines of authority. All personnel must know their responsibilities and to whom they should report in the event of a bomb threat. The establishment of these clear-cut lines of authority will instill confidence in all employees and minimize the risk of panic.

SEARCH AND EVACUATION

In a bomb threat situation, physically searching the premises for a device and evacuating personnel are very closely related. Once an incident has been initiated, the person named as the designated authority must decide whether there is to be a search; an evacuation (full or partial); neither; or both. This individual should also be authorized to give the order to reenter the premises, once the threat has been dealt with satisfactorily.

Search Options

In terms of the search, the designated authority has three options:

- 1. a covert search of the entire premises or designated areas by management or supervisory personnel;
- 2. an overt search of the entire premises or designated areas by employees or occupants; or
- 3. an overt search of the entire premises or designated areas by trained search teams.

Each of these options has inherent advantages and disadvantages; for example, one method might be quicker but another more thorough. Whichever course of action is preferred, no decisions should be made before all the options have been evaluated in the light of the potential risk to those involved.

If the decision is made to search the premises, the search must be as speedy and as thorough as possible. The manner in which the search is conducted is very important. It should always be systematic; unorganized searches may leave areas unchecked. Effective and efficient search techniques should be developed and made known to all relevant personnel.

Where to Search

Past experiences indicates that bombs are usually placed outside buildings or in public areas within buildings. These areas must be checked with special care. Special attention should be paid to: washrooms, utility rooms, closets, areas under stairwells, elevator shafts, furnace rooms, flammable storage areas, fan rooms, electrical panels, roof areas, underground garages, valves for electrical, gas and water supplies, trash receptacles, storage areas, false ceiling panels, moved furniture, draperies, and fire hose and extinguisher cabinets.

The bottoms of elevator shafts may be greasy and dirty. These areas have to be searched by hand. Elevator machinery, which is normally located on roofs, should also be checked.

When searching outdoors, particular attention should be paid to drainage areas, manholes in streets and sidewalks, trash receptacles, incinerators, etc. Parked vehicles, neighbouring mailboxes, shrubs, bushes, and other foliage should be thoroughly checked as well.

If a search is to be conducted, it should be remembered that individual buildings can pose unique problems to search crews.

Places such as auditoriums, stadiums, and theatres present unique problems in that every seat in them must be checked by someone on hands and knees. Cut or unfastened seats should be looked at very carefully. Equipment areas, stages, any equipment that may be on

stage, and any crawl ways, tunnels, trapdoors, dressing rooms, and storage areas beneath or adjacent to a stage are also favorite target areas for bombs. Lighting fixtures, hanging decorations, and the entire roof area of each building should also be checked.

How to Search

The most efficient way of searching office and other work areas is for management and staff to agree that employees will conduct on overt search of their own work areas for foreign or suspicious looking objects. If a suspicious object is found, IT SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED. Nor should it be assumed that there is only one device.

It is imperative that personnel involved in any search be instructed that their task is only to search for and report any suspicious looking object; they should NOT move, jar, or handle any such object or anything attached to it. The removal or disposal of a bomb must be left to qualified bomb disposal technicians. Unqualified personnel tampering with suspect packages may cause them to detonate or may render them unsafe, making the bomb technician's job more difficult.

If a suspicious object is found, the individual responsible for the search must be advised immediately, the police notified, and appropriate measures in the contingency plan implemented. The police will notify the nearest Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU). It is recommended that a description of the device be provided to the police so they can make the EDU aware of what their technicians will be dealing with. Someone from the command center should meet the police as they arrive, to provide a comprehensive situation report and make the command center facilities available to them. Building and area plans should be provided to the police immediately upon their arrival.

How to Evacuate

Continuous security during evacuation should be a priority. Before an evacuation is carried out, a thorough search of the evacuation routes and safe areas must be conducted to ensure that no suspect objects have been placed there. Safe areas are those locations to which personnel will be moved to await the all-clear. They must be located a minimum of 100m (328 ft.) from the target and where it is estimated that injury from post-blast debris would be minimal.

Once these routes and areas have been judged safe, all personnel, including command center staff, should be relocated. When terrorist-motivated acts against evacuees are a possibility (e.g. in the case of certain embassies' personnel), cover must be provided during the evacuation and in the safe areas.

If the decision to evacuate is made within a couple hours of normal closing time, consideration should be given to simply sending personnel home early.

