

## TSA Canine Team Response to Suspicious / Hazardous Items

- A. General: The National Bomb Squad Commander's Advisory Board has stated that "if it's a suspected IED – then call EOD."
1. TSA Explosive Detection Canines are appropriate for searching buildings, vehicles, cargo, baggage, packages, aircraft, etc..., during threats, protection details, or other routine or general sweeps, but are not to be used to assess, examine, or clear items already identified as a suspected explosive item or possible IED.
  2. Searching refers to conducting a systematic examination of an area, vehicle, or other non-suspect items with TSA canines.
  3. Alarm resolution procedures for ETD/EDS are already in-place. There is no requirement to use a canine team to resolve the alarm.
  4. If a TSA canine has a positive response to explosives odor, the handler will contact the local law enforcement entity, secure the area, and await further instructions from a Certified EOD/HAZMAT Technician.
- B. Specifics: Many unattended items or unresolved alarms at security checkpoints may be suspected to be improvised explosive devices (IED) or contain hazardous materials (HAZMAT). TSA canines are only be utilized to search items that have been deemed unattended (See definitions below). A TSA-certified Canine will not be utilized to either confirm or deny the presence of an explosive in an identified suspicious/hazardous item. Once an item has been identified as suspicious and/or hazardous, all render safe procedures will be coordinated through a Certified EOD/HAZMAT Technician. Adhering to this practice will ensure the safety of the canine teams, airport/transit personnel and the traveling public.
1. Unattended Item – Any item (luggage, vehicle, electronic device, etc) which when looking at the totality of the circumstances would *normally* be present in the environment in which the item was found.
  2. Suspicious Items: Any item which when looking at the totality of the circumstances, does not belong in the environment in which it was located. These items exhibit indicators that yield suspicion which is *normally not* present with similar items.
    - a. What makes an item suspicious:
      - 1) Threat associated with item
      - 2) Circumstances/person associated with item

- 3) Signs of explosive device
- 4) Oily stains
- 5) Discoloration
- 6) Protruding wires
- 7) Tinfoil
- 8) Strange odors
- 9) Antenna
- 10) Visible switches
- 11) Vibration
- 12) Unusual sounds
- 13) Unusual/excessive packaging
- 14) Another device has been located and identified within close proximity
- 15) Obvious device (pipe bomb)