



WMSC Commissioner Brief: W-0194 – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons – Mount Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center Station – July 18, 2022

Prepared for Washington Metrorail Safety Commission meeting on December 13, 2022

Safety event summary:

On July 18, 2022, Mount Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center Station was evacuated, and trains were instructed to bypass the station due to a report of a person with an explosive device.

At approximately 6:14 p.m., a Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) dispatcher contacted the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) to request that trains temporarily bypass Mount Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center Station due to the report of a person with an explosive device. At approximately 6:15 p.m. the ROCC Rail Traffic Controller instructed trains to bypass the station.

At 6:16 p.m., MTPD personnel arrived at the station and Rail Operations Information Center (ROIC) personnel instructed the Mount Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center Station Manager to evacuate the station. An Office of Rail Transportation (RTRA) Supervisor arrived and was designated On-Scene Commander by the ROCC, however the RTRA Supervisor notified the ROCC that MTPD personnel were on the scene, and that MTPD would be taking command.

At 6:23 p.m. the Station Manager confirmed the station was clear of customers. MTPD personnel conducted a sweep of the station and no explosive device or person matching the reported description was found. MTPD advised the ROCC that train service could resume at the station at 6:24 p.m.

Probable Cause:

The probable cause of this evacuation for life safety reasons was a possible bomb threat.

WMSC staff observations:

Trains continued to travel through the Mt Vernon Sq 7th St-Convention Center Station even though it had been deemed necessary to evacuate the station for life safety reasons. MTPD is responsible for determining whether trains bypass affected stations or if train service should be suspended in these instances. WMATA should consider evaluating procedures regarding train movement through station that pose potential risk to riders and personnel, specifically those that have been evacuated.



Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Department of Safety (SAFE)
Office of Safety Investigations (OSI)

FINAL REPORT OF INVESTIGATION A&I E22427

Date of Event:	July 18, 2022
Type of Event:	Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons – Bomb Threat
Incident Time:	18:14 Hours
Location:	Mount Vernon Square Station
Time and How received by SAFE:	18:16 Hours – Mission Assurance Coordinator (MAC)
WMSC Notification Time:	18:22 Hours
Responding Safety Officers:	WMATA: N/A WMSC: N/A Other: N/A
Rail Vehicle:	None
Injuries:	None
Damage:	None
Emergency Responders	Metro Transit Police Department
SMS I/A Incident Number:	20200916#102927

Mount Vernon Square Station – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons

July 18, 2022

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AOM	Assistant Operations Manager
ARS	Audio Recording System
CAD	Computer-Aided Dispatch
CAP	Corrective Action Plan
CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
MAC	Mission Assurance Coordinator
MSRPH	Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook
MTPD	Metro Transit Police Department
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OM	Operations Manager
OSC	On-Scene Commander
RTC	Rail Traffic Controller
RTRA	Office of Rail Transportation
ROCC	Rail Operations Control Center
ROIC	Rail Operations Information Control
SAFE	Department of Safety
SM	Station Manager
SMS	Safety Measurement System
WMATA	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
WMSC	Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Incident Date: 07/18/2022 Time: 18:16 hours
Final Report – Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons
E22427

Drafted By: SAFE 710 – 09/16/2022
Reviewed By: SAFE 71 – 09/19/2022
Approved By: SAFE 71 – 09/19/2022

Executive Summary

On Monday, July 18, 2022, at approximately 18:14 hours, the Metro Transit Police Department (MTPD) Dispatcher contacted the Rail Operations Control Center (ROCC) and requested that trains bypass Mount Vernon Square Station due to a report of a person with an explosive device. At approximately 18:15 hours, ROCC Rail Traffic Controller (RTC) instructed trains to bypass Mount Vernon Square Station. At approximately 18:16 hours, the Rail Operations Information Center (ROIC) instructed the Station Manager (SM) to evacuate the station. At approximately 18:23 hours, the SM confirmed that the station was clear of customers. At approximately 18:24 hours, MTPD advised ROCC that normal service could resume at Mount Vernon Square Station. There were no damage or injuries as a result of this event.

