CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

Basic Course Workbook Series

Student Materials

Learning Domain 26
Unusual Occurrences
Version 2.2

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Published May 2000
Revised January 2006
Correction October 2013

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THE ACADEMY TRAINING MISSION

The primary mission of basic training is to prepare students mentally, morally, and physically to advance into a field training program, assume the responsibilities, and execute the duties of a peace officer in society.

FOREWORD

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training sincerely appreciates the efforts of the many curriculum consultants, academy instructors, directors and coordinators who contributed to the development of this workbook. The Commission extends its thanks to California law enforcement agency executives who offered personnel to participate in the development of these training materials.

This student workbook is part of the POST Basic Course Training System. The workbook component of this system provides a self-study document for every learning domain in the Basic Course. Each workbook is intended to be a supplement to, not a substitute for, classroom instruction. The objective of the system is to improve academy student learning and information retention and ultimately a police officer dedicated to service and committed to safety.

The content of each workbook is organized into sequenced learning modules to meet requirements as prescribed both by California law and the POST Training and Testing Specifications for the Basic Course.

It is our hope that the collective wisdom and experience of all who contributed to this workbook will help you, the student, to successfully complete the Basic Course and to enjoy a safe and rewarding career as a peace officer serving the communities of California.

ROBERT A. STRESAK
Executive Director

LD 26: Unusual Occurrences

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Preface

Introduction

Student workbooks

The student workbooks are part of the POST Basic Course Instructional System. This system is designed to provide students with a self-study document to be used in preparation for classroom training.

Regular Basic Course training requirement

Completion of the Regular Basic Course is required, prior to exercising peace officer powers, as recognized in the California Penal Code and where the POST-required standard is the POST Regular Basic Course.

Student workbook elements

The following elements are included in each workbook:

- chapter contents, including a synopsis of key points,
- supplementary material, and
- a glossary of terms used in this workbook.

How to Use the Student Workbook

Introduction

This workbook provides an introduction to the training requirements for this Learning Domain. You may use the workbook in several ways: for initial learning, for test preparation, and for remedial training.

Workbook format

To use the workbook most effectively, follow the steps listed below.

Step	Action
1	Begin by reading the: Preface and How to Use the Workbook, which provide an overview of how the workbook fits into the POST training program and how it should be used.
2	Refer to the Chapter Synopsis section at the end of each chapter to review the key points that support the chapter objectives.
3	Begin reading the text.
4	Complete the workbook learning activities at the end of each chapter. These activities reinforce the material taught in the chapter.
5	Refer to the Glossary section for a definition of important terms. The terms appear throughout the text and are bolded and underlined (e.g., **term**).

Chapter 1

Roles and Responsibilities

Overview

Learning need

To protect the public, peace officers must be able to identify unusual occurrences and respond rapidly, safely, and efficiently based on the situation.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to...	E.O. Code
• recall the definition of unusual occurrences.	26.01.EO1
• identify the mission of law enforcement when responding to an unusual occurrence.	26.01.EO2
• identify the responsibilities of the first responding officer on the scene of an unusual occurrence to include: - assuming initial command - establishing a perimeter/protecting the incident location - isolating the hazard - maintaining ingress/egress control - initiating appropriate notifications	26.01.EO3
• identify the purpose of an Incident Command System (ICS) including: - responsibilities of the initial responding officer - basic components of the Incident Command System (ICS) - Basic components of the National Incident Management System (NIMS)	26.01.EO4

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Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on providing a basic understanding of what constitutes an unusual occurrence and the roles and responsibilities of the first officer on the scene. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

Role of Law Enforcement

[26.01.EO1, 26.01.EO2]

Introduction

Due to its size, climate, and geographical makeup, California is prone to a vast array of natural disasters and unusual occurrences. Whether the occurrence involves an earthquake, flood, or landslide, a timely and effective response is crucial.

Definition

An **unusual occurrence** is generally defined as:

- an unscheduled event
- involving potential injury or property damage
- which requires a law enforcement response.

Leadership

An unusual occurrence happens infrequently and requires a large scale response. It usually is large in scale and involves property damage, injury or death and has a devastating impact on the community. Two key leadership components of any unusual occurrence are incident command, and teamwork. Incident command is a role that requires experience and training. Who takes command will depend on a variety of factors including the type of occurrence, jurisdiction, personnel available, and city/county protocol. Regardless of who is in command, peace officers and other public servants have to work together as a team to achieve success.

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Role of Law Enforcement, Continued

Examples of unusual occurrences

An unusual occurrence does not necessarily involve only catastrophic acts of nature.

Unusual occurrences can arise from...	such as...
acts of nature	• earthquakes, • flood, • tidal waves, • brush fires, or • landslides.
technological incidents	• electrical power emergency, • traffic signal malfunctions, • fires, • gas leaks, or • explosions.
large scale incidents	• aircraft crashes, • train wrecks, or • hazardous materials leaks.
incidents brought on by humans	• terrorism, • civil disturbances, or • criminal acts (e.g., bombs, school shootings, etc.).

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Role of Law Enforcement, Continued

Law enforcement mission

Response to an unusual occurrence may require many agencies (e.g., law enforcement, fire department, public utilities, private industry, etc.), each with their own mission.

The law enforcement mission during an unusual occurrence, disaster, or calamity, generally involves any or all of the following:

- Establishing and maintaining law and order (i.e., enforcement of the law)
  - Preventing looting
  - Assuming care and custody of prisoners
- Identifying necessary resources
  - Mobilizing and deploying required response personnel
- Enforcing emergency rules and regulations
  - Protecting vital installations
  - Controlling individuals within the affected area
- Providing emergency care for the sick and injured
  - Assisting in rescue operations

Ethics

The role of a peace officer is to respond to the event, prevent harm and return the community to peace and tranquility. An unusual occurrence can be chaotic with many tasks to be completed. Rescue, containment, communication, hostage negotiation, and medical care are just a few of these tasks. A dilemma can occur when personal or family concerns conflict with agency and community needs. A peace officer takes an oath to uphold laws and serve our communities. This is our priority in difficult circumstances.

Role of Initial Responding Officer

[26.01.EO3, 26.01.EO4]

Introduction

Officers may respond to an unusual occurrence in one of two ways; by being tactically deployed to the scene by dispatch or by actually witnessing an event or recognizing a hazard while on patrol.

Policing in the community

It is a great affirmation of the human spirit to see people helping each other. Peace officers do it as their job, mere humans who display great human qualities of courage, caring, and sense of service. During a disaster, ordinary people in our communities instinctively display these same great qualities, caring for others and helping those in danger or in need.

Initial assessment

The first unit to arrive at the scene must take the leadership responsibility to gather as much information regarding the current status of the situation as possible.

The **initial responding officer** should make a quick and *safe* assessment of the situation in order to:

- verify the nature of the emergency,
- confirm the exact location of the incident,
- determine the extent of the area affected,
- determine what resources will be needed to control the identified hazard(s), and
- assume the role of incident commander.

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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

Incident command

The initial responding officer must assume *preliminary incident command* and take the necessary steps toward establishing control of the situation. It becomes that officer's responsibility as incident commander to:

- establish a command post,
- initiate appropriate notifications,
- identify a perimeter around the designated area,
- isolate the hazard,
- control ingress/egress to the area,
- continually gather and communicate further information,
- implement a plan of action, and
- reassess and evaluate the effectiveness of the operation and make modifications as necessary.

NOTE: The initial responding officer continues as the incident commander throughout the operation until otherwise relieved of those duties by a supervisor, or other specialized authority.

Preliminary command post

The incident commander should identify a suitable location for a preliminary command post. The size and location can vary depending on the nature of the incident. A command post should:

- be located outside the perimeter of the involved area,
- have adequate parking space and access,
- be near necessary facilities (e.g., water, restrooms), and be large enough to accommodate all necessary functions (e.g., communications, etc.).

NOTE: The location of the command post may change as additional information becomes available or as additional problems are discovered.

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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

Additional resources

Determine what resources (i.e., personnel and equipment), will be needed to resolve the situation, provide for officer safety as well as the safety of others, ensure protection of property, and resolve or control the situation.

Resources may include, but are not limited to:

- additional law enforcement units,
- the California Highway Patrol,
- fire department,
- utility companies,
- the Department of Public Works,
- transportation agencies (e.g., CALTRANS, city/county road departments, etc.),
- emergency medical services,
- the medical examiner/coroner,
- private industry,
- volunteer organizations.

Based on the specific situation, the incident commander should determine the safest route for the responding units and resources, as well as determining suitable locations for each once they arrive on the scene.

Area perimeter

In order to protect an incident location and/or isolate a hazardous material, a set boundary or **outer perimeter** should be established to completely surround the area involved. The primary objective for establishing such a perimeter is to seal off the area to prevent injuries to bystanders or other unauthorized persons.

The perimeter around the area should be as large as can be reasonably controlled by available resources. If the size is in question and if resources allow, a larger initial perimeter could be established. A large perimeter can later be reduced in size if necessary.

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Area perimeter (continued)

Depending on the incident, detours may be necessary to reroute all nonessential traffic from the designated area around the perimeter.

Appropriate identification and protection devices for isolating an area can include:

- barricades,
- barrier tape,
- traffic cones,
- highway fusees/flares, or
- vehicles.

NOTE: Highway fusees/flares will create an ignition source that may be inappropriate in certain circumstances (e.g., near combustible materials, in areas with dry brush or ground cover, etc.).

Hazard(s) isolation

Officers must be conscious of the fact that there may be multiple hazards within the area protected by the perimeter (e.g., "hot" downed electric power lines, debris, slippery surfaces, etc.). It may be necessary to further isolate such hazards within an incident perimeter to protect emergency workers.