Evacuating personnel should be requested to leave in a calm and orderly manner. It is recommended that some employees be assigned to control the evacuation by directing traffic along established evacuation routes and by providing a calming influence.

Personnel should also be instructed to take their small, valuable personal belongings with them. This reduces the number of unknown items (e.g. purses, briefcases, lunch bags) which the search teams have to check.

BOMB THREATS - POLICY EBCC

BOMB THREAT POLICY

In the event that a school receives a bomb threat, the prime consideration will be the safety of the students. Upon receiving a bomb threat, personnel will respond in accordance with the procedures outlined in EBCC-R.

BOMB THREATS - REGULATION # EBCC-R

BOMB THREAT PROCEDURE:

All bomb threats whether received by telephone, note or letter will be taken seriously and handled as though an explosive device is in the building. If a bomb threat is received, contact the Winnipeg Police at 911 immediately.

When there has been a threat or if you see a package or foreign object in an unusual place – don't touch it! Survey your immediate work area and immediately call "911" to report the device.

If you answer a telephone Bomb Threat, follow these steps:

Do not transfer the call or place the call on hold. Immediately, signal another secretary and/or administrator.
Record the call display number as shown, also record the <i>precise time</i> and <i>phone number</i> that was called (i.e. school phone #).
Ask a lot of questions: Where is the bomb? When is it going to go off? What kind is it? What does it look like?
Refer to the Bomb Threat Report Form EBCC-E.
Let the caller talk as long as possible without interruption.
Take notes on everything said and on any observations you can make about background noise, voice characteristics, etc.
Call 911 to report the threat. If possible, get a co-worker to do this while you continue talking to the caller. The purpose of keeping a person talking is to assist in identifying the caller. Tracing is not always possible.
All bomb threats are assumed to be real; they are to be considered a threat to students and staff. After police have been notified, the Principal will decide if evacuation is necessary. This decision may involve consultation with the police, the school Emergency Response Team, and the Superintendent or designate. Follow the instructions given by the Principal or emergency personnel.

	If an explosion of any type occurs at any time, it should be reported immediately to the Fire Department.
	At the conclusion of the call <u>do not hang up the phone</u> until advised to do so by the authorities.
	Complete the Bomb Threat Report.
	Report the call immediately to the Principal.
<u>Ca</u>	II Trace Procedures:
l۵	ndlines:
∟а	Using the same phone line, pick up the handset, wait for the dial tone, then:
	o If using Centrex; enter *957
	 If using a direct line touchtone; enter *57
	 If using a rotary; dial 1157
	You will then hear the Call Management Services prompt "This is the customer originated
	trace feature. To activate a trace of your last incoming call, dial 1 now. Otherwise please
	hang up." Enter or dial 1. Stay on the line until you hear the prompt "The last call to your telephone has been traced.
	If this". After the prompt has been completed, hang up.
	If the trace was unsuccessful, the message "The last call to your telephone number cannot
	be traced" is heard. Call Trace will not work on long distance calls, or on calls from areas
	not having Call Management Services.
	Contact police at 911 or 9-911 if using Centrex. Provide information about the call and
	inform police that a call trace has been initiated.
Се	II Phones:
	Using another phone, inform your supervisor about the call and then contact the police at
	911 or 9-911 if using Centrex.
	Provide the police with the cell phone number on which the call was received, time and
	length of call and details about the call and caller. The police will then contact MTS to initiate the trace.
	The person who received the threat must remain available for interview by the police.
_	The percent and the arrest mean area area area area.
If a	search is deemed necessary:
	ould it be determined that a search is necessary, it should be carried out by the principal,
	ad caretaker and members of the Emergency Response Team in conjunction with and
	sisted by the members of the Police Department, if present. School personnel should not
wa	it for police to arrive to do a search.
	Search personnel should know what they are looking for. It could be an unusual object
	in an unusual place, e.g. something that is not normally in their area such as a box or
	paper bag behind a sink or toilet, or in a stairwell. Special attention should be given to areas to which the general public has easy access,
Ш	e.g. lobbies, washrooms, stairwells, halls, etc.
	The outside of the building and the parking lot must be included in your search plans.
	IE AN UNIDENTIFIED DACKAGE OD OR IECT IS FOLIND, DO NOT TOLICH ITI

