



Explosive Substances

Encountering explosive devices/substances are potentially life threatening. The smallest devices, however plain or innocuous in appearance, have the potential to injure, maim, or fatally wound.

Generally, explosive substances come in many shapes and sizes and are classified as either "safe" or "dangerous."

"SAFE" Explosive Substances:

- "Safe and Sane" fireworks;
- Emergency highway flares/fuses; and
- Fixed ammunition and "blank" or saluting cartridges of less than .50 caliber.

Fireworks

All fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles, SEC. 57.55.01(A) Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). It shall be unlawful for any person to use, give, possess, sell or discharge any fireworks. Fireworks are considered explosive devices, and they are extremely dangerous. Every year numerous children and adults are injured or burned as a result of playing with fireworks.

"Safe and Sane" fireworks have the State Fire Marshal's seal stamped on the packaging. This seal indicates that the explosive substances contained in the firework have been tested and meet specific safety and performance requirements, but nevertheless are illegal in the City of Los Angeles.



You may contact the Los Angeles Police Department by calling the following, toll free, at 1-877-ASK-LAPD (1-877-275-5273) or TTY 1-877-275-5273 for the hearing impaired. You may also obtain additional information on this subject, along with additional crime prevention tips, by visiting the Los Angeles Police Department's Web site at www.lapdonline.org and clicking on the "Crime Prevention Tips" icon.

Should you have information regarding a criminal investigation or activity, please contact your local police station or the LAPD crime hotline at 1-877-LAWFULL (1-877-529-3855).

Los Angeles Police Department
Community Relations Section
Crime Prevention Unit
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 485-3134
www.lapdonline.org

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Explosives and Incendiary Devices

www.lapdonline.org



What should a community member do if they find a suspicious item that might be a "bomb"?

Community members should not move or touch the suspected item, they should immediately call 911 to report it.

Explosive devices can be contained in almost anything. Small bombs have been disguised in everyday type of items. Bombs can be detonated by a variety of methods including the slightest touch. Therefore, if any suspicious object is located, IT SHOULD NOT BE TOUCHED OR DISTURBED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

What should a someone do after receiving a telephonic bomb threat?

Immediately call 911. Patrol officers will respond and give advice regarding bomb threat procedures and options, as well as complete a "Bomb Threat" report.

Bomb threats represent a serious and deadly situation that can quickly turn tragic. The destructive potential of even a small device must be seriously considered. Any person that receives a bomb threat over the phone should immediately evacuate the location and notify the police from a neighbor's house or a business. Only conventional telephones should be used, because cellular telephone transmissions have the potential to detonate a bomb.



What should someone say to a caller when he/her warns of a bomb at the location?

When a bomb threat is called in to you, attempt to keep the caller on the line as long as possible. Ask him/her to repeat the message and be sure to record every word spoken. If the caller does not indicate the location of the bomb or the time of possible detonation, you should ask him/her for this information. It is a good idea to inform the caller that the building is occupied and the detonation of a bomb could result in death or serious injury to innocent people. As you attempt to keep the caller on the line, listen for any particular background noises such as motors running, background music, and other noise, which may give a clue as to the location of the caller. As you are gathering information about the caller write down as much information as possible (see bomb threat checklist). When the police arrive at your location, be prepared to give an accurate description of the caller's voice. As the caller speaks, listen closely to the voice quality, for any regional accents, and for any speech impediments the caller might possess.

What should someone do if they receive a suspicious package in the mail?

Explosive devices can be contained in almost anything. Bombs can be constructed to look like almost any item and can be delivered in any number of ways. Most bombs are homemade and are limited in their design, only by the imagination of their maker. Letter and package bombs are not new. While the latest incidents have involved political terrorism, such bombs are made for a wide variety of motives. The particular form of these bombs varies in size, shape, and components. They have electric, non-electric, or other sophisticated firing systems.

There are different signs that a person can look for which might indicate a possible explosive device.



- Foreign mail, airmail and special delivery
- Restrictive markings such as confidential, personal, etc.
- Excessive postage
- Hand written or poorly typed addresses
- Incorrect titles
- Titles but no names
- Misspellings of common words
- Oily stains of discoloration
- No return address
- Excessive weight
- Rigid envelope
- Lopsided or uneven envelope
- Protruding wires or tinfoil
- Excessive securing material such as masking tape, strings, etc.
- Visual distractions

If you believe that the suspicious package may possibly be a bomb, consider the following: Bombs can be detonated by a variety of methods including the slightest touch. In any suspicious object is located, the device should not be touched or disturbed under any circumstances. Immediately evacuate the location and notify the police from a neighbor's house or a business. Only conventional telephones should be used as cellular telephone transmissions have the potential to detonate a bomb.

If a suspicious item is found that might be a "bomb", call 911 immediately to request assistance and clear the area. It is imperative that individuals observing suspicious and/or unfamiliar devices take the following precautions:

- DO NOT TOUCH OR HANDLE THE DEVICE
- STAY AWAY FROM THE DEVICE
- IMMEDIATELY CALL THE POLICE