This can be done by establishing inner perimeters in the immediate area around the hazards. The size of the inner perimeter will vary depending on the nature of the hazard itself.

NOTE: The existence and location of any additional risks must be clearly communicated to all personnel involved.

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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

Ingress/egress

Access to the affected area within a perimeter should be available only to responding emergency vehicles and resources. In order to control ingress and egress, clear entrance and exit routes should be established.

Response routes should be:

- easy to locate,
- free from unnecessary traffic, and
- allow for the best and safest direction of approach with respect to the incident hazard (e.g., upwind).

Major incidents will usually attract a large crowd of bystanders and possibly representatives of the media. The incident commander must take this into consideration and establish appropriate provisions for adequate crowd control.

NOTE: *Penal Code Section 409.6* authorizes law enforcement to close an area to the public whenever there is a menace to public health or safety. With certain exceptions officers *cannot* prevent duly authorized representatives of any news service, newspaper, radio or television media from entering the closed area.

Ongoing assessment and communication

Continually gathering information and maintaining communication with all those involved in resolving an incident is an ongoing responsibility of the incident commander. Information updates should be broadcast as circumstances require.

An attempt should be made to locate any person(s) with information related to the incident (e.g., foreman, owner of the building, truck driver, witnesses, etc.). Also, the potential of additional hazards or problems must be identified and communicated (e.g., fire, secondary explosions, release of hazardous materials, etc.).

Continued on next page

Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

Action plan

The incident commander is responsible for seeing that an appropriate plan of action is implemented to deal with the immediate situation. Required actions will vary according to the specifics of each incident.

The tactics used to manage an incident must be reassessed and evaluated throughout the operation. Additional resources may become necessary or specific tactics may need to be modified.

Incident command system (ICS)

In order to establish control and organize a combined effort to resolve an on-scene emergency, the incident commander may elect to utilize an **Incident Command System (ICS)**.

The specific purposes of utilizing an ICS are to:

- coordinate on-scene emergency operations,
- coordinate multi-agency responses, and
- establish temporary or permanent command at the scene.

ICS principles can be applied to almost any event requiring coordination of personnel and resources. They can be adapted for handling major events such as natural disasters, hazardous materials spills, large scale accidents requiring large numbers of personnel and varied resources, all the way to handling an incident involving a broken fire hydrant.

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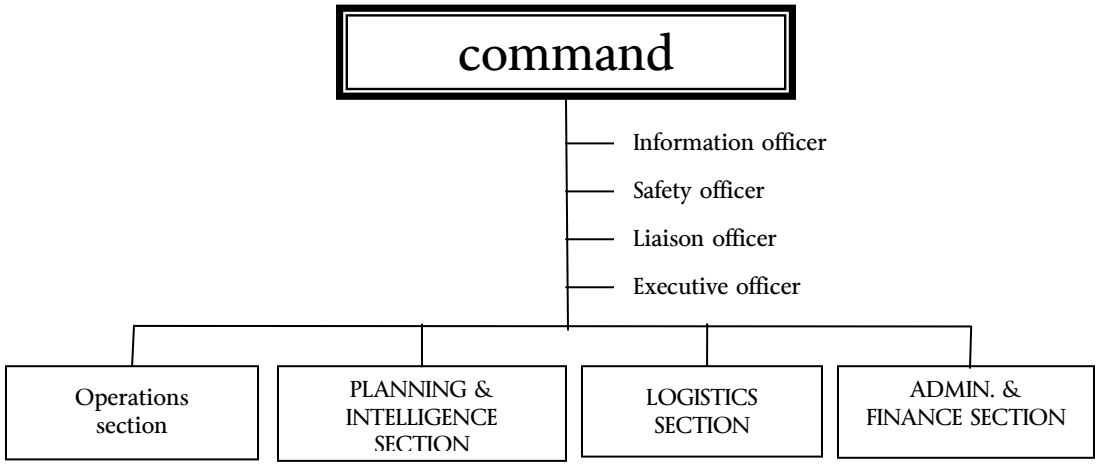
Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

ICS structure

The ICS begins with the initial responding officer taking on the role of incident commander. If the event is limited in scope, all responsibilities may be performed by this single officer. For larger, more complex operations, the incident commander may divide responsibilities into functional areas and assign them to additional personnel.

No matter how many individuals are involved, responsibilities for managing any incident involving an unusual occurrence, large or small, can be broken down into the following major functional areas.



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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

ICS structure (continued)

The following table explains the responsibilities of each functional area of the ICS structure.

Functional Area	Responsibilities
Command	• Assigns roles and responsibilities • Identifies needed resources • Establishes priorities • Continually monitors the overall situation NOTE: For larger operations, command responsibilities may also be divided among additional administrative personnel under the supervision of the incident commander.
Operations	• Develops an action plan to control the incident • Coordinates Mutual Aid requests • Sees that tasks are implemented to carry out the action plan
Planning and Intelligence	• Collects data and information needed to develop an action plan • Provides situational briefings
Logistics	• Brings together necessary resources for the incident • Provides supplies for on-scene personnel
Finance	• Collects data and documentation regarding the incident • Handles all financial aspects and cost analysis related to the incident NOTE: A finance area is usually necessary only during large scale and/or longer term incidents where financial accountability is required.

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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

National incident management systems

Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management. The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity. The benefits of the NIMS system will be significant:

- Standardized organizational structures, processes and procedures;
- Standards for planning, training and exercising, and personnel qualification standards;
- Equipment acquisition and certification standards;
- Interoperable communications processes, procedures and systems;
- Information management systems; and
- Supporting technologies - voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems and specialized technologies.

NIMS components

NIMS requires law enforcement agencies to adopt the Incident Command system as the management tool for incidents, and to utilize the Multi-Agency Coordination System. There are several components of NIMS.

- Command and Management
- Preparedness
- Resource Management
- Communication and Information Management
- Supporting Technologies
- On-going Management and Maintenance

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Role of Initial Responding Officer, Continued

Officer responsibilities

During NIMS activation you will likely be assigned to perform any of a variety of direct emergency response functions such as responding to any immediate threat to life or property, rescue, recovery, crowd control, or securing and protecting large areas that have been evacuated.

Should you be assigned to a NIMS position you will receive additional agency sponsored training to prepare you for this responsibility.

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need

To protect the public, peace officers must be able to identify unusual occurrences and respond rapidly, safely, and efficiently based on the situation.

Definition of unusual occurrence [26.01.EO1]

An unusual occurrence is generally defined as:

- an unscheduled event
- involving potential injury or property damage
- which requires a law enforcement response.

Mission of law enforcement responding to unusual occurrences [26.01.EO2]

The law enforcement mission when responding to an unusual occurrence may include, but is not limited to, establishing law and order, identifying necessary resources, enforcing emergency rules and regulations, and/or providing emergency care for the sick and injured.

Responsibilities of the first responder [26.01.EO3]

A peace officer's responsibilities as a first responder require the officer to assume command, establish a perimeter, isolate the hazard, maintain ingress/egress control, and initiate appropriate notifications.

Purpose of incident command system (ICS) and National incident management system (NIMS) [26.01.EO4]

The incident commander is responsible for seeing that an appropriate plan of action is implemented to deal with the immediate situation. Required actions will vary according to the specifics of each incident.

The tactics used to manage an incident must be reassessed and evaluated throughout the operation. Additional resources may become necessary or specific tactics may need to be modified.

Developed by the Secretary of Homeland Security at the request of the President, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) integrates effective practices in emergency preparedness and response into a comprehensive national framework for incident management.

Workbook Learning Activities

Introduction

To help you review and apply the material covered in this chapter, a selection of learning activities have been included. No answers are provided. However, by referring to the appropriate text, you should be able to prepare a response.

Activity questions

1. You are the first responding officer on the scene of a private plane crash into a busy strip mall. Outline the initial actions you would take to assess the situation. What questions would you need to answer most quickly? What are your primary responsibilities?

2. Define an unusual occurrence in your own words. List three non-catastrophic unusual occurrences and explain what makes each incident fit into this category.

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Activity questions (continued)

3. List the five main functional areas of a typical ICS structure. Then, explain the type of activities each function might encompass in an incident such as a 2,000 person protest against the appearance of a political figure. Why might it be useful for an officer to think of functional areas even in the case of a limited unusual occurrence, when one officer is performing all responsibilities?

4. A peace officer on patrol is the first responder to a report of standing water on a heavily traveled stretch of highway through a major urban area. The water is approximately 2½ feet deep across all lanes and stretches for a length of approximately 20 yards of highway. What responsibilities does the officer have at this unusual occurrence? What initial notifications do you think the officer should make? Where might the officer consider setting up a command post?

Chapter 2

Fires and Explosives

Overview

Learning need

Responding to unusual occurrences, peace officers may be called upon to act quickly in situations involving fires or explosives. Officers must become familiar with the risks presented by these calls in order to respond safely and effectively.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to...	E.O. Code
• recognize the appropriate methods for extinguishing each class of fires.	26.02.EO3
• identify risk versus benefits/gains of entering a burning structure.	26.02.EO4
• recognize appropriate actions for responding to incidents involving bombs/explosive threats.	26.02.EO6
• recognize safety precautions officers should follow at the scene where a suspected bomb/explosive device has been located.	26.02.EO7
• recognize appropriate actions for securing a scene where an explosive device has been located.	26.02.EO8

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Learning objectives (continued)

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to...	E.O. Code
• identify the inherent dangers in a post-blast explosion scene.	26.02.EO9
• recognize appropriate officer actions for securing a post-blast explosion scene.	26.02.EO10

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on basic guidelines for responding to calls involving fires or explosions. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

Fires

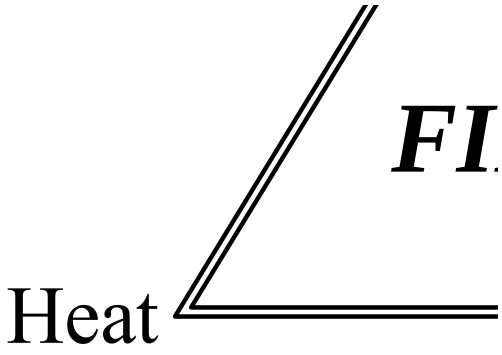
[26.02.EO3]

Introduction

Peace officers, in the course of their duties, may be required to take action when confronted by an uncontrolled fire. A swift and appropriate response can minimize loss of life and property.