<u>lf a</u>	decision is made to evacuate:
If t	ne decision is made to evacuate the building, the following steps will be taken:
	Hallways and stairways to be used during the evacuation are to be checked to verify that
	no foreign objects are in the evacuation route.
	Evacuate by calling a fire drill.
	Evacuate to a minimum distance of 300 feet in all directions.
	Elevators should not be used. Special provision will have to be made for the transportation
	of persons requiring assistance with mobility.
	Use tact. Do not create panic or alarm.
	Pupils may return to the building if, upon assessment of the situation by the principal and
	the senior police officer present, there is reasonable assurance that no danger exists.
	If the principal, in consultation with the Superintendent's Office, deems it necessary to
	dismiss the students, those students transported by bus will remain out of the building
	until buses are available to transport them home.
	The building will remain closed to the students and the public until the building has been
	declared safe by the police.
	The principal will inform the public by whatever means available that school has been
	dismissed early.
	The Superintendent's Office will be notified of the evacuation immediately.
	An investigation of the event will be requested from the police with a report going to the
	Superintendent.
A I.	vers debutet.
	vays debrief:
	Review the school and staff response to the threat.
	Meet with the person who received the call to offer support and determine if counselling
	support is required.
	Be mindful of the trauma a bomb threat can bring to students, parents and staff and take appropriate steps to relieve such trauma.
	Communicate all reports of threats to the Superintendent as soon as reasonably possible.
	Communicate an reports of time ats to the Superintendent as soon as reasonably possible.
SO	ME TIPS:
Re	cognizing a suspicious package or letter:
	It may have grease marks on the exterior.
	It may have an unusual odor such as almonds or machine oil.
	It may have visible wiring or tinfoil.
	It may be unusually heavy for its size.
	It may have uneven weight distribution or rigid contents in a flexible package.
	It may have excess wrapping.
	There may be poor handwriting, spelling or typing.
	There may be too many stamps for its weight.
	It may have been hand delivered by an unknown source.

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Do not place the package or letter near water, sand, chemicals, heated surfaces, flames
or gaseous substances.
Contact the police at 911 and advise the Principal.
Evacuate the immediate area leaving windows and doors open and inform others near
the area to evacuate.

BOMB THREAT REPORT - EXHIBIT

To be Completed by the School Administrator EBCC-E RESULT OF BOMB THREAT PEMBINA TRAILS SCHOOL DIVISION A Community of Learners Committed to Excellence Device - Explosion ___ Device – No explosion Device - None found Device - Hoax call **BOMB THREAT REPORT** ___ Search conducted by _ ___ No search conducted Evacuation completed ___ No evacuation recommended ___ Police responded ___ Police did not respond ___ Sniffer dog utilized WHEN A BOMB THREAT IS RECEIVED: ___ Sniffer dog not utilized ___ Caller identified. Action taken ____ LISTEN CAREFULLY ___ Caller not identified • Be calm and courteous Briefly describe the assessment of the threat by the Response Team: • Do not interrupt the caller • Obtain as much information as possible Actions to review: • Complete this form and give it to your supervisor/administrator Administrator's Signature:

EXACT WORDIN	G OF THE T	THREAT:			MANNER:		
QUESTIONS TO A	ASK:				□ Calm □ Well-spoken Other		□ Vulgar □ Irrational.
What time will the	bomb explod	le?			BACKGROUND S	SOUNDS:	
Where is it?					□ Street Noises	□ Voices	□ P.A. System
What does it look l	ike?				□ Music □ Children □ Animal	 ☐ House Noises ☐ Factory ☐ Clear 	☐ Motor Noises☐ Office☐ Static.
What kind of bomb	o is it?				CALL:		
Who placed the bor	mb?					ong Distance □ Ce	entrex
Where are you call	ing from?				l Local	ong Distance	entrex
	_						
What is your name	?						
What is your addre	ess?				Datas		
What is your addre	ess?				Date:		
What is your addrewill you call back?	ess? ? HARACTER						
What is your addre	ess? PHARACTER	ISTICS:			Time		
What is your addrewwill you call back? IDENTIFYING CHAICE (Tick all that apply)	ess? PHARACTER	ISTICS:			Time	all	
What is your address Will you call back? IDENTIFYING CF (Tick all that apply) Sex Estimate VOICE: Calm	HARACTER) nated Age ngry oud	ISTICS: Accent Excited Laughing	(Eng., Fr., etc	c)	Time Duration of c	received	
What is your address Will you call back? IDENTIFYING CF (Tick all that apply) Sex Estimate VOICE: Calm	HARACTER D) nated Age oud durred eep	ISTICS: Accent Excited Laughing Nasal Ragged	(Eng., Fr., etc	c) Rapid Normal Lisp Throaty	Time Duration of c No. at which Name of Rec	received	

BOMB THREAT - PLAN

The purpose of this section is to ensure that there are procedures in place to protect staff, students and school property in the event of a communicated threat regarding the presence of destructive devices on school property. This may include any explosive device of an incendiary, chemical, biological or radioactive nature. A bomb threat will result in law enforcement and other safety and emergency services responding to the scene.