During the event, the ROCC RTC announced that SOP 1A was in effect and advised the Rail Supervisor that they were the On-Scene Commander. The Rail Supervisor reported that MTPD personnel were on scene and it was noted that MTPD would take the role of On-Scene Commander. The Rail Supervisor also reported that the station was clear of customers.

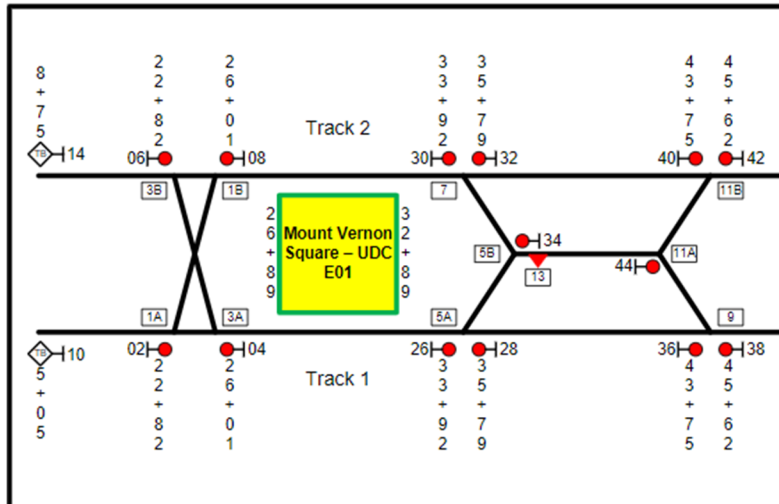
At approximately 18:24 hours, MTPD reported to the ROCC RTC that normal service could resume at Mount Vernon Square Station. The ROCC RTC instructed Train ID's 505 and 305 to resume normal service at Mount Vernon Square Station. At approximately 18:26 hours, ROIC advised the SM that normal service had resumed at Mount Vernon Square Station.

The probable cause of the Evacuation for Life Safety reasons at Mount Vernon Square Station was criminal activity by a customer verbally making a bomb threat. The subsequent investigation revealed no presence of a person with a real or perceived explosive or incendiary device. The investigation did not identify significant deficiencies with communication or adherence to established response procedures under direction of responding law enforcement personnel.

Incident Site

Mount Vernon Square Station

Field Sketch/Schematics



Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this incident investigation and candid self-evaluation is to collect and analyze available facts, determine the probable cause(s) of the incident, identify contributing factors, and make recommendations to prevent a recurrence.

Investigation Methods

Upon receiving notification of the Evacuation for Life Safety Reasons on July 18, 2022, SAFE dispatched a cross-functional team to assess the scene and conduct the subsequent investigation. SAFE team members worked with relevant WMATA subject matter experts to review the incident's facts and data.

The investigative methodologies included the following:

- Site assessment through video and documents review.
- Informal Interviews – Collected through conversations with individuals during the investigation to provide background and supporting information. Written statements were reviewed from personnel present during the event.
- Documentation Review – A collection of relevant work history information and process documentation contained in Metro systems of record. These records include:
 - MTPD Event Report
 - Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)
 - Metrorail Safety Rules and Procedures Handbook (MSRPH) SOP#14
 - Rail Operations Information Center (ROIC) Training Manual
 - Metrorail Stations Standard Operating Procedures Handbook
 - Rail Operations Control Center Procedures Manual
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- System Data Recording Review – A collection of information contained in Metro Data Recording Systems. This data includes:
 - Audio Recording System (ARS) playback include Radio OPS 3, & OPS 5
 - Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV)

Investigation

On Monday, July 18, 2022, at approximately 18:13 hours, MTPD received a text tip advising of a person on the platform with a bomb. At approximately 18:14 hours, the MTPD Dispatcher contacted the ROCC and requested that trains bypass Mount Vernon Square Station due to a report of a person with an explosive device. At approximately 18:15 hours, ROCC RTC instructed trains to bypass Mount Vernon Square Station. At approximately 18:16 hours, ROIC instructed the SM to evacuate the station. At approximately 18:23 hours, the SM confirmed that the station was clear of customers. At approximately 18:24 hours, MTPD advised ROCC that normal service could resume at Mount Vernon Square Station.