Fire triangle

There are three elements that must be present *at the same time* in order to have a fire. If any one of these elements is removed, the fire would extinguish.



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Fire classifications

To properly and effectively extinguish a fire, responding officers must first determine the class of fire. The following table identifies the four classes of fires.

Class	Fuel Type	Examples	
A	Common combustibles	• Wood • Paper • Cloth	• Fibers • Some plastics
B	Flammable liquids; petroleum based materials	• Gasoline • Oil/grease • Solvents • Flammable gasses	• Cooking oils • Vinyls and some plastics
C	Energized electrical equipment	• Generators • Appliances	• Wiring • Energized ("hot") electrical panels
D	Combustible metals	• Aluminum • Magnesium • Titanium	• Phosphorus • Potassium

NOTE: An easy method to remember the ABC classifications is to remember the words "**A**sh," "**B**arrel," and "**C**urrent."

NOTE: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 10, 1998 edition, has added another class of fire: Class K, which relates to fires in vegetable or animal oils used in commercial deep fat fryer units.

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Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are designed to extinguish certain classes of fires. There are a number of common types of mechanical fire extinguishers officers may encounter.

- Pressurized water (i.e., "Class A extinguisher")
- Carbon dioxide (CO_2) (i.e., "Class BC extinguisher")
- Dry chemical (i.e., "Class BC extinguisher")
- All purpose (i.e., "Class ABC extinguisher")

Methods of extinguishing fires

Once an officer has determined the class of fire involved, appropriate measures can be taken to safely extinguish the fire (i.e., remove source of heat, fuel, or oxygen). The following table identifies a number of appropriate methods for extinguishing each class of fire.

Class		Extinguishing Methods
A	Common combustibles	• Cool with water • Smother with nonflammable material • Removal of fuel (e.g. clear the brush) • Pressurized water extinguisher • All purpose extinguisher
B	Flammable liquids; petroleum based materials	• Smothering (removing source of oxygen) • Carbon dioxide (CO_2) extinguisher • Dry chemical extinguisher • All purpose extinguisher

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Methods of extinguishing fires (continued)

Class		Extinguishing Methods
C	Energized electrical equipment	• Carbon dioxide (CO_2) extinguisher • Dry chemical extinguisher • All purpose extinguisher NOTE: Power source should be disconnected prior to extinguishing. Once disconnected, the method for extinguishing the fire will be dependent on the actual material that is burning.
D	Combustible metals	• Heat-absorbing extinguishing medium which is not reactive with the burning metal • Specialized extinguishing agents

NOTE: Class D fires involve combustible metals. These types of fires are difficult to control even for trained firefighters because they involve hazardous materials that may require specialized equipment. One example is a vehicle fire where burning aluminum and magnesium may be involved.

Fire Emergencies

[26.02.EO4]

Introduction

Peace officers do not have the same expertise, equipment, or training as do firefighters. Because of this, actions an officer may undertake at the scene of a fire emergency will generally be limited.

Officer safety

Officer safety must always be paramount in determining what actions can reasonably be taken. An officer's ability to enter a burning structure or attempt to aid persons who are trapped may be hindered by the lack of:

- protective clothing,
- breathing apparatus,
- specialized equipment, and
- technical training.

Rapid changes

Fire conditions can change rapidly and must constantly be observed for indications of danger. Officers should report any significant information to dispatch for relay to responding fire personnel.

The following table identifies observations that should be considered when evaluating a fire emergency.

Observation	Related information
Type of fire	• Structure • Vegetation • Vehicle

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Rapid changes (continued)

Observation	Related information
Smoke color	• Light gray – – vegetation • Mid-gray – – wood, cloth, paper • Yellow – – chemical • Heavy dark smoke – – petroleum The lighter the color, the lighter the burning material.
Smoke and flame	Puffing smoke, air being drawn inward, with little or no visible flame. Hot rolling smoke and flame coming from openings around the building.
Flame color	• Orange flame less hot than a white flame. • The whiter the flame, the hotter the fire. Note: Some chemicals burn without a visible flame.
Weather conditions	• Wind • Humidity • Temperature

A **backdraft** is a violent **explosion** of an oxygen-starved fire that occurs when a door is opened and oxygen is allowed into the area.

A **flashover** is the spontaneous ignition of the contents of a room or structure due to build-up of heat to ignition temperature of exposed contents.

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Rescue attempts

In the course of their duties, officers may be confronted with a fire condition where people are trapped. Entering a burning structure without proper equipment and proper training could not only jeopardize officer safety but also add to the problem or complicate the situation for others. Officers should make every attempt to alert potential occupants without entering the building themselves.

NOTE: A peace officer's responsibilities at a fire scene, including entry into a burning structure or attempting to rescue trapped people, may be *limited by agency policies*.

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Risk assessment

Prior to any attempt by a peace officer to enter a burning structure or perform a rescue officers must consider the **risks versus the benefit/gain**.

In addition to agency policy, there are a number of other risk factors that should be assessed before entering a burning structure. The following table identifies a number of these factors.

Factor	Considerations
The structure itself	• General structural integrity of the building • Location of safest ingress/egress points along with possible escape routes • Type of occupancy/content of the building
The trapped individual(s)	• Number, age, capabilities, etc. of the trapped individual(s) • Location of the trapped individual(s) within the structure • Likelihood of the officers being able to reach trapped individuals without jeopardizing their safety
Nature of the fire	• Location of the fire within the structure • Evidence of placards, signs, or other evidence indicating toxic, combustible, or explosive materials • Hazardous conditions associated with the fire
Other factors	• Estimated time of arrival of fire personnel

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Actions within a burning structure

If an officer has determined that the situation demands entry (and if entry is permitted by their agency policy), the entering officer must take all necessary precautions.

When moving within a burning structure officers should:

- work in pairs, if possible.
- have an escape plan.
- remain calm and work as quickly as possible.
- listen for sounds of crying, coughing, or moaning.
- stay low (i.e., crawl) and feel the way to minimize exposure to smoke, toxic gasses, and fumes.
- feel closed doors prior to opening.
- NEVER OPEN any door that feels hot.

NOTE: Remember, entering a burning structure is very dangerous for an officer without proper equipment and training. Officers should always consider **risk versus benefit/gain!**

Trapped officer

One of the serious hazards of entering a burning structure is the chance of becoming trapped.

If an officer becomes trapped...	that officer should attempt to...
• in a room on the first floor	• close the door(s) of the room, and • escape through a window.
• on the second floor or above	• close any doors between himself and the fire, • call for help, and • await assistance from fire personnel if possible.

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Vehicle fires

When encountering a burning vehicle, officers should be aware that there may be a number of byproducts of the fire that can be extremely toxic. These may include but are not limited to:

- hazardous gasses from burning metals and plastics that can be inhaled.
- exploding fuels, airbags, pressurized shock absorbers, or bumpers.

Fire extinguishers may not be effective on a burning vehicle (e.g., fire too intense, too large). In these situations, officers should establish a perimeter and make the proper notifications.

Scene security

Officers should always consider that a fire scene may also be a crime scene. When it is suspected that a fire is of suspicious origin, efforts should be made to:

- record conditions upon the officer's arrival,
- protect the integrity of the evidence, and
- make appropriate and timely notifications to investigative personnel.

NOTE: For additional information regarding maintaining the security of a crime scene, refer to LD 30: *Preliminary Investigation.*

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Examples

Example: At 0100 hours a patrol officer responded to a report of a fire in a two-story residence. On arrival, the officer saw smoke coming from the second story and found the front door closed and locked. The officer circled the building to determine if smoke could be seen in the back. The officer notified communications of his observations and attempted to awaken any occupants by shouting and pounding on the front door. When there was no response, the officer used the patrol vehicle's public address system to issue a warning. When the first fire personnel arrived, the officer relayed his findings. The officer restricted his actions to those he could reasonably undertake and reported significant information to communications

Example: Two patrol officers returning to headquarters at the end of a late shift observed a three-story apartment building on fire. After notifying communications, one of the officers ran to the front of the building and banged on the door. The second officer used the patrol vehicle's public address system to broadcast a warning. The first fire truck arrived as the residents began to evacuate the building. The officers set up a perimeter around the area and restricted traffic flow.

Non-example: In the above example, the officers entered the building and ran through the hallways, banging on doors to awaken the residents. The residents were evacuated without injury, but both officers had to be rescued by fire personnel after being overcome by smoke. The officers should have limited their actions to rousing the residents from outside the building and waited for the firefighters to arrive.

Incidents Involving Explosive Devices

[26.02.EO6, 26.02.EO7, 26.02.EO8]

Introduction

Peace officers are frequently required to respond to bombings and explosive-related incidents. Officers should ***NEVER*** handle, touch, smell, or attempt to dismantle ***ANY*** suspected, or improvised explosive device. Any attempt to do so places the officer, others, and property, in serious danger.

Definition

An explosive is any substance, or combination of substances, that may:

- explode from heat, shock, friction or contamination
- react violently or explosively upon contact with air, water or foam
- be ignited by heat, sparks or flames

Types of explosives

Explosives can be divided into two primary types: **low explosives** or **high explosives**. Both are distinguished by the speed at which they burn.

