



MEDFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY NO. 2.04

TERRORISM

MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION
STANDARDS

REFERENCED: **46.3.1, 46.3.2**

ISSUING AUTHORITY:

Michelle Guerette
Chief of Police

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11/07/2025

BACKGROUND:

Preventing, disrupting, and defending against acts of terrorism is as much a local level priority as any national effort. Terrorism can be domestic, "home grown", or international/state sponsored. But one common characteristic involving all terrorists is they must at some point mingle with the general population. There is no stereotypical terrorist; they look like the average citizen. They shop in stores, have vehicles repaired, purchase food and perhaps supplies for future planned acts of violence. They conduct surveillance and gather intelligence on potential targets and on law enforcement methods. They are committed to a cause and therefore unpredictable.

Vigilance, intelligence gathering and information sharing are the keys to minimizing the risk of acts of terrorism. Citizens are the best source for identifying unknown potential terrorists, as they see them in their neighborhood, may interact with them or overhear conversations, read email or see suspicious activity near an apartment, home or storage unit. If a citizen reports concerns surrounding suspected terrorism, it is the duty of all employees to report it promptly to the appropriate agency.

POLICY:

All employees shall be vigilant in the detection of crime and suspicious people. An officer with heightened awareness and knowledge of terrorist activity indicators is helping to reduce threats to both national and local security. The Medfield Police Department will work with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to share information and coordinate efforts combating terrorism.

PROCEDURES:

All employees are expected to be familiar with potential terrorist threat locations as identified by local, state and federal threat and vulnerability surveys. Increased vigilance should be proportional to the severity and nature of the activity suspected. The Department will provide updated location information at least once annually as part of the annual all hazards plan training.

Threat Indicators

- Someone bragging or talking about plans to harm citizens in violent attacks, or who claims membership in a terrorist organization that espouses killing innocent people.
- Suspicious packages, luggage, or mail that has been abandoned in a crowded place such as an office building, airport, school, or shopping center.
- Suspicious letter or package that arrives in the mail.
- Someone suspiciously exiting a secured, non-public area near a train, railway, bus stop, tunnel, bridge, government building, tourist attraction, or a business with government contracts, etc.
- Any type of activity or circumstance that seems frightening or unusual within the normal routines of a neighborhood, community, or workplace.
- Someone unfamiliar loitering in a parking lot, government building, or around a school or playground.
- Someone using, or threatening to use, a gun or other weapon, place a bomb, or release a poisonous substance in to the air, water, or food supply.
- Strange odors, smoke, fire, or an explosion.
- Abandoned vehicles.

Threat Types

According to the Department of Homeland Security, specific terrorist threats may include:

CHEMICAL ATTACK - The deliberate release of a toxic gas, liquid, or solid that can poison people and the environment.

BIOLOGICAL ATTACK - The deliberate release of germs, viruses or other biological substances that can cause pandemic illness.

RADIOLOGICAL - The deliberate release and spread of radioactive material through the use of non-nuclear explosives to contaminate people and the

environment causing, death, fear, panic and interruption of commerce in the affected area.

NUCLEAR - The deliberate detonation of a nuclear device causing intense light and heat, a damaging pressure wave, and widespread radioactive material that can contaminate the air, water, and ground surfaces for miles around.

Notifications [46.3.2]

Employees receiving information regarding potential or suspected terrorist activity, regardless of the source, shall notify the Shift Commander and coordinate with the Deputy Chief. The Deputy Chief is the department's primary contact for information sharing with the Fusion Center and other law enforcement agencies. The following notification options are available: **[46.3.1]**

1. Contact the Commonwealth Fusion center via phone and relay the information, and forward written documentation if requested.
2. During business hours, contact the Boston field office of the FBI and report the information in the same manner. After business hours, contact the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) at the Boston FBI office.

If there is immediate threat of serious injury or death, officers should take whatever enforcement action is necessary to protect themselves and the public.

Contact Information [46.3.2]

DHS 24 HOUR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER 202-282-8101 Email
hscenter@dhs.gov

FUSION CENTER – 978-451-3700 FAX: 978-451-3707 Email
fusion@pol.state.ma.us

FBI BOSTON JTTF 617-742 -25533

TERRORISM TIP LINE 888-USA-5458 508-872-5458

[TERRORIST SCREENING CENTER](http://TerroristScreeningCenter) 866-872-5678