May 2009

NIBRS Coding Scenarios

Bomb Threats

Issue: Proper coding of a bomb threat.

Scenario: A person was arrested for making a false threat that he/she had a bomb and was going to blow up one of the local businesses.

Bomb threats are always coded as "13C Assault-Intimidation". The victim is going to be whoever answered the phone, saw the threat on a bathroom wall, whoever received the e-mail or text message, etc. They would be coded as "I – Individual". There would also be a second victim, the place where the bomb is supposedly located, i.e. "B-Business", "G-Government (School)", "F-Financial Institution" or even "R-Religious Organization".

If a bomb is found, whether or not it is detonated, then the incident becomes a "13A Assault-Aggravated Assault" and the Type of Weapon would be "60-Explosives". The victim(s) would be whoever was in close proximity of the explosive. Example: A bomb was found outside the door of a science lab at a local high school and there were 35 students in the lab. All 35 students would be counted as victims of the Aggravated Assault as well as the instructor.

There would be a second offense of "520-Weapon Law Violations" if there is indeed a bomb. The victim for a Weapon Law Violation would be "Society".

If someone died in an explosion from the bomb, it would be coded as a Homicide Offense of either "09A-Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter" or "09B-Negligent Manslaughter" depending on "intent".

When a bomb is detonated and the agency deems there is substantial damage to property, there is an additional offense of "290-Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property" and a Property Segment would need to be part of the incident.

Reference: *NIBRS Volume I: Data Collection Guidelines (blue cover), Assault Offenses - Intimidation, page 23; Assault Offenses – Aggravated Assault, pages 22-23; Weapon Law Violations, page 35; Homicide Offenses – Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter, page 29; Homicide Offenses – Negligent Manslaughter, page 29; and Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property, page 25.*

2009 NIBRS Classes Scheduled
NIBRS I and NIBRS II – September 15 & 16, 2009
NIBRS Coding Scenarios (1/2 Day) – September 17, 2009

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