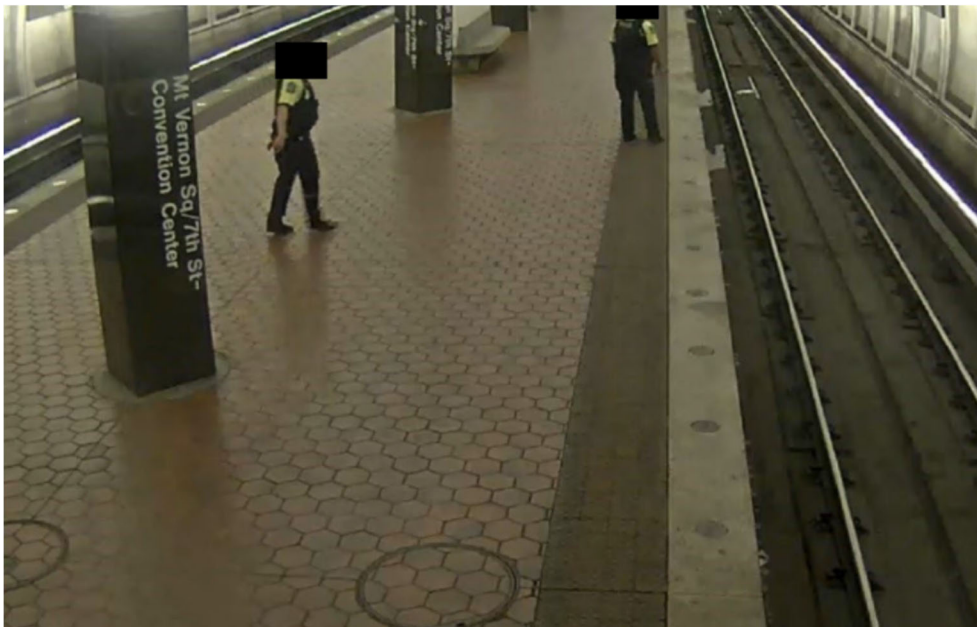


Image 1 - MTPD Officers performing a sweep of Mount Vernon Square Station.

The ARS playback indicated that at approximately 18:14 hours, MTPD requested that trains bypass Mount Vernon Square Station due to a report of a person with an explosive device. At approximately 18:15 hours, the ROCC RTC advised Train ID's 302 and 308 to begin bypassing Mount Vernon Square Station. At approximately 18:16 hours, MTPD arrived at Mount Vernon Square Station, ROIC instructed the SM to evacuate the station and the ROCC AOM advised an RTRA Rail Supervisor of the report and instructed them to evacuate the station.

At approximately 18:19 hours, MTPD began a sweep of the station.

At approximately 18:21 hours, the ROCC RTC implemented SOP 1A and advised the Rail Supervisor that were the On-Scene Commander. The Rail Supervisor reported that MTPD were on scene. The ROCC RTC requested the Rail Supervisor advise who would be the MTPD On-Scene Commander, and the Rail Supervisor provided the MTPD Officer's badge number. The

Rail Supervisor also reported that the station was clear of customers. At approximately 18:22 hours, MTPD advised that no one matching the reported description was found. At approximately 18:23 hours, the SM reported to ROIC that the station was clear of customers.

At approximately 18:24 hours, MTPD reported to the ROCC RTC that normal service could resume at Mount Vernon Square Station. The ROCC RTC instructed Train ID's 505 and 305 to resume normal service at Mount Vernon Square Station. At approximately 18:26 hours, ROIC advised the SM that normal service had resumed at Mount Vernon Square Station.

MTPD Reports indicated that MTPD officers were given a physical description of the suspect and possible location within the station. Officers canvassed the mezzanine and platform for any persons matching the provided description or any suspicious packages.

MTPD determined no individuals matched the description and K9 Units didn't find an explosive or incendiary device of any nature.

No individuals were injured, and no property was damaged because of the incident.