Explosive-related calls

There are numerous types of explosive-related calls to which peace officers may be required to respond. These may include but are not limited to:

- bomb threats,
- hoax devices (i.e., fake bombs),
- letter bombs or suspicious packages received by mail,
- reports of unclaimed or suspicious packages (e.g., "ticking" packages, suitcases, briefcases, or other objects),
- fireworks or pyrotechnics,
- commercially manufactured chemical explosives,
- labs (e.g., clandestine, explosive, pyrotechnic),
- remote control devices,
- booby traps (e.g., trip wires, light switches, photoelectric cells, process switches), or
- recovered military **ordnance**.

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Incidents Involving Explosive Devices, Continued

Bomb/ explosive threats

Although some bomb/explosive threats are hoaxes, *all* should be treated as real. The following table identifies the three most common methods for delivering bomb/explosive threats.

Type of Threat	Additional Information
Telephonic	• The most popular method to transmit a bomb/explosive threat. • Trained personnel who receive the call should attempt to solicit as much information as possible from the caller in order to: - increase the likelihood of finding the device, and - identify the caller. • If the call is taken by someone else, officers should attempt to obtain as much information from that person as possible.
Written	• May be in the form of letters or other mail. • May be associated with some form of extortion or revenge. • Officers should: - collect all materials associated with the threat (e.g., envelope, container, paper the threat is written/printed on, etc.), and - handle each carefully and as little as possible in order to preserve trace evidence.
Personal	• Threats made face-to-face

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Incidents Involving Explosive Devices, Continued

Handling a bomb/ explosive threat

The following table identifies general guidelines for responding to a call involving a bomb/explosive threat.

Action	General Guidelines
Make contact with person who received the threat.	• Eliminate all radio, cellular, and computer transmissions until situation is resolved. • It should be noted that decisions on how the threat is to be handled rests with the victim of the threat. • Obtain as much pertinent information as possible. • Specific information may include, but is not limited to: - when the bomb will explode, - where the bomb is at the time of the call, - what the bomb looks like, - what type of bomb it is (e.g., pipe bomb), - why the bomb was placed, - the sex, ethnic/national origin, or any other characteristics of the caller, and/or - any background noises heard during the call.
Assist in evacuation, if requested.	• The decision to evacuate the premises is generally made by the person in charge of the location and not by responding law enforcement personnel. • Officers may assist in the evacuation process if requested to do so.

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Handling a bomb/ explosive threat (continued)

Action	General Guidelines
Assist in searching, if requested.	• Searching responsibilities should be left to the occupant, management, or school officials. • Officers may assist with the search if requested to do so. NOTE: If a bomb/explosive device or suspected device is found, the situation escalates into a public safety emergency where law enforcement assumes the responsibility of how the incident is resolved.
Document all actions.	• Details of the incident along with actions taken should be thoroughly documented pending any further criminal investigation.

NOTE: *Penal Code Section 148.1(c)* identifies the act of making a false bomb threat as a criminal act punishable by imprisonment in a state prison or county jail.

NOTE: Most agencies will have an emergency operation plan for bomb/explosive threat procedures.

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Incidents Involving Explosive Devices, Continued

Examples

Example: A peace officer responded to a telephonic bomb threat at an office building in a downtown area. The officer acknowledged the call, indicated he would be on-scene in one minute and would be "off the air." The officer contacted the business owner who received the threat and asked what the owner would like to be done. The owner stated that he wanted the officer to assist in looking for a device. The officer searched the building but did not locate a device. Afterwards, the officer wrote a report documenting the incident.

Example: The owner of a restaurant called police saying that someone had phoned a bomb threat to his business. The responding officer questioned the owner who said that the caller sounded like a former employee who had recently been fired. The caller said the bomb would go off at noon. When asked how he wanted to handle the threat, the owner indicated that he would close the restaurant and would like police assistance in searching for the bomb. After searching the premises and failing to locate an explosive device, the officer wrote a report documenting the details of the incident.

Example: Local police were notified by a federal government agency that a bomb threat had been phoned to the agency. Responding officers questioned the employee who received the phone call and then asked the senior official if he wanted the police to assist in searching the premises. The official replied that such threats were not unusual and that no search was necessary. The officers left and wrote a report including all details of the incident.

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Locating a suspected bomb/ explosive device

Preservation of human life is of paramount concern to all those involved in securing the area and safe disposal of any bomb/explosive hazard(s) located at a scene. Human life should never be jeopardized to secure or preserve evidence or property.

The following table identifies a number of general guidelines for securing the scene where a suspected bomb/explosive device has been located.

Action	General Guidelines
Ensure safety	• *DO NOT*: - touch or handle any suspicious device, - touch any switches or wires associated with the device, or - permit any radio, cellular, or computer transmissions.
Secure the area	• Establish and maintain a perimeter. • Evacuate all personnel within the designated area to a safe location. (Distance will depend on each situation.) • Control ingress/egress of the perimeter.
Assume command	• Notify explosive ordnance disposal personnel (EODP) using *landline telephone communications only*. • Request that paramedics, emergency fire personnel, and any other resources be available. • Direct assisting units to the scene by the safest response route. • Establish a preliminary command post outside of the perimeter. • Maintain command until relieved by EODP.

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Locating a suspected bomb/ explosive device (continued)

Action	General Guidelines
Gather additional information	• Attempt to identify and/or locate witnesses and the reporting party before they leave the scene.
Document the incident	• Take necessary steps to document the details of the incident, including officer actions.

NOTE: Agency policies and procedures may vary. Officers are responsible for knowing their agency's policies and procedures for taking action when a bomb/explosive device has been located.

Facsimile bombs

Officers may also encounter hoax devices or items that may appear to be destructive devices but do not contain explosive devices. The purpose of such devices is to create fear in the intended victim(s).

NOTE: Responding officers should treat these devices with the same caution that they would a real explosive device.

U.S. military ordnance

Ordnance is a weapon or ammunition used for military purposes. Military ordnance are often modified into improvised destructive devices.

A U.S. military ordnance that is color coded with blue is considered to be for training use. Even though they are used for training, the color does ***not*** indicate that they are "safe" or "harmless."

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U.S. military ordnance (continued)

Training ordnance may still contain live charges of low explosives.

NOTE: All military explosives are toxic and no military ordnance should be handled. If an ordnance is discovered and moved by an untrained officer or bystander, the area should be cleared for at least 30 minutes before returning to the location.

Examples

Example: A citizen called 911, reporting an unusual object taped to a tree in the city park. An officer arrived and saw that the object had wires attached to what appeared to be a group of batteries taped together. The officer immediately notified EODP, evacuated the area and, with backup units assisting, secured a perimeter around the park. The officer maintained the security of the scene until EODP rendered the device safe.

Example: An officer was dispatched to a call of a suspected explosive device in a private home. A parent had reported seeing a plastic pipe in his son's bedroom. Further information from dispatch indicated that the parent described the device as having some sort of fuse. The officer arrived at the house and was directed to the bedroom. The officer looked into the room to verify the location and description of the device. The officer immediately backed out of the room and evacuated the house. She reported her findings, and requested additional personnel and the bomb squad. A large perimeter was set up and homes adjacent to the house were evacuated. The bomb squad arrived to handle the incident.

Post-Blast Explosion Scenes

[26.02.EO9, 26.02.EO10]

Introduction

In a post-blast situation officers may think that there are no further hazards. Nothing should be taken for granted. Secondary explosive devices and numerous other hazards could always be present.

Types of explosions

An explosion is a sudden and rapid escape of gasses released when an unstable solid or liquid is converted to a stable gas.

There are three types of explosions.

- Mechanical (e.g., bursting boiler)
- Chemical (e.g., dynamite)
- Nuclear (e.g., fusion)

Inherent dangers

Officers should never become complacent at a scene where an explosive device has already exploded. There are a number of continuing or newly created dangers that could place officers and other personnel at risk.

Potential dangers that are inherent in a post-blast scene include:

- secondary devices/explosives,
- booby traps,
- structural weakness,
- broken gas mains,
- downed power lines, and/or
- released hazardous materials.

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Post-Blast Explosion Scenes, Continued

Involved personnel

Depending on the nature and size of the blast, large numbers of specialized personnel may become involved. Authorized persons may include, but not be limited to:

- fire fighters
- paramedics
- hazmat personnel
- owner/manager/school officials
- occupants
- representatives of TV, radio, and print media

Post-blast scene security

The site of an explosion should be treated as a crime scene until determined otherwise. The success or failure of the investigation depends on proper management of the scene beginning with the initial responding officer.

The following table identifies a number of general guidelines for officers who respond to a scene of an explosion.

Action	General Guidelines
Ensure safety	• ***NEVER*** touch or handle any suspicious devices. • ***DO NOT*** permit any radio, cellular, or computer transmissions. • ***ALWAYS*** remain mindful of secondary explosions and other potential dangers.

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Post-Blast Explosion Scenes, Continued

Post-blast scene security (continued)

Action	General Guidelines
Assume command	• Notify explosive ordnance disposal personnel (EODP) using *landline telephone communications only*. • Request paramedics, emergency fire personnel, hazmat personnel, and/or any other resources as needed. • Request other supporting resources for traffic/crowd control if needed (e.g., barricades, barrier tape, etc.). • Establish a preliminary command post. • Direct assisting units to the scene by the safest route. • Exchange information with other responding agencies. • Maintain command until relieved.
Secure the area	• Determine the perimeter by measuring the distance from the blast center to the farthest fragment found, plus ½ that distance. • Maintain a safe position for personnel and equipment. • Only bomb squad personnel or those requested by the bomb squad should be permitted within the perimeter. • All bystanders should be kept a safe distance from the explosion scene.