Once law enforcement arrives, it is critical to follow the instructions of, and cooperate with, the law enforcement officer who will be the Incident Commander with jurisdiction over the scene. The school is a crime scene and will require a thorough search and processing.

All office personnel should make themselves familiar with the bomb threat report (EBCC-E). See page 73-74 of the Emergency Response Guide.

The person receiving a bomb threat is to adhere to the questions outlined on the procedure form and to make clear notes of the conversation. Let the caller talk as long as possible without interruption.

St	aff who received a message that a bomb has been placed in school:
	Notify the Principal/Vice-principal/Designate immediately.
	Do not transfer the call or place the call on hold. Immediately, signal another secretary
	and/or administrator.
	Record the call display number as shown, also record the precise time and phone number that was called (i.e. school phone #).
	Make a record of the exact wording of the threat. Take notes on everything said and on
	any observations you can make about background noise, voice characteristics, etc.
	Ask in a clear and calm voice: Where is the bomb located? What does it look like? What
	materials are in the bomb (type of bomb)? How is it activated? When will the bomb
	explode? Who is calling, name and address? Did you place the bomb? Why are you
	doing this?
	· · ·
	Let the caller talk as long as possible without interruption.
	If the threat is made by phone, listen closely to the caller's voice and speech patterns
	and to noises in the background. Make a record of that information.
	If the threat is made by phone and the caller hangs up, immediately dial *57 [or the
	appropriate number] to trace the call.
	Notify the Incident Commander/Principal or designate and/or call 911.
Pr	incipal/Vice-principal/Designate:
	The principal (or designate) upon assessing the situation will either initiate "No Action"
	or "Take Action" plans.
	If No Action is taken, the principal (or designate) will notify the Superintendent of the
	threat and decision taken.
	If Action is taken, the principal (or designate) will:
	Instruct the secretary to call 911.
	ldentify self and inform the operator that a bomb threat has been received.

Assign staff to meet and brief emergency responder agencies.

- After police have been notified, the Principal will decide if evacuation is necessary. This decision may involve consultation with the police, the school Emergency Response Team and the Superintendent or designate. Follow the instructions given by the Principal or emergency personnel.
- > Notify and brief the custodian.
- Conduct a thorough search of the school.
- □ Communicate with the staff through the PA system:

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE. A BUILDING EMERGENCY IS IN EFFECT. ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS SHOULD REMAIN IN THEIR ROOMS UNTIL ADVISED OTHERWISE. TWO-WAY RADIOS AND CELL PHONES SHOULD BE TURNED OFF.

☐ If a suspicious item is located, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!**

- Determine if evacuation procedures should be activated, selecting routes and assembly areas away from the suspicious item.
- Evacuate the school by calling a fire drill
- DO NOT ACTIVATE THE FIRE ALARM. Or determine if further response should await arrival of law enforcement and other emergency services. See subsection D below.
- Notify the Superintendent of your actions.
- Await the arrival of the police.
- Let the police assume responsibility for dealing with the parcel or object.
- ➢ If evacuation occurs, students and staff must be evacuated to a safe distance outside of school building(s), minimum 1000 ft. is the general rule. [Consult with Fire and Police officials.]
- Arrange for person who found a suspicious item to talk with law enforcement official.
- ➤ Active communications plan to inform parents, media and community of incident as determined in consultation with law enforcement.

☐ If no suspicious parcel or object is discovered:

- Await the arrival of the police;
- Notify the Superintendent;
- After discussions with police and the Superintendent decide whether the school should be evacuated.

Students, or staff responsible for students, sha	all not re-enter the building until advised to
do so by the principal.	

☐ If relocation within the community is necessary, staff and students shall be advised and shall follow the relocation procedures established by the school.

Emergency evacuation location:

Address:

Phone:

Contact person(s):

Co	omplete a	bomb threat	report and	submit it to	the Su	perintendent.
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□ Always debrief.