Chronological ARS Timeline

A review of ARS playback, i.e., phone and radio communications, revealed the following timeline:

Time	Description
18:13:20 hours	MTPD was notified that a person was on the platform yelling that they had a bomb. [Text]
18:14:52 hours	<u>MTPD Dispatcher:</u> Contacted Buttons RTC requesting trains bypass Mount Vernon Square station; officers were responding to a text alert of a person on the platform with a bomb. <u>Buttons RTC:</u> Okay [Phone]
18:15:10 hours	<u>Radio RTC:</u> Contacted Train ID 304 and Train ID 308 Train Operators and said, "make good announcements to your customers that you will be bypassing Mount Vernon Square station due to police activity." <u>Train ID 304 and Train ID 308 Train Operators:</u> Confirmed the RTC's transmission. [Radio Ops 3]
18:16:14 hours	<u>ROIC Specialist:</u> Contacted the Station Manager requesting Mount Vernon Square station be evacuated. <u>Station Manager:</u> Confirmed the ROIC instructions. [Radio Ops 5]
18:16:29 hours	<u>RTRA Rail Supervisor:</u> Contacted ROCC to learn what was happening at Mount Vernon Square Station and confirmed they were at the station. <u>ROCC AOM.:</u> Notified Supervisor trains are bypassing the station due to a bomb threat and to clear the station of customers. [Phone]
18:16:44 hours	MTPD arrived at Mount Vernon Square Station. [MTPD Report]
18:17:57 hours	<u>ROIC Specialist:</u> Contacted the Station Manager requesting a landline confirmation when the station is clear of customers. (*Correction to instruction) Station Manager was instructed to contact ROIC via radio when the station is clear of customers. [Radio Ops 5]
18:18:57 hours	<u>Radio RTC:</u> Made blanket announcement to all operators due to police activity, all trains will bypass Mount Vernon Square station, and a Rail Supervisor is on the scene. [Radio Ops 3]

Time	Description
18:21:07 hours	<u>ROIC Manager</u> : Contacted ROCC to find out who was responding to Mount Vernon Square Station. <u>ROCC OM</u> : Confirmed MTPD and RTRA Supervisor were on the scene. [Phone]
18:21:08 hours	<u>Radio RTC</u> : Appointed RTRA Supervisor the OSC and requested MTPD Officer's badge number and name. <u>RTRA Rail Supervisor</u> : Confirmed that the station was clear of customers, MTPD on the scene, and his role as OSC. [Radio Ops 3]
18:22:43 hours	<u>ROIC Specialist</u> : A blanket announcement was made "Green and Yellow lines trains will be bypassing Mount Vernon Square Station due to police activity. [Radio Ops 5]
18:22:59 hours	MTPD advised that no one matching the reported description was found. [MTPD Report]
18:23:01 hours	<u>ROIC Manager</u> : Requested the location within the affected station and confirmed that the station was clear of customers. <u>ROCC OM</u> : No confirmation of a specific affected location with the station and confirmed that the station was all clear of customers. [Phone]
18:23:04 hours	<u>Station Manager</u> : Contacted ROIC specialist confirming the station has been cleared of customers. <u>ROIC Specialist</u> : Acknowledged radio transmission [Radio Ops 5]
18:23:48 hours	<u>ROIC Specialist</u> : Requested confirmation if a Rail Supervisor was on the scene. <u>Station Manager</u> : Confirmed RTRA Supervisor and MTPD were on the scene. [Radio Ops 5]
18:23:58 hours	<u>MTPD Dispatcher</u> : stated, "we are clear Mount Vernon and rail can resume normal service thru Mount Vernon." <u>RTC Buttons</u> : stated, "Okay, thank you!" [Phone]
18:24:47 hours	<u>RTRA Supervisor</u> : Confirmed the incident was clear and stated "it might have been a false alarm." <u>RTC Radio</u> : Advised Train ID 505 to service Mount Vernon Square Station track #1 & Train ID 305 to service Mount Vernon Square Station track #2. <u>Train ID 505 & Train ID 305</u> : Confirmed RTC instruction. [Radio Ops 3]
18:26:03 hours	<u>ROIC</u> : Advised resuming normal operations <u>Station Manager</u> : Acknowledged normal operations instructions [Radio Ops 5]

***Note: Times above may vary from other systems' timelines based on clock settings and reporting source.*

MTPD Report

Upon review of the MTPD Report, MTPD officers were given a physical description of the suspect and possible location within the station. Officers canvassed the mezzanine and platform for any persons matching the provided description.

