

Circular
of No. A2/4840/98 Dated: 4.4.1998 From the
Director, Forensic Sciences Department, Mysore, Chennai-4

Sub:- Explosives & Explosive Substances -
Role of Scientific Assistant in
dealing with live IEDs - instructions
issued.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM

It is learnt that Scientific Assistants Incharge of Mobile Forensic Science Laboratories are involving themselves in the act of defusing Improvised Explosive Devices. All Scientific Assistants are instructed that bomb defusal does not form part of the duty of the Scientific Assistant. They shall not involve themselves in the process of defusal/disposal of explosive devices. This order should be scrupulously adhered to and any violation will be viewed seriously.

2) The Scientific Assistants shall, however, visit all cases wherein objects suspected to be explosive devices are recovered or where premises suspected to be places of manufacture of explosives are searched by the Police Officers. They shall visually examine the objects and if the object is found to be something other than an I.E.D. (such as a part of a weather balloon flown by the Meteorological Department or a signalling device of a ship washed ashore etc.), they may remove the object and assist the police in containing the panic among the public. If the nature of the object cannot be understood or if the object reveals positive features of an I.E.D., they shall not touch or handle the object. In such instances the Scientific Assistant shall inform the Investigating Officer to seek the assistance of the B.D.D.S. Unit.

3. Whenever I.E.Ds are referred by the Investigating Officers to the BDDs unit requesting defusal/disposal, the Scientific Assistants are required to advise the Investigating Officers to request the BDDs to ensure that

- (1) The outer container such as bag, metal box, suitcase, etc., the inner content such as the time device, if any, the wires, the packing and insulating materials such as jute, rope, plastic coated sheets, rubber sheets etc., and the missiles such as nails, glass pieces, iron balls etc., found in each of the I.E.D. must be recovered, separately packed and labelled.

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(ii) The photographer available at the district headquarters should be utilised for photographing the I.E.D. and its components. These photographs should be taken with a scale and should high light marks, impressions etc. seen in the components of the I.E.D.

(iii) The services of the Finger Print Expert may be utilised whenever the components of I.E.D. include such polished articles like insulation sheets, metal or plastic boxes etc. The latent prints developed will be very useful to pin down the involvement of the accused.

(iv) about 250 gms. of the main charge used as the explosive substance is to be preserved in an air tight packing.

(v) In case of disposal, the metallic remnants of explosion are to be picked up preferably using a magnet apart from collecting the specimen soil from the seal of explosion for ascertaining the chemical nature of the residue of the explosive.

4. The following measures of caution are to be disseminated by Scientific Assistants among the Investigating Police Officers/Police Personnel attending inservice training programmes:

(i) To hold/handle the detonators (ordinary or electric) by the open end avoiding the sealed tip.

(ii) To connect the two wires by twining them together whenever electric detonators are seized. This step prevents accidental entry of electricity.

(iii) To avoid transportation of Electric Detonators or IED's with Electric Detonators in vehicles fitted with V.H.F. sets since static electricity is known to be generated while handling a VHF set.

(iv) Never to transport an I.E.D. with the detonators still embedded/packed inside the main charge although the power source had been disconnected/removed. A detonator and a high explosive substance should never be packed/forwarded in close proximity.

(v) Never to exhibit I.E.D.s especially the "throwdown" type bombs on elevated objects such as table, chair, etc. The spherical bombs may roll, fall down and explode and in case of accidental explosion of other I.E.D.s the splinter from the material of the table etc., will produce additional injuries. All I.E.D.s are to be exhibited/kept at ground level only.

(vi) While immersing the throw down type of bombs in water, water should not be poured into a bucket containing the bombs but the bombs, one by one, should be gently placed in a bucket full of water and each should be allowed to soak and immerse.

(vii) Not to store gelatin sticks for a long duration since the watery exudation that is discharged is known to explode when contacted by a spark or due to friction.

The receipt of this circular is to be acknowledged.

Sd/- N. Salvaraj,
Director.

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for Director-General of Police.
5/1/77