



NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL

CHAPTER: 46.16

TITLE: WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD)

EFFECTIVE: 01/14/2018

REVISED: Replaces Policy 411

PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to establish guidelines in the reporting of, and response to, incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

DEFINITIONS

Weapon of Mass Destruction—Means: (see: U.S. Code Title 18 Part I Chapter 113B § 2332a)

- (a) Destructive device as defined in 18 USCA § 921;
- (b) Weapon that is designed or intended to cause death or serious bodily injury through the release, dissemination, or impact of toxic or poisonous chemicals, or their precursors;
- (c) Any weapon involving a biological agent, toxin, or vector; or
- (d) Any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

The types of WMDs include:

- (a) Biological agents;
- (b) Nuclear and radiological weapons;
- (c) Incendiary Devices;
- (d) Chemical agents;
- (e) Explosives.

Destructive device—Means: (U.S. Code Title 18 Chapter 44 § 921)

- (a) Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas
- (b) Bomb,
- (c) Grenade,
- (d) Rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces,
- (e) Missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one - quarter ounce,
- (f) Mine, or
- (g) Device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;
- (h) Any type of weapon (other than a shotgun or a shotgun shell which the Attorney General finds is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily

- converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one - half inch in diameter; or
- (i) Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in paragraph (a) or (b) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Upon receiving a complaint of a WMD incident, the Communications Services shall obtain the following information:
 - (a) Caller information;
 - (b) Location of WMD;
 - (c) Type of WMD if known;
 - (d) Description of the WMD;
 - Size and shape,
 - Whether or not the package or container has been opened, if known,
 - Whether the WMD has been released into the air or is leaking.
 - (e) When the WMD was delivered, and by whom or how it was delivered;
 - (f) How the WMD was transported through the building , if delivered to a building;
 - (g) How many people have handled the WMD once inside the building; and
 - (h) Keep the caller on the phone, if possible, to provide additional information if needed.
2. Once the initial information is obtained and entered into the complaint history, Communications Services shall immediately notify the NOPD Liaison.
3. The NOPD Liaison shall:
 - (a) Notify the Patrol Supervisor of the affected district or districts,
 - (b) Advise the Patrol Supervisor which units are clear to respond to the incident,
 - (c) Obtain the weather conditions and wind speed and direction and advise the dispatcher responsible for the incident,
 - (d) Immediately notify the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and all departmental commanders via the email and text messaging system,
 - (e) Notify the City of New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Special Operations Division Commander, and
 - (f) Contact the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and New Orleans Fire Departments (NOFD) and advise them of the incident.
4. Communications Services shall assign the complaint to a supervisor, and two District patrol units if available from the affected district. Communications Services shall also advise the responding units of the weather conditions and wind direction.
5. Once Communications Services has been notified of a confirmed WMD incident, they shall make the required notifications from a notification log book containing names of each agency to be notified depending on the type of incident. This information shall be maintained and updated, by each respective agency, on a quarterly basis.
6. During normal business hours, Communications Services shall notify the Assistant Superintendent of the Management Services Bureau to have Police Headquarters locked down and secured. In the event of evening hours and weekends, Communications Services shall notify the NCIC Unit and have Police Headquarters locked down and secured. In both instances, non-departmental members shall be evacuated from the building, and only department members shall have access to Police Headquarters.

7. Communications Services shall notify the Commander of the Homicide Cold Case Squad in the event of a confirmed WMD incident.
8. Communications Services personnel shall broadcast an Emergency Alert across all radio dispatcher controlled talk groups maintained by the New Orleans Police Department, the NOFD and EMS and on all MDT's. This Emergency Alert shall be repeated every hour until the threat is secured or the Incident Commander instructs otherwise. The Emergency Alert shall contain the location, weather conditions and basic information about the incident.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE RESPONDING UNITS

(Refer to *WMD Response Guide Book*, U.S. Department of Justice)

9. Responding units shall proceed cautiously to the scene. Once arriving on the scene the responding units shall maintain a safe distance of at least 700 - 1000 feet and evaluate the scene. Prior to entering the scene, responding units shall:
 - (a) Advise on scene arrival (10-97);
 - (b) Turn off all electronic equipment, radio, cell phones, pagers, etc. prior to entering the scene;
 - (c) One unit is to maintain a safe distance of at least 700 - 1000 feet to communicate with Communications Services advising of a Code 4, or if additional units/support units are needed;
 - (d) The other unit should approach the area cautiously from an upwind direction, resisting the urge to rush in;
 - (e) Secure the scene;
 - (f) Identify the hazards;
 - (g) Assess the situation, considering the following:
 - Is there a fire, a spill, or a leak?
 - What are the weather conditions?
 - What is the terrain like?
 - Who/what is at risk: people, property, or the environment?
 - What actions should be taken? Are evacuation routes or shelters necessary?
 - What can be done immediately?
 - (h) Notify dispatcher of safe ingress and egress routes; and
 - (i) Document all actions.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

10. Once the on scene supervisor has determined the scene appears to be the result of a WMD incident, the supervisor shall:
 - (a) Ensure the scene is secured;
 - (b) Notify Communications Services of the incident and advise of observations;
 - (c) Have the NOPD Liaison notify NOFD and EMS and advise them of the observations noted;
 - (d) Account for all personnel involved and assign their duties, traffic control, etc.;
 - (e) Identify ingress and egress routes;
 - (f) Request additional units, if needed;
 - (g) What resources (human and equipment) are required and estimate the time to deployment;
 - (h) Advise their platoon commander and/or commander of the district;
 - (i) Evacuate, as necessary, or as directed;
 - (j) Assign responsibility to document all actions.