MTPD determined no individuals matched the description and K9 units didn't find an explosive or incendiary device of any nature.

Weather

On July 18, 2022, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as °81 F, with mostly cloudy skies throughout the afternoon. The event occurred within a tunneled section of the

rail system. Weather was not a contributing factor in this event (Weather source: NOAA – Location: Washington, DC).

Human Factors

Fatigue Risk

The biomathematical fatigue modeling application (SAFTE-FAST Web SFC) was not applied for this event.

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing was not conducted for this event.

Findings

- In response to a text tip about a bomb threat, MTPD requested that trains bypass Mount Vernon Square Station.
- ROCC advised the approaching trains to bypass Mount Vernon Square Station during the MTPD investigation and made blanket announcements to all of Ops 3 to bypass the station.
- No trains serviced the station while it was under bypass.
- No evidence of an explosive device or person matching the reported description was found.

Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence

- MTPD Officers and EOD personnel conducted a sweep of Mount Vernon Square Station.

Probable Cause Statement

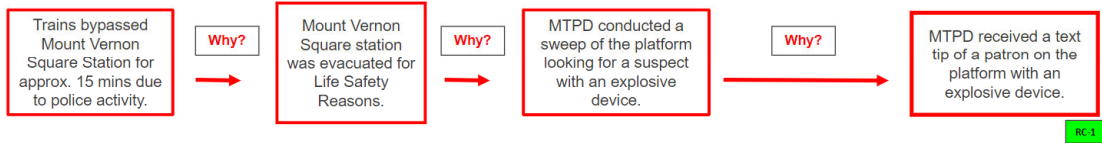
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Recommended Corrective Actions

There were no significant deficiencies identified during this event. There are no recommended corrective actions.

Appendices

Appendix A – Root Cause Analysis



Root Cause Analysis



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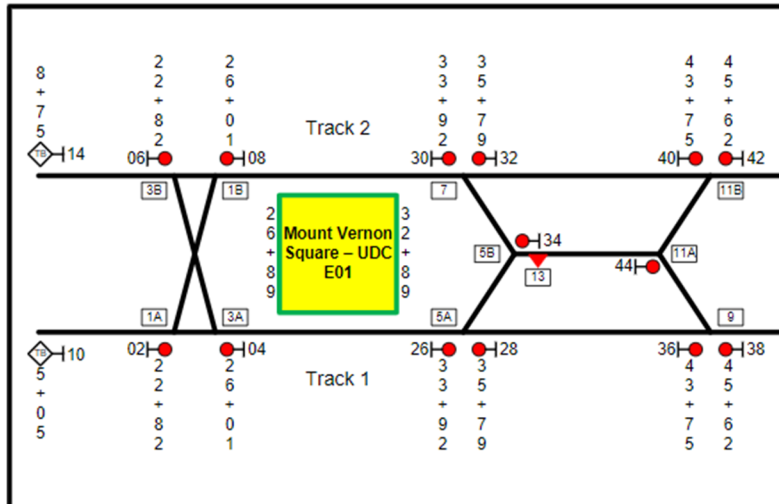
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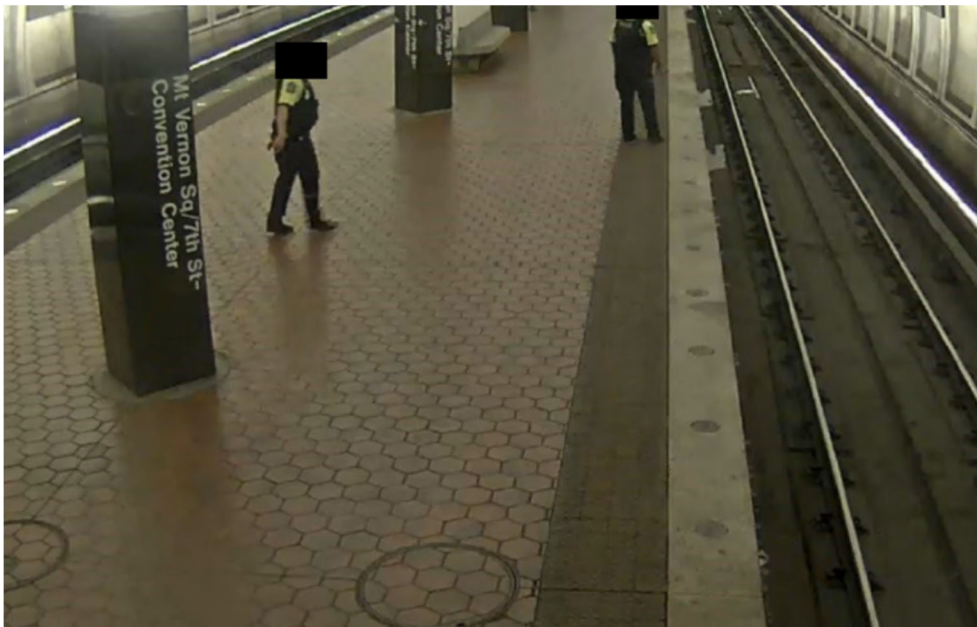


