

Safety Committee Meeting February 17, 2015

Subject of the meeting: Bomb Scares - presented by VT State Police Sergeant Paul Ravelin – Williston Barracks. The Vermont State Police is available to any emergency and is on call 24/7. 75 – 80% of calls are in the Chittenden County. There are some canine detection dogs and they are trained on 28 different explosives.

Sergeant Ravelin explained how to handle explosives. Bombings are limited to the maker's imagination. The sky is the limit. A bomb can be constructed out of most anything. Never move a suspected device. Always move people away from the device. Be aware of secondary devices. Always assume that there is another device somewhere. Pay close attention to appropriate evacuation distances.

The biggest threat in VT is pipe bombs. They are very easy to make. Also a pressure cooker device has been used. A bomb can be complicated to very simple.

Look for security measures. The best way to prepare a response to a bomb threat is to having a plan. Communication, reporting systems, support organizations, emergency operation center, search teams, and inspections. Bomb threat cards are a fast way to react to the situation. Have all the right questions ready to get answers immediately. Bomb threat cards are a fast way to react to the situation. Have all the right questions ready to get answers immediately.

Course of action: Contact the local law enforcement agency immediately. Decide: evacuate or stay in place. This is based on the threat. If the call is to evacuate, who and where to go needs to be decided immediately. Plans include control of operation, evacuation, search, finding a package, disposal, post blast, publicity, after action review.

Breakdown of threats - It could be a suspicious package, written message, the telephone or the internet. Suspicious package – why? What are the reasons it could be suspicious. Was the package mailed or found at a location. Should the immediate area be evacuated, if so how far? Can the package be tracked? Does it have an unusual address? Extra postage? Staining? Smells?

Three types of search techniques - Covert search - This is the fastest and 50 – 60% effective. Overt search - This is 85% effective. Specialist Team only search - This is 90% effective and requires some level of training. Searches are conducted outside to in, bottom to top. Check specific outside areas. Evacuation points, piles of refuse, shrubbery, entrances, trash cans/ recycle bins and parked vehicles.

Search equipment that is used: Screwdrivers, wrenches, flashlight, hand mirror, access to ladders, marking material, keys to all secured areas.