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Post-blast scene security (continued)

NOTE: *Penal Code Section 409.5* gives law enforcement officers the authority to close an explosion site when it is determined to be a menace to the public health and safety. Representatives of the media must be allowed to enter unless the area is declared a crime scene.

NOTE: Specific agency policies and procedures may vary. Officers are responsible for knowing their agency's policies and procedures for taking command and maintaining security at the scene of an explosion.

Examples

Example: A deputy responded to a call in which a homeowner in a rural area reported a vandalized mailbox. On arrival, the deputy saw that the mailbox appeared to have been damaged by an explosion. The officer observed fragments of a plastic bottle and an unknown liquid on the mailbox which had discolored the paint and metal. Without touching the mailbox, the deputy contained the scene and isolated the hazard.

Example: A patrol officer responded to a call at a bank where an explosive device had detonated. At the scene, the officer requested additional personnel, including backup units, fire department and EMS. She established a perimeter, evacuated the surrounding area, and called the EODP. The officer also set up a command post and staging area. Concerned about the possibility of a secondary explosive device, she continued to isolate the area after the assisting units arrived.

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need	Responding to unusual occurrences, peace officers may be called upon to act quickly in situations involving fires or explosives. Officers must become familiar with the risks presented by these calls in order to respond safely and effectively.
Extinguishing methods [26.02.EO3]	Once an officer has determined the class of fire involved, appropriate measures can be taken to safely extinguish the fire (i.e., remove source of heat, fuel, or oxygen).
Risk versus benefit of entering a burning structure [26.02.EO4]	Prior to any attempt to enter a burning structure or perform a rescue action, peace officers must consider specific agency policy and assess other risk factors.
Responding to bomb/ explosive threats [26.02.EO6]	Although some bomb/explosive threats are hoaxes, *all* should be treated as real. Three most common methods for delivering bomb/explosive threats are telephonic, written and personal.
Safety precautions [26.02.EO7]	Preservation of human life is of paramount concern to all involved in securing the area and safe disposal of any bomb/explosive hazard(s) located at a scene. Human life should never be jeopardized to secure or preserve evidence or property.
Securing the scene [26.02.EO8]	Establish and maintain a perimeter. Evacuate all personnel within the designated area to a safe location. (Distance will depend on the specific situation.) Control ingress/egress of the perimeter.

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Chapter Synopsis, Continued

Dangers of a post-blast explosion [26.02.EO9]	There are dangers inherent in a post-blast scene, such as, secondary devices/explosives, booby traps, structural weakness, broken gas mains, downed power lines, and/or released hazardous materials.
Securing a post-blast explosion scene [26.02.EO10]	Appropriate officer actions for securing a post-blast explosion scene are to ensure safety, assume command, and secure the area.

Workbook Learning Activities

Introduction

To help you review and apply the material covered in this chapter, a selection of learning activities have been included. No answers are provided. However, by referring to the appropriate text, you should be able to prepare a response.

Activity questions

1. A peace officer on late night patrol in a residential neighborhood notices gray smoke coming from an upstairs window in a small two-story home. Upon closer observation, the officer sees what appears to be flames throughout two of the second story windows. Though there are two cars in the driveway, the officer can see no people on the lawn or attempting to exit the home. What actions should the officer take immediately? If the ETA for the fire department is five minutes, how would you proceed? Explain the factors that would influence your decision. How would your actions differ, if at all, if evidence of the fire was seen through the first floor windows?

2. Why do you think that some agency policies do not permit officers to enter burning structures? How do the responsibilities of a peace officer who responds first to the scene of a fire differ from those of firefighters?

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

3. Why should officers not attempt to extinguish Class B or Class C fires with water or pressurized water extinguishers?

4. An officer is attempting to rescue a child from a third-story town house bedroom. Smoke is heavy and the officer can see flames in the second floor living room and in the open third floor guest room next to the room that may hold the child. The door to the child's room is closed, and when the officer touches the knob, it feels hot. The officer can hear the child calling and coughing. ETA of the fire department is still four minutes. What should the officer do and why?

Continued on next page

Activity questions (continued)

5. Officers receive a report of several explosions coming from a high school football field. When they arrive, they discover three boys attempting to ignite something midfield. As the officers approach, the teens appear to light something and run to the sidelines, but nothing happens. When the teens see the officers, they attempt to flee, leaving what appears to be several lengths of PVC pipe at the sideline, in addition to whatever is at midfield. How should officers proceed? Explain your response.

6. Given your own physical fitness and abilities as a peace officer, what would you do if you became trapped on the second floor of a burning home after the one stairway to the first floor became blocked by fire? Presume you are trapped alone. How would your response differ, if at all, if you were trapped with an 80-year-old woman?

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Activity questions (continued)

7. Officers are called to a local high school by the principal after she discovered a bomb threat on the school answering machine when she arrived in the morning. Much of the student body had already arrived. The threat said that there were several bombs planted in classrooms around the building and that they would be detonated at 0900 hours. Though the principal does not want to jeopardize the safety of her students, she believes that the threat is likely to be a hoax designed to disrupt the midterm tests that begin that morning. What are the officers' responsibilities in this situation? What are the responsibilities of the principal? How should officers proceed? If the principal asks for recommendations, how should they respond?

8. Officers are at the headquarters of a controversial political organization, gathering evidence about vandalism that was discovered as employees arrived in the morning. The morning mail arrives while officers are present and the office chief calls them over to check a "suspicious package." The shoe-box sized package is wrapped in brown paper and has no return address. It is addressed to the office chief. The word "deceased" appears after his name. What actions should officers take? What are their primary responsibilities?

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Activity questions (continued)

9. A series of explosions brings officers to a warehouse district, where they discover several people fleeing from a one-story concrete building. After stopping one of the individuals, officers discover that the people in the building were apparently making illegal fireworks when something triggered the explosion. One man reports that his injured friend is still in the building. How should officers proceed? What types of risks should officers anticipate to be present in or around the building?

Workbook Corrections

Suggested corrections to this workbook can be made by going to the POST website at: www.post.ca.gov

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Student notes

Chapter 3

Aircraft Crashes and Other Unusual Occurrences

Overview

Learning need

Peace officers must become familiar with the risks presented by aircraft crashes and other unusual occurrences in order to respond safely and effectively to these types of incidents.

Learning objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to...	E.O. Code
• recognize appropriate officer actions when responding to an aircraft crash.	26.03.EO1
• recognize appropriate officer actions specific to other types of unusual occurrences including: - electrical power emergencies, - hazardous road conditions, - traffic device malfunctions, - gas leaks, - floods, - animal control problems, and - earthquakes.	 26.03.EO3 26.03.EO4 26.03.EO5 26.03.EO6 26.03.EO7 26.03.EO8 26.03.EO9

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Overview, Continued

In this chapter

This chapter focuses on basic guidelines for responding to calls involving aircraft crashes and other unusual occurrences. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

Aircraft Crashes

[26.03.EO1]

Introduction

Law enforcement officers are often the first to arrive at a scene of an aircraft crash. The initial responding officers must act quickly to assess the situation and request the resources necessary to secure the area and manage the incident. Officers must always make an attempt to preserve life if feasible.

Potential hazards

Along with potential explosions and fires associated with the aircraft crash, the initial responding officers must be aware of potential hazards regarding the aircraft cargo. Release of hazardous materials could jeopardize the safety of responding officers as well as other emergency personnel.

Potential hazards include but are not limited to:

- hazards related to aircraft fuel (e.g., fire, ground/environmental contamination),
- health and safety hazards (e.g., smoke and airborne materials, body fluids, etc.), and
- hazards related to possible cargo (e.g., biomedical materials, radiological materials, pesticides, military ordnance, etc.).

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General response considerations

The following table identifies a number of general guidelines and considerations for an initial responding officer who must manage an aircraft crash scene.

Action	General Guidelines
Maintain a safe position	• Attempt to locate any possible survivors. • If it becomes necessary to approach the aircraft, attempt to: - approach from the side and upwind, - stay clear of fuel tanks or underwing fuel tanks. • Do not drive or walk along the actual crash path. Doing so could destroy valuable evidence or contaminate a potential crime scene. • Remain aware of potential hazards.
Conduct an initial assessment	• Attempt to obtain identifying information regarding the aircraft such as: - nature of aircraft (civilian, commercial, or military), - tail number, - color, - specific type of aircraft (fixed wing, helicopter, etc.), - capacity (i.e., number of people aboard), and - type of cargo.

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General response considerations (continued)

Action	General Guidelines
Secure the area	• Establish and secure a perimeter. • Limit ingress and egress to the area to only necessary people. • Keep all bystanders or noninvolved people a safe distance from the crash scene. • Request additional resources as needed to prevent looting.
Assume command	• Make appropriate notifications including: - emergency medical services, - fire department, - appropriate investigating agency, - hazardous material response personnel, and/or - medical examiner/coroner. • Request supporting resources and equipment such as: - protective clothing, - barricades or barrier tape, - monitoring equipment (e.g., radiological Geiger counter, etc.), - lighting equipment, and/or - traffic/crowd control, if needed. • Establish a preliminary command post. • Direct assisting units to the scene by the safest routes. • Maintain command until relieved or the emergency is resolved.

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Investigative authority

When managing the scene of an aircraft crash, officers must be aware of the agency that has investigative authority.

Nature of Aircraft	Investigative Authority	Primary Responsibility
Civilian and Commercial aircraft	National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)	• Determining the actual causal factors for the accident
	Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	• Determining whether or not there have been any violations of FAA laws and regulations
Military aircraft	The branch of the armed forces to which the aircraft belongs	• Complete authority over security, scene management, and determining the causal factors for the accident

Commercial aircraft

An increasing number of commercial airline crashes have occurred worldwide as a result of terrorist-placed explosive devices. Because of this, when a commercial aircraft is involved, the initial responding officer should take extra precautions to:

- consider the possibility of the presence of explosives and secondary devices,
- secure and protect the area as a potential crime scene, and
- manage the news media and bystanders to prevent scene contamination and destruction of potential evidence.

