

TABLETOP EXERCISE BOMB THREAT

Use these questions to guide discussion with regard to the following events:

1. What should classroom teachers be doing now?
2. What actions do you take with your students at this time?
3. What is the status of school emergency response teams at this time?
4. Where is your command post at this time?
5. What transition in the incident command system is taking place now? How?
6. What information do you need?
7. What action can you take to get the needed information?
8. What information to provide to the staff, students, parents, etc.?

H hour: Fifteen minutes before school begins, a phone call is received at the school office. The secretary answers the telephone. An unrecognizable male voice on the other end of the line makes a bomb threat. The caller gives the following information to the secretary.

There is a bomb set to go off in your school in 1 hour.

Secretary informs Principal of the bomb threat phone call and completes the Bomb Threat Record Form, but there are no more details.

The Principal informs the Superintendent of the Bomb Threat and calls the police. The Principal relates details of the bomb threat. The Principal also, informs the Superintendent that some students are scheduled to take the math MAP test in 1 hour. Principal calls together the appropriate members of the Incident Command to assess the threat.

H hour + 6 minutes: Buses are arriving at school to deliver students. Two police cars have also arrived at the school. A police sergeant in one of the cars recommends the school staff hold the arriving students in the gymnasium while members of the schools staff conduct a search of the building. The police will assume responsibility once the school staff has identified a suspicious item.

H hour + 7 minutes: Parents dropping off their children for school are parking to check on why the police cars are present. Other parents are calling asking if there is a problem at school. Parents are driving to the school to pick up their children.

H hour + 10 minutes: Area media representatives are calling school representatives and law enforcement.

H hour + 15 minutes: Law enforcement has established a perimeter around the school. Parents are calling asking if there has been a bomb threat at the school. They are driving to the school to pick up their child. The phone call has been traced back to a pay phone at the convenience store located three blocks from the school.

H hour + 30 minutes: The initial media briefing opens with this news release from the incident command:

What should be announced?

H + 45 minutes: A car bomb is detonated in the parking lot at the school.

Conclude the exercise with an After Action Review:

- What did we do well?
- What could we do better next time?
- What changes should we make in our plan?