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***Note: Times above may vary from other systems' timelines based on clock settings and reporting source.*

MTPD Report

Upon review of the MTPD Report, MTPD officers were given a physical description of the suspect and possible location within the station. Officers canvassed the mezzanine and platform for any persons matching the provided description.

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On July 18, 2022, at the time of the incident, NOAA recorded the temperature as °81 F, with mostly cloudy skies throughout the afternoon. The event occurred within a tunneled section of the

rail system. Weather was not a contributing factor in this event (Weather source: NOAA – Location: Washington, DC).

Human Factors

Fatigue Risk

The biomathematical fatigue modeling application (SAFTE-FAST Web SFC) was not applied for this event.

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing

Post-Incident Toxicology Testing was not conducted for this event.

Findings

- In response to a text tip about a bomb threat, MTPD requested that trains bypass Mount Vernon Square Station.
- ROCC advised the approaching trains to bypass Mount Vernon Square Station during the MTPD investigation and made blanket announcements to all of Ops 3 to bypass the station.
- No trains serviced the station while it was under bypass.
- No evidence of an explosive device or person matching the reported description was found.

Immediate Mitigation to Prevent Recurrence

- MTPD Officers and EOD personnel conducted a sweep of Mount Vernon Square Station.

Probable Cause Statement

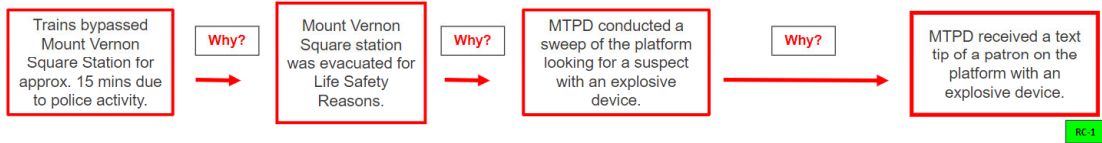
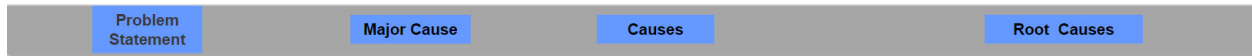
The probable cause of the Evacuation for Life Safety reasons at Mount Vernon Square Station was criminal activity by a customer verbally making a bomb threat. The subsequent investigation revealed no presence of a person with a real or perceived explosive or incendiary device. The investigation did not identify significant deficiencies with communication or adherence to established response procedures under direction of responding law enforcement personnel.

Recommended Corrective Actions

There were no significant deficiencies identified during this event. There are no recommended corrective actions.

Appendices

Appendix A – Root Cause Analysis



Root Cause Analysis