CONTROL OF THE SCENE

11. Once it is determined as to the type of incident, the proper agency, or agencies, shall control the scene (i.e.: fire, search and rescue, Hazmat, etc.). In all instances, the New Orleans Police Department shall use the National Incident Management System/Unified and Incident Command System.

OVERALL SCENE SUPERVISION

12. The Commander of Special Operations Division shall assume responsibility as the Incident Commander for the NOPD unless another agency has assumed that designation. The Commander of the Special Operations Division shall work in conjunction with the New Orleans Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and City Office of Homeland Security in order to do the following:
 - (a) Designate a safe area for an Incident Command Post;
 - (b) Designate a safe area for a decontamination area;
 - (c) Designate a safe area for first aid;
 - (d) Ensure all department members complete a trip sheet, and
 - (e) Document all actions.
13. Once representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or other designated federal agency arrive on the scene, they may assume the responsibilities of the scene and crisis management of all incidents involving Federal violations. The assumption of scene responsibility shall be communicated clearly and over all utilized communications systems. New Orleans Police Department shall maintain participation, as needed and directed under the National Incident Management System/Unified and Incident Command System.

MEDIA RELATIONS

14. The NOPD Public Information Officer, or his/her designee, shall respond to the scene. Once on the scene, he/she will designate an area for the media and establish ground rules for scheduled briefings.

DE-ESCALATION OF AN INCIDENT

15. All police supervisors shall be responsible for accounting for all personnel under their command at the conclusion of incident event cycle and the conclusion of police operations or participation. In the event NOPD members are not immediately located, the supervisor will then notify the Incident Commander through the incident chain of command. The Incident Commander, in turn, will assign responsibility for the formulation of a search plan for the missing member(s).
16. NOPD Supervisors shall be responsible for the accounting of all equipment issued to members under their command.
17. The Incident Commander shall prepare an After-Action Report to the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, and the Office of Emergency Preparedness within (7) seven days of the conclusion of NOPD participation in the incident containing:
 - (a) Incident item number, location, date and time of incident;
 - (b) Duration of the incident;
 - (c) Incident command staff;
 - (d) Specialized units involved;
 - (e) Inventory of all department equipment utilized;

- (f) All agencies involved;
- (g) All personnel used;
- (h) Synopsis of the incident;
- (i) Weather conditions;
- (j) If any public resources were affected,
- (k) Any injuries, deaths, or arrests;
- (l) Problems encountered; and
- (m) Recommendations.

DOCUMENTATION OF A WMD INCIDENT

18. The Federal Bureau of Investigation is the federally mandated agency for crisis management of a WMD incident. If an incident report is required the below listed divisions are responsible for documentation, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (a) All WMD incidents involving biological, chemical, nuclear, or radiological warfare, the New Orleans Police Department's Special Operations Division shall document the incident.
 - (b) All WMD incidents involving serious injury or death shall be documented by the New Orleans Police Department's Homicide Cold Case Squad.
 - (c) All incidents involving bombings, intentional explosion or arson with a non-terrorism motive shall be handled in accordance with the current Chapter, except in the following instances:
 - (d) If the bombing, intentional explosion or arson incident is clearly an act of terrorism, the New Orleans Police Department Special Operations Division shall document the incident, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
 - (e) If the bombing, intentional explosion or arson incident is clearly an act of terrorism and results in serious injury or death, the New Orleans Police Department's Homicide Cold Case Squad shall document the incident, after consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING

19. Members involved in critical incidents may be traumatized to varying degrees. Post-incident debriefings will be set up to reduce the impact of the incident, as well as, enhance the well-being and recovery of personnel in accordance with **Chapter 22.2.7 – Officer Assistance Program Traumatic Incident Stress**.

OTHER RESOURCES

20. This Chapter is to be used in conjunction with the New Orleans Police Department's Emergency Management Plan.
21. A ranking member of the Field Operations Bureau, with the rank of Captain or higher shall be assigned by the Deputy Chief of FOB to the Office of Emergency Preparedness, located at City Hall, and act as a liaison between the NOPD field units and the Office of Emergency Preparedness.
22. One member of the New Orleans Police Department Joint Terrorism Task Force, as assigned by the Deputy Chief of ISB, shall respond to the local Federal Bureau of Investigations Headquarters and act as a liaison between the field units and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.