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Military aircraft

The military has complete authority over the management of any crash scene involving a military aircraft and has the legal authority to order law enforcement and nonmilitary personnel to leave the crash site.

Law enforcement responsibilities may be limited to logistical support and perimeter control.

Perimeter control

Because of inherent safety issues associated with possible military ordnance on the aircraft as well as national security interests (i.e., presence of classified equipment/materials), law enforcement officers have broad legal authority to restrict access to the scene of a military aircraft crash. (*Title 18 USC*)

Law enforcement officers can:

- prevent the news media from entering a military aircraft crash scene.
- restrict overflights of aircraft including news media helicopters, private aircraft, etc. (*Federal Aviation Regulations, Section 91.137*)

NOTE: Photography of a crash site which involves potentially classified material is illegal under prevailing federal law. (*Title 18 USC 793c*)

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Examples

Example: A small general aviation aircraft crashed into a suburban shopping mall, smashing through the roof of a large department store. There were 12 fatalities, including all 3 occupants of the plane, and 98 others were injured. At the time of the crash there were approximately 2,000 people in the mall. The first arriving officers entered the mall area to assess the situation and make the appropriate notifications. The next officer on the scene, a sergeant, remained outside to activate ICS. The sergeant established a command post in the mall parking lot away from the buildings and called for mutual aid. The sergeant also used the parking lot as a staging area, directing and assisting officers in restricting traffic flow so that responding ambulances were not impeded. He set up an area for triage and another area as a meeting place for separated parties.

Example: On a foggy night, police and fire departments were notified that a helicopter had crashed in a residential area. On arrival, the responding officer observed the helicopter on the front lawn of the house, with both the helicopter and house on fire. The officer immediately confirmed that fire and EMS were enroute. She asked for units to close down the area, assist in crowd management, and for a field supervisor to respond. The officer assessed the scene and advised communications that electrical wires were down and that the helicopter was used for spraying malathion, a pesticide. With the assisting units, the officer moved the crowd that had gathered and evacuated nearby residents. The officer also requested that the utility company, the FAA, the hazmat team, and the county agriculture office be notified.

Other Unusual Occurrences

[26.03.EO3, 26.03.EO4, 26.03.EO5, 26.03.EO6, 26.03.EO7, 26.03.EO8, 26.03.EO9]

Introduction

Often, one unusual occurrence will spawn additional emergencies, requiring communication and cooperation between agencies. Officers must always make an attempt to preserve life if feasible.

Common actions

No matter what the incident may involve, there are a number of common principles that should guide the actions of the initial responding officer. The following table provides a review of these actions.

Action	General Guidelines
Conduct an initial assessment	• Attempt to locate survivors. • Verify the nature of the incident. • Determine the extent of the area affected.
Ensure safety	• Maintain a safe position in relation to the hazard. • Follow all safety guidelines specific to the hazard (e.g., fire, explosive device, gas leak, hazardous material spill, etc.).
Secure the area	• Establish and maintain a perimeter. • If necessary, establish an inner perimeter to further isolate the hazard(s). • Control ingress/egress into the controlled area to only authorized personnel. • If necessary, call for additional units to assist in traffic/crowd control.

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Other Unusual Occurrences, Continued

Common actions (continued)

Action	General Guidelines
Assume command	• Identify resources required to manage the scene. • Insure that proper notifications are made (e.g., fire department, emergency medical personnel, utility company, public works, etc.). • Direct assisting units to the scene by the safest route. • Establish a preliminary command post. • Maintain command until relieved or the incident is resolved.

NOTE: Actions for handling unusual occurrences can vary according to agency policies and guidelines. It is the responsibility of all officers to be aware of and comply with their agency's policies and guidelines.

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Actions related to specific incidents

Along with the responsibilities and actions common in managing unusual occurrences, the initial responding officer should be aware of actions required based on specific circumstances. The following table identifies a number of additional general guidelines for incident specific actions.

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Electrical Power Emergencies	• Downed power lines • Broken utility poles • Damaged transformers	• **All** downed wires should be considered energized ("hot") regardless of their appearance. • Be aware of possible hazards such as: - electrocution hazards (e.g., arcing wires), and/or - possible exposure to hazardous materials from damaged transformers (e.g., presence of PCB). • Do not touch anything. • Do not change the environment in any way (e.g., don't move downed wires or vehicles that have wires on them). • Ensure notification of the utility company. • Ensure notification of: - emergency medical services, - public works, - utility companies, and - hazardous material response personnel.

Continued on next page

Actions related to specific incidents (continued)

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Hazardous Road Conditions	• Washouts • Landslides • Flash floods • Spills on the roadway (e.g., oil/diesel fuel, etc.) • Damaged fire hydrants	• Isolate the affected area by: - establishing detours, or - utilizing barricades, barrier tape, cones, etc. • Advise emergency service agencies of roadway closures and subsequent need to use alternative routes when responding to calls. • Contact media to broadcast detour information if necessary. • Ensure notification of: - utility companies, - public works (e.g., water, electric, etc.), - fire department (especially if incident involved a damaged fire hydrant), and/or - hazardous material response personnel.

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Actions related to specific incidents (continued)

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Traffic Device Malfunction	• Down or malfunctioning signals • Missing or damaged signs	• Evaluate the magnitude of the hazard and the need for intervention. • Use appropriate warning devices such as: - patrol vehicle emergency lights, - flare patterns, - cones, - portable stop signs, etc. • Ensure notification of: - traffic signal maintenance agency (e.g., city/county electrical division), - public works. • Request additional resources if necessary, such as: - barricades, or - directional lighting devices.

NOTE: *Vehicle Code Section 21800(d)(1)* specifies that when traffic signals are inoperative, the intersection in question reverts to a four way/all way stop.

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Actions related to specific incidents (continued)

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Gas Leaks	• Ruptured gas line caused by construction excavation • Leaking gas line within a structure • Malfunctioning gas appliance	• Incident may involve: - natural gas leaks from utility lines, - liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from pressurized cylinders, or - compressed natural gas (CNG) from pressurized cylinders (e.g., tube trailer trucks). • Ensure notification of: - utility companies, - public works, - fire department. • Direct responding units to approach from upwind if possible. • Eliminate/restrict possible ignition sources such as: - cigarette smoking, - starting vehicles (catalytic converters), - use of flares, etc., - light switches, flashlights. • ***NEVER***: - enter a gas filled environment, or - touch or move anything until it is safe to do so.

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Actions related to specific incidents (continued)

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Floods	• Low lying areas • Heavy rainfall • Flash floods	• Make an initial assessment of the area involved (e.g., check bridges, look for fires, etc.). • Stay away from flood water. Hazards may include, but are not limited to: - health hazards related to polluted water, - swift currents and the possibility of being swept away, - unidentifiable hazards within the water (e.g., manholes, debris, etc.). • Continuously update communication of ongoing and changing conditions. • Ensure notification of: - public works, - fire department, - public utilities, - railroad companies. • Establish detours as needed. • Use appropriate warning devices (e.g., barricades, barrier tape, cones, etc.). • Assist with evacuation if necessary.

Continued on next page

Actions related to specific incidents (continued)

	Examples	Guidelines Specific to the Incident
Animal Control Problems	• Complaints regarding injured or dangerous animals • Sightings of wild animals in urban areas • Incidents involving exotic or illegal animals	• Attempt to locate the animal. • Attempt to determine if the animal is dangerous. • Protect public safety by: - attempting to keep the animal from injuring people, and - confining the animal, if possible. • Notify animal control authorities. • Avoid headshots to suspected rabid animals (head should be preserved for rabies test).

NOTE: Officers should not destroy the animal unless compelled to do so by a threat to public safety. Officers should follow their applicable agency policies regarding the destruction of animals.

NOTE: Most snakes fear people. Even so, caution should be employed when approaching a snake as many bites occur when a second snake in the same area is overlooked. The only native poisonous snake in California is the rattlesnake which can *usually* be identified by rattles on the tail.

NOTE: The Department of Fish and Game may be able to provide assistance in the case of wild or exotic animals.

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Other Unusual Occurrences, Continued

Earthquakes

By their very nature earthquakes are widespread and may result in high-damage to areas where emergency services are needed. During an earthquake, a chain reaction of events can occur setting off several types of incidents at one time (e.g., hazardous road conditions, electrical power emergencies, fire emergencies, gas leaks, explosions, etc.).

Officers should consider that:

- The extent of the damage may inhibit the response of additional assistance (e.g., fire department, emergency medical services, etc.) and isolate the officer.
- Normal emergency communication systems may be inoperative.
- Aftershocks may represent continuing hazards.
- Officers may be required to engage in nontraditional activities such as:
  - heavy rescue operations,
  - damage assessment, and/or
  - organizing/supervising civilian volunteers.
- Damaged dams/levees may necessitate evacuation.

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Other Unusual Occurrences, Continued

Responding to an earthquake

In addition to the normal considerations associated with other unusual occurrences, officers should be aware of the following when responding to earthquake related incidents.

