



ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Written Directives

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Title: Rapid Emergency Deployment		Pages: 7
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POLICY:

It is the practice of the Erie Police Department to allow responding officers the authority and responsibility to take immediate action to contain, and if necessary, neutralize active harmers.

The purpose of this directive is to provide officers with guidelines for a rapid response to an active harmer incident. The primary mission in an active harmer incident is to locate and neutralize the threat as soon as possible.

The Erie Police Department utilizes the Boulder County-wide tactics as it pertains to Rapid Emergency Deployment (RED). The Erie Police Department provides RED training on an annual basis and/or at roll call trainings.

DEFINITIONS:

ACTIVE HARMER: An individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area. In most cases, active harmers use firearms and there is often no pattern or method to their selection of victims.

CASUALTY COLLECTION POINT (CCP): An area in a warm zone where injured are transferred from Rescue Task Forces or Contact Teams to be transported to triage. These locations may be fluid and will change as the incident progresses.

CONTACT TEAM: Ideally a team consisting of at least three (3) officers whose priority is locating and neutralizing the life-threatening behavior of an active harmer.

CONTAINMENT TEAMS: Ideally teams consisting of two (2) officers per location, (one cover, one contact), whose priority is setting up an inner perimeter.

INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC): The on-scene officer in charge at the incident location. Any officer assuming the status of IC shall notify Dispatch via police radio they have assumed the role of Incident Commander.

RAPID EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT (RED): The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to an ongoing, life-threatening situation where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or serious bodily injury to innocent people.

RESCUE TASK FORCE: Ideally a team consisting of at least two (2) officers and fire personnel whose priority is the rescue and recovery of victims of the active harmer.

SINGLE OFFICER RESPONSE: A tactic involving a single (initial arriving) armed law enforcement officer attempting to neutralize or mitigate a threat (active harmer), thereby reducing the number of casualties.

PROCEDURES:

I. GENERAL

- A. Rapid Emergency Deployment (RED) tactics are not a substitute for conventional response tactics to a barricaded gunman or hostage situation.
- B. RED should be considered when an event is ongoing and the suspect is actively engaged in causing death or serious bodily injury. Some examples of this may include:
 - 1. An "active shooter";
 - 2. An ongoing attack with edged weapons;
 - 3. The ongoing placing and/or detonation of explosive devices by a suspect;
 - 4. Any other dangerous situation with potential for ongoing death or serious bodily injury to innocent persons.
 - 5. All Erie Police Officers are issued ballistic helmets, which they should have with them while on duty. These helmets should be deployed by the officers as necessary when responding to situations which might have a firearm involved.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICER

- A. The initial officer may be an officer of any rank but is most likely a patrol officer. Their quick analysis and action is critical. In a known active harmer situation, officers utilizing single officer response shall have the same priorities and considerations as those listed for Contact Teams listed in section III. Officers utilizing single officer response shall only move toward an active stimulus of harm occurring. If the stimulus stops, the single officer shall stop until joined by additional officers or until a new stimulus occurs.
- B. If the situation is unknown, consideration must be given to establishing a perimeter and containing the suspect(s) in a specific location (i.e. building, structure, area, etc.)
- C. The perimeter may be limited in size due to the number of responding officers, or for the immediate need of a rapid deployment and commitment of available resources.
- D. The initial officer must quickly determine and request appropriate resources which may include:

1. Additional patrol units / departmental personnel;
2. Boulder County SWAT Team;
3. Boulder County Bomb Squad (determined by Incident Commander);
4. Fire Department / Emergency Medical Services (EMS);
5. Mutual Aid (determined by Chief or Incident Commander); and/or
6. Public Works.

E. Other responding units should be advised of the following information if known:

1. Exact location of the incident;
2. Number of suspects and their location;
3. Type(s) of weapon involved;
4. Safe approach route;
5. Incident Command Post location;
6. Course of action for responding units; and
7. Location of staging area.

F. Officers should recognize some situations may necessitate a single officer response due to such factors as timely availability of cover officers, proximity of harmer(s) to innocents, proximity of harmer(s) to the initial responding officer, etc.

G. When more than one officer responds, the senior officer on the scene will assume responsibility of incident command until relieved by appropriate authority.

H. Officers utilizing single officer response should request to have one of the next officers on scene assume the role of Incident Commander.

III. CONTACT TEAM

A. Determination to deploy a Contact Team will be made by the Incident Commander with primary consideration being the immediate neutralization of the threat.

B. If deployed, two (2) but, ideally three (3) officers may be utilized to form the Contact Team. Multiple Contact Teams may be deployed as necessary. In extreme circumstances, a single officer (1) response may be necessary. A team leader should be established for each Contact Team.

C. The team's priorities are, first, make contact with the suspect(s) and:

1. Ensure the safety of those in proximity to the active harmer;
2. Ensure the safety of the citizens in the area of the event;
3. Ensure the safety of the police officers;
4. Neutralize the suspect(s) as soon as possible;
5. Contain the suspect(s);
6. Communicate with multi-officer, multi-agency response; and
7. Provide preliminary assessment and continuous updates regarding:
 - a. Team progress;
 - b. Victim(s), location and medical needs (prioritize if possible);
 - c. Explosives - Types and location. If an explosive device is encountered or suspected, move past or around the device(s) and notify Incident Command;
 - d. Suspect(s) description(s) and location; and
 - e. Types of weapons (if known).

IV. DEPLOYMENT OF RESCUE TASK FORCE

A. Following deployment of the Contact Team, the incident may require a Rescue Task Force be organized and deployed.

B. When deployed, two or more officers will be utilized as follows:

1. Point - act as the contact officer;
2. Rear Guard - provides cover during ingress and egress.

C. This team will be equipped similar to the Contact Team, with rescue officers being equipped