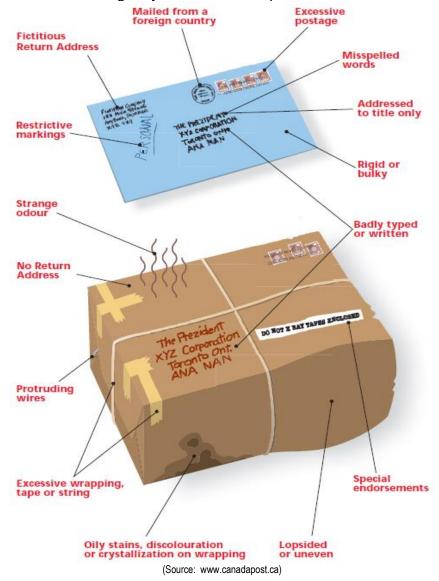
- Review the school and staff response to the threat.
- Meet with the person who received the call to offer support and determine if counselling support is required.
- ➤ Be mindful of the trauma a bomb threat can bring to students, parents and staff and take appropriate steps to relieve such trauma.
- Communicate all reports of threats to the Superintendent as soon as reasonably possible.

Те	achers and staff:
	Check classrooms, offices and work area for suspicious items and report any findings to the School Incident Commander/Principal.
	If a suspicious item is found - DO NOT TOUCH IT. Secure the area where the item is located.
	Account for students and be prepared to evacuate if ordered.
	Evacuate using standard procedures and exit routes to assembly area.
	Open classroom windows and leave classroom doors open when exiting.
	Take roll after being evacuated. Be prepared to report the names of any missing persons to school administration.
	Keep students together at the assembly area until given further instructions. Be prepared to go to off-site relocation if ordered.
	If given the "All Clear" signal, return to the building and resume normal operations.
Ind	cident Commander/Law Enforcement, Fire & Emergency Agencies:
0	nce emergency responders are on scene, decisions must be made to:
	Evacuate immediately, if this has not already occurred and if warranted, selecting routes and assembly areas away from the suspicious item. DO NOT ACTIVATE THE FIRE ALARM.
	Speak to staff who received the threat and obtain information. Search the building.
	If a search is to be conducted, assemble and brief a search team at the interior command post. Assign search areas within the building, the emergency exit routes and the outside assembly areas.
	If a suspicious item is located, order an evacuation, if that has not already occurred.
	No one may re-enter the building(s) until fire or police personnel declare it is safe to do so.
	After consulting with the Superintendent and emergency services Incident Commander, determine if staff and students should be relocated to an alternative safe site.
	If danger is over, notify staff and students of the termination of the emergency and to resume normal operations.

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE

If you receive a suspicious letter or parcel do the following:

- □ Do not open, handle, shake, smell, taste or move the suspicious parcel or letter.
- Do not use cellular phones or two-way radios near the building or area where the suspicious package or bomb threat is located. Such usage could overwhelm the telephone system, could set off the explosive/incendiary device(s) or distract you and others from emergency instructions.
- □ Notify your supervisor and or co-workers and SRO immediately.
- Evacuate the immediate area.
- □ Do not assume that this is the only package.
- □ Search your immediate area. Report any suspicious packages to your Principal/Vice-principal/Designate and/or your SRO if present.
- □ A combination of the following may constitute a suspicious mail item:



WI	nen evacuating due to a suspicious package or bomb threat, do the following:
	Remain calm. As you leave, search your work station/area and report suspicious package and/or persons to your Principal/Vice-principal, SRO or other emergency response personnel. Leave your desk drawers, filing cabinets, etc. open for search crews and identify strange or unfamiliar objects. Take personal items, such as coats, purse, briefcase, lunch bag, etc. with you. Leave windows and doors open. Do not use cellular phones or two-way radios near the building or area where the package or bomb threat is located. Exit the building as you would for a fire drill. Do not use elevators. Walk; do not rush, push or crowd. Relocate to at least 300 feet or 100 meters away or to an area that is sheltered between you and where the suspicious package or bomb threat is located.
lf a	a letter or parcel is opened and/or a threat is identified:
	r a Biological or Chemical: Isolate – do not handle. Evacuate the area immediately. Wash your hands with soap and warm water. Call 911 or your SRO.
Fo	r Radiological: Limit exposure – do not handle. Evacuate the area immediately. Distance and shield yourself from the object. Call 911 or your SRO.