Action	General Guidelines
Conduct an initial assessment	• Attempt to locate survivors. • Assess their area of responsibility for damage and conditions requiring emergency action.
Ensure safety	• Use extreme caution when inspecting hazards, such as: - damaged structures, - broken water mains, - potential gas leaks, - collapsed bridges/roadways, - fires, etc.
Secure the area	• Isolate hazards. • Establish detours, as needed. • Utilize barricades, barrier tape, cones, etc. • Limit ingress and egress to authorized people.
Maintain communication	• Ensure appropriate notifications to communications. • Utilize alternative communication systems if necessary. - Cellular telephone networks - Citizen band (CB) and HAM radios - Relays to airborne communications (e.g., law enforcement helicopters)

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Other Unusual Occurrences, Continued

Examples

Example: After a major earthquake, a peace officer began to inspect his patrol area to assess damage. The officer observed several collapsed homes with people standing outside. After talking to the residents, the officer determined that no one was trapped inside the houses and no one was seriously injured. The officer notified communications of downed power lines, advised residents to stay away from all power lines and placed traffic cones around the affected area. Continuing his assessment, the officer saw a damaged service station and noted the smell of gasoline. The officer notified communications, put out traffic cones and yellow tape around the station, but did not go into the area to locate the shut off switch. The officer continued to check the rest of his patrol area to assess damage and provide assistance as needed.

Example: A homeowner called police to report that a truck had struck a utility pole in front of his house. The responding officer found a large truck had struck a low hanging wire causing it to break and fall into the street. The officer determined that the wire provided electrical service to the house. The officer positioned his patrol car on one side of the downed wire and activated warning lights to block traffic. He requested a second unit to be positioned on the other side of the wire and to block traffic. After notifying the utility company, the officer restricted access of cars and pedestrians from the area until the utility company arrived and repaired the power line.

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Other Unusual Occurrences, Continued

Examples (continued)

Example: Two patrol officers were dispatched to a report of a rabid fox. The officers located the obviously distressed animal in a shed. Because there was a very long response time estimate for animal control, the officers decided that it was necessary to kill the fox to prevent its escape or any aggressive movement toward several bystanders. One of the officers moved the bystanders to a safe distance and his partner shot the animal, being careful not to destroy the brain as it would be needed to conduct a rabies test. The officers did not touch or approach the animal after it was shot, but waited until animal control arrived to take it away.

Example: At 0300 hours during a heavy rain, a patrol officer observed a "boil" on the side of one of the levees on his beat. The levee protected a housing development of about 200 homes. The officer first notified dispatch of the water leakage and requested a response by public works. As the officer continued to observe the levee, he determined that the threat of flooding was significant and requested assistance to begin evacuation of the residents.

Example: A patrol officer responded to a report of a bridge collapse. Once on the scene the officer notified communications and requested emergency resources to respond. The officer located the patrol vehicle in a safe position and established perimeter control, preventing all traffic from entering the area. The officer coordinated the re-routing of traffic and made sure ingress/egress routes were available for the emergency response personnel.

Chapter Synopsis

Learning need

Peace officers must become familiar with the risks presented by aircraft crashes and other unusual occurrences in order to respond safely and effectively to these types of incidents.

Responding to a aircraft crash [26.03.EO1]

When responding to an incident involving an aircraft crash officers should maintain a safe position, conduct an initial assessment, secure the area, and assume command.

Other unusual occurrences [26.03.EO3, 26.03.EO4, 26.03.EO5, 26.03.EO6, 26.03.EO7, 26.03.EO8, 26.03.EO9]

Common principles guiding the appropriate actions of the initial responding officer to all unusual occurrences include:

- Attempt to preserve life if feasible.
- Conduct an initial assessment.
- Ensure safety.
- Secure the area.
- Assume command.

Workbook Learning Activities

Introduction

To help you review and apply the material covered in this chapter, a selection of learning activities have been included. No answers are provided. However, by referring to the appropriate text, you should be able to prepare a response.

Activity questions

1. As a first responder to the site of a large passenger jet crash in a strawberry field, what potential hazards should an officer anticipate? Should the officer approach the plane to check for survivors? If so, what precautions should the officer take? What, if anything, would cause the officer to act before taking precautions?

2. Presume the crash scene described in question 1 is located alongside a north-south four lane state highway. The largest part of the plane appears to be about 100 yards east of the road. The prevailing wind is blowing from the northeast. Draw a rough diagram of the crash site, then explain the best possible approach for an officer to take to reach the crash scene.

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Activity questions (continued)

3. What actions can an officer at the scene of a major airliner crash take to protect the site as a potential crime scene?

4. Airline crashes are typically subject to extensive media coverage. What actions can officers take in controlling the access of the media to the scene? How might this differ if the crash was that of an Air Force fighter plane outside the grounds of a military base?

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Activity questions (continued)

5. For what types of unusual occurrences should a peace officer consider contacting the media for assistance? Give at least two examples.

6. Officers on patrol through a residential area are stopped by a resident of a high rise apartment who says she smells gas throughout the building. Should officers enter the building to investigate? What actions should they take? What responsibilities do they have to the occupants of the building?

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Activity questions (continued)

7. Peace officers receive an emergency call reporting a pit bull attack in progress. As they arrive on the scene they find a badly injured man hugging a dog that is bleeding severely. The man says he and the dog were attacked by the neighbor's pit bull. He says that the neighbor pulled the pit bull off but that it ran out of the yard. The neighbor left to look for the dog. How should officers proceed?

8. Use the chart below to list six examples of secondary hazards officers may encounter the day following a major earthquake. Then list appropriate officer responsibilities in each case.

Secondary Hazard	Officer Responsibilities

Continued on next page

Student notes

Supplementary Material

In this section

Refer to the following table for specific reference documents included in this section.

Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices

Explosives

Health and Safety Code Section 12000 defines an explosive as any substance or combination of substances where the primary purpose is detonation or rapid combustion capable of an instantaneous release of gas and heat. Such substances include but are not limited to:

- dynamite,
- nitroglycerin,
- picric acid,
- lead azide,
- fulminate of mercury,
- black powder,
- smokeless powder,
- propellent explosives,
- detonating primers,
- blasting caps,
- boosters,
- nitro carbonitrate substances or blasting agents.

Substances determined to be explosives by the U.S. Department of Transportation, includes:

- railroad torpedoes,
- military pyrotechnics,
- class A, B, and C explosives, and
- any material designated as an explosive by the State Fire Marshal (SFM), such as:
  - explosive devices containing more than .77 grains of pyrotechnic material (*CAC Title 19, Section 980*), or
  - exploding targets.

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Explosives (continued)

NOTE: Ammunition or small arms primers, destructive devices as defined by *Penal Code Section 12301*, and fireworks (*Health and Safety Code 12511*) are not included under *Health and Safety Code Section 12000*.

Forbidden explosives

Explosives forbidden in transport are those explosives or devices that have not been analyzed by the Department of Transportation (DOT) or authorized for use (e.g., M-80, M-100, M-500, etc.). Codes relating to such forbidden explosives are noted in the following table.

Description	Code Reference
License for manufacture or distribution	*Title 18 US Code Section 842(a)(1)*
Requirement that all such materials be submitted by DOT for examination	*49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 117.86*
If substances are not submitted for examination, they are considered forbidden explosives	*49 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 173.51*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Lawful possession and use of explosives

The following table identifies a number of statutory codes relating to the lawful possession and use of explosives and explosive devices.

Description	*Health and Safety Code Section*
• Exempts law enforcement from regulations.	*12005*
• Must be 21 to possess or use explosives.	*12082*
• Illegal abandonment of explosives.	*12087*
• Placards are required on vehicles transporting explosives.	*12089*
• A permit is required to: - possess or use, - manufacture, - sell, - store, or - transport explosives, or - to operate a shipping terminal involving explosives.	*12101*
• Individual may possess a maximum of 20 pounds of smokeless powder and/or a maximum of 5 pounds black sporting powder without a permit for reloading small arms only.	*12102.1*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Lawful possession and use of explosives (continued)

Description	*Health and Safety Code Section*
• Sellers are required to maintain records of sales of explosives (including black sporting powder and smokeless powder) including the purchaser's: - name, - address, - date of birth, and - some form of ID.	*12121*
• All explosives must be stored in approved explosive storage magazines (per *Title 19, CCR*).	*12150* and *12151*
• Definition of lawful possession.	*12303*
• Violations of all regulations notes are considered felonies.	*12305*

Transport of explosives

Laws governing the transportation and inspection of explosives are noted under *Vehicle Code Sections 31600* through *31620*.

Designated safe travel routes and approved stopping points for vehicles transporting explosives are noted under *Vehicle Code Section 31602.*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Definition of destructive devices

Penal Code Section 12301 presents a number of definitions for destructive devices.

Definition	*Penal Code Section*
• Projectiles containing incendiary or chemical materials (e.g., tracer ammo [except shotgun ammo] or exploding bullets)	*12301(a)(1)*
• Any bomb, grenade, explosive missile or similar device, or a launching device thereof (e.g., bombs commonly known as M-80, M-100, cherry bomb, law rocket tube, RPG, and bazooka)	*12301(a)(2)*
• Any weapon larger than .60 cal. or ammo therefore (except shotguns and antique cannons)	*12301(a)(3)*
• Any rocket, rocket propelled projectile or similar device larger than six tenths of an inch, or launching device thereof (e.g., all emergency signaling devices approved by the State Fire Marshal and bearing the SFM seal)	*12301(a)(4)*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Definition of destructive devices (continued)

Definition	Penal Code Section
Any breakable container containing a flammable liquid, such as gasoline with a flashpoint of 150 degrees F or less and that has a wick or similar device capable of being lighted (e.g., molotov cocktail)	*12301(a)(5)*
Any sealed device containing dry ice (CO_2) or other chemically reactive substances assembled for the purpose of causing an explosion by a chemical reaction	*12301(a)(6)*
Explosives as designated in *Health and Safety Code Section 12000*	*12301(b)*

NOTE: A bullet itself is not a destructive device as defined in *Penal Code Section 12301*.

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Additional penal code references

The following penal code sections also relate to destructive devices.

