

## Question?

Do you know what to do if you receive a bomb threat by phone?

This brochure offers facts on such threats, as well as ways you can help police resolve the situation quickly with minimal disruption.



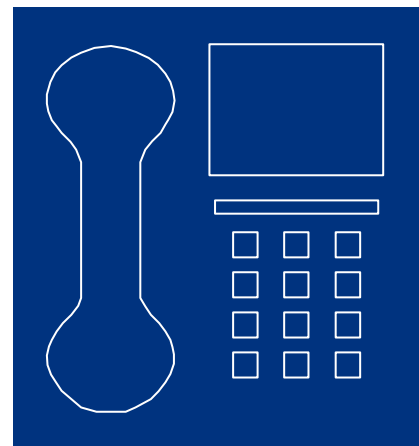
The University of Memphis  
Police Services—Crime Prevention Office

Police Services  
505 Zach Curlin Dr.  
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Phone: 901-678-3848  
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## How to Handle Bomb Threats

 The University of Memphis  
Police Services—Crime Prevention Office



Setting the standard for service

Tel: 901-678-4357 or 911 from on campus phones

## Receiving the Call

Most bomb threats are called in to a main office number, such as a reception area, help desk, or other number generally available to the public.

If you receive a threat there are several things you can do to help police.



If possible, ask the caller:

1. When is the bomb going to explode?
2. Where is it located?
3. What does it look like?
4. Why did you place it?

*Keep the caller talking as long as possible!*

In addition, the person answering the phone should record:

1. The phone # the caller is using and the time of the call

2. Sex of the caller and approximate age [if possible]
3. Any unique speech pattern or accent, possible nationality, etc.
3. Emotional state of the caller [joyful, angry, irrational, etc.]
4. Any background noise [i.e. machinery, baby crying, people laughing]

## What Now?

After the caller hangs up, call Police Services at **678-4357** or 911 from a campus phone.

Wait for officers to arrive at your location, Remain calm and DO NOT begin evacuation, officers need to talk with you and will determine if evacuation is necessary.

Officers will ask what the caller told you and conduct a search of the area.

If conditions warrant, officers will evacuate the building using the best means possible. In some cases, the fire alarm will be used. In other cases, the officers may need to evacuate slowly, possibly even room by room. Should a potential device be located, The Memphis Police

Department Bomb Squad will be called in to handle the device.

## Things to Consider

Most bomb threats, especially those to schools, or places of education are hoaxes or pranks. There is a curious correlation between exam time and threats of this nature. The obvious purpose of these threats is to *disrupt normal operations*. We prefer not to do that, as it would only encourage more false threats.

We do, however, treat it seriously and take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of the public.

The best deterrent is that we investigate & prosecute those we find responsible for such threats. Making a bomb threat is a felony under Tennessee Code 39-16-502.

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