

POLICY 41. FOUND MILITARY ORDNANCE

A. Overview

1. The Sheriff's Bomb/Arson Unit responds to found military ordnance throughout San Diego County and seventeen incorporated cities. Most found ordnance calls are handled routinely by dispatching a Sheriff's bomb technician.
2. The procedure outlined in this policy is intended as a guide and may vary with each individual situation.

B. Procedure

1. Deputies arriving at the scene of a suspected piece of military ordnance may approach the item if they feel safe doing so. The statement from the reporting party may be enough. If the deputy approaches the device, they should visually examine the item **WITHOUT TOUCHING IT**, and carefully note the details of the item (dimensions, shape, markings, etc.). You can take pictures of the item with your phone in airplane mode.
2. In static situations, you should consider turning off your radio when approaching the item.
3. Deputies shall contact the Communications Center and provide a description of the suspected ordnance. The Communications Center will notify on call Bomb/Arson personnel.
4. While awaiting the arrival of the Sheriff's bomb technicians, deputies will establish and maintain a perimeter based on the location, buildings, vehicles and any other conditions that would afford a solid barrier. Remember; time distance and shielding. Usually at least 300 feet is a good starting point. The Sheriff's bomb technician may adjust the perimeter after evaluation of the suspected ordnance.
5. Deputies will not allow unauthorized individuals to approach the item.
6. While at the scene, deputies shall collect all the necessary information to complete a found explosives report. Deputies will not draw a case number at this time because the suspected ordnance may turn out to be a "plumb bob" or "toy" hand grenade, which would eliminate the need to file an incident report.

C. U.S. Marker Marine Flare Procedure

1. Patrol deputies responding to a found U.S. Marker Marine Flare that washed up on a beach must proceed with caution because of the risk of serious burns

and/or exposure to toxic fumes. Flames may set surrounding areas on fire. These devices contain white phosphorus. White phosphorus can spontaneously ignite with air, producing toxic fumes, reacts violently with oxidants, halogens, some metals, nitrites, sulfur and many other compounds, causing a fire and explosive hazard.

2. Deputies should never touch the flare if still burning and/or smoking.
3. Deputies shall contact the Communications Center and provide a description of the suspected ordnance. The Communications Center will notify on call Bomb/Arson personnel.
4. Deputies will establish a perimeter of at least 300 feet. If the flare is burning/smoking, the perimeter must be large enough to contain the smoke. Under no circumstances should anyone be able to inhale the smoke from the flare.
5. If the flare is in the surf and threatening to wash out to sea, deputies shall do their best to maintain visual contact with the flare. Under no circumstances should a deputy attempt to grab or handle the flare.
6. Once the situation has been stabilized to the extent possible, deputies will stand by for the Sheriff's bomb technicians to arrive and handle the flare hazard.
7. Deputies will not transport any of these flares in their patrol vehicles. Bomb technicians will use special canisters for securing and transporting military flares to the Sheriff's Bomb Disposal Range.