Description	***Penal Code Section***
• Giving a false report of a bomb/explosive device	*148.1*
• Reporting a hoax device or facsimile bomb	*148.1(d)*
• Exemption of law enforcement officers acting in the official capacity from possession laws	*12302*
• Possession of a destructive device (felony/misdemeanor)	*12303*
• Carrying or placement of an explosive or destructive device on a vessel, aircraft, car, or other vehicle (felony)	*12303.1*
• Reckless or malicious possession of a destructive device or explosive in certain places (felony) NOTE: Should be used in lieu of *Penal Code Section 453(a)* when handling an incident involving a firebomb (molotov cocktail) incident.	*12303.2*
• Exploding or attempting to explode or ignite any destructive device with the intent to injure, intimidate, or terrify people or to wrongfully destroy property (felony)	*12303.3*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Additional penal code references (continued)

Description	*Penal Code Section*
• Selling or transporting a destructive device other than fixed ammunition (felony)	*12303.6*
• Selling or transport of a fixed ammunition (misdemeanor/felony)	*12304*
• Exploding or attempting to explode a destructive device or explosive with intent to commit murder (felony)	*12308*
• Unlawful explosion or ignition of destructive device or explosive causing bodily injury (felony)	*12309*
• Unlawful explosion or ignition of destructive device or explosive causing death, mayhem, or great bodily injury (felony)	*12310*
• Probation or suspension of sentences under *Penal Code Section 12301* through *12310* and *12312* are not authorized.	*12311*
• Possession of materials with intent to make a destructive device or explosive (e.g., pipe, wire, diagram and books on how to build devices) (felony)	*12312*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Additional penal code references (continued)

Description	*Penal Code Section*
• Exemption for the possession of ammunition after the propellent has been removed and primer has been permanently deactivated (war/military souvenirs)	*12324*
• Assembling, maintaining, placing, or causing to be placed a booby trap device	*12355*
• Definition of a booby trap device (any concealed or camouflaged device designed to cause great bodily injury when triggered by an action of any unsuspecting person)	*12355(a)*
• SFM approved emergency or distress signaling devices (with the SFM seal) may be: - stored on a boat or in aircraft, - transported to and from a hunting activity (hunter must have a valid hunting license in possession)	*12301.1*
• Unlawful manufacture, import, sale, supply, or possession of certain weapons and explosives NOTE: For additional information regarding unlawful carrying or possession of dangerous weapons or explosives, refer to LD 40: *Weapons Violations*.	*12020*

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Fireworks regulations

A firework is defined as a device, used as a pyrotechnic device or for entertainment, containing chemical elements and compounds capable of burning independently of oxygen in the atmosphere, and producing audible, visual, mechanical, or thermal effects.

Unlawful possession of fireworks (e.g., M-80s, M-100s, cherry bombs, etc.) is covered under *Health and Safety Code Section 12511*.

NOTE: Throughout the state there are also numerous county and city ordinances pertaining to the possession and use of fireworks.

Additional code references

Additional information regarding...	can be located in the California...
• crimes and punishments related to explosives and destructive devices	Penal Code
• offenses dealing with health and safety issues related to explosives and fireworks	Health and Safety Code
• transportation of explosives	Vehicle Code
• safety in the workplace	Labor Code

Other references include:

- Uniform Fire Code
- State Resources Code
- Welfare and Institutions Code
- California Code of Regulations (CCR)
- California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulations
- city/county ordinances
- U.S. Federal Code

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Low explosives are explosives that burn at less than 3,000 feet per second

Examples of low explosives are provided in the following table:

Low Explosive	Additional Information
Black powder	• Readily available • Commonly used in pipe bombs
Flash powder	• Commonly used in fireworks • Often extracted from fireworks to make improvised devices
Smokeless powder	• Readily available • Less sensitive than black powder; used for reloading small arms • More stable than flash powder • Not corrosive • Also used in pipe bombs
Safety fuses	• Hobby fuses used with toy cannons, model rocket launchers, etc. • Has a black powder center and burns when ignited • Used to ignite a blasting cap
Other explosive or incendiary mixtures	• Match heads • Burning/smoking chemicals

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

High explosives are explosives that bury at or more than 3,000 feet per second

High explosives are readily available to the general public. Examples of high explosives are provided in the following table:

High Explosive	Additional Information	
Detonating devices	Blasting caps	• Explosive devices used to set off other high explosives • *Nonelectric* blasting caps ignite with a burning fuse • *Electric* blasting caps ignite with an electrical charge • *NONEL shock tubes*, another type of blasting cap, ignite with a shock wave
	Detonating cord	• Cord used to connect the blasting cap to other explosives (e.g., E-Cord, det cord, primer cord) • Color of the cord's filler is either off-white, pink, green, or white
	Booster charges	• Used to set off blasting agents
Dynamite	• Made from nitroglycerin and ammonia nitrate with fillers such as wood pulp • Primary commercially manufactured explosive	
Blasting agents	• Ammonium nitrate and fuel oil (ANFO) • Water gels, slurries, free running explosives made mostly from ammonium nitrate • Two-part (i.e., binary) explosives which, when mixed together, produce a high explosive	

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

High explosives are explosives that burn at or more than 3,000 feet per second (continued)

High Explosive	Additional Information	
Military explosives	TNT	• Trinitrotoluene
	Tetraethyl	• Used as an alternative to TNT
	Composition explosives	• Plastic explosives • C-3, C-4 • A variety of shapes, sizes and colors
	Sheet PETN	• Flexible military explosive • Flex-X or Data sheet

Improvised explosive devices

Any type of package or container can be used to enclose explosives or an explosive device. The most common type of improvised explosive devices or homemade bomb encountered are pipe *bombs*. These devices are commonly made from metal or polyvinylchloride (PVC) pipe.

Other improvised explosive devices include but are not limited to:

- CO_2 cartridges,
- fire bombs (i.e., Molotov Cocktails),
- dry ice bombs,
- acid/chemical bombs,
- time bombs,
- car bombs,
- remote control devices (usually with some type of antenna),
- letter/package bombs, or
- booby traps (commonly found in clandestine labs, marijuana fields, etc.).

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Examples of military ordnance

The following table identifies a number of military ordnance that peace officers may encounter.

Type of Ordnance	Additional Information	
Grenades	Fragmentation grenades	• Large kill radius
	Smoke grenades	• Actually burns • Can ignite fires
	Incendiary grenades	• Made of thermite • Burns at 4000 degree F
	Riot control grenades	• Contain chemical agents • Also have explosive and incendiary properties
	Special purpose grenades	• 40 mm grenades • Contains a fusing mechanism that is very dangerous
Mines	• Made of metal, plastic, wood, glass, and/or paper • Claymore mines contain steel bb's that can be shot over 600 feet • Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines can be used as booby traps	

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Laws and Regulations Applicable to Explosives/Destructive Devices, Continued

Examples of military ordnance (continued)

Type of Ordnance	Additional Information
Rockets/missiles	• Light anti-tank weapons (LAWs) and AT-4s are used as anti-tank weapons • The tubes themselves, whether loaded or unloaded, are illegal to possess
Small arms ammunition	• 30 mm or smaller • Can be fired electrically • Some types are forms of high explosives • Tracer ammunition is illegal
Submunitions	• Small ordnance from inside larger ordnance • Commonly dropped from aircraft but can be fired from cannons • Armed submunitions are normally very sensitive to vibration, temperature, and noise NOTE: There is no way to determine when or if the item is fully armed.

Officer Involved Shootings

Officer involved shootings

Peace officers who are called to respond to an incident where another officer has used deadly force (i.e., officer involved shootings) may be required to take certain actions. Such actions must be followed in order to ensure officer safety as well as the safety of others and preserve the scene for a complete investigation of the incident.

The following table identifies a number of actions and guidelines that the initial responding officer may be required to take.

Action	General Guidelines
Ensure safety	• Be sure that all shooting has ceased and that the scene is safe and secure. • Identify the threat (e.g., any suspects still on scene).
Assume initial command	• Secure or isolate the suspect(s). • Render first aid if necessary. • Request emergency medical services if required. • Obtain suspect information/description of outstanding suspect(s) from initial responding officer. • Communicate all relevant information to field supervisor or commander. NOTE: Whether or not the peace officer involved in the shooting is removed from the incident scene and/or interviewed by other officers at the scene will be *dependent on agency policy and procedures.*
Set in motion all required procedures	• Follow specific policies and procedures as established by your agency. • Establish and maintain a perimeter to secure the area. • Secure suspect weapon and evidence.

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Glossary

Introduction	**The following glossary terms apply only to Learning Domain 26: Unusual Occurrences.**
backdraft	A violent explosion of an oxygen-starved fire that occurs when a door is opened and oxygen is allowed into the area
explosives	Any substance, or combination of substances that may explode from heat, shock, friction or contamination; may react violently or explosively on contact with air, water or foam; may be ignited by heat, sparks, or flames
explosion	A sudden and rapid escape of gases that are released when an unstable solid or liquid is converted to a stable gas
flashover	Spontaneous ignition of the contents of a room or structure due to build up of heat to ignition temperature of exposed contents
high explosives	Explosive that burns at or more than 3,000 feet per second
Incident Command System (ICS)	A field management system used to coordinate on-scene emergency operations, coordinate multi-agency responses, and establish temporary or permanent command at the scene
initial responding officer	The first law enforcement officer to arrive at the scene of an unusual occurrence who takes leadership responsibility

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Glossary, Continued

low explosives	Explosive that burns at less than 3,000 feet per second
ordnance	Weapon or ammunition that is used for military purposes; often modified into improvised destructive devices
outer perimeter	A set boundary that completely surrounds the location of an unusual occurrence in order to protect the incident location and/or isolate a hazardous material
unusual occurrence	An unscheduled event involving potential injury or property damage which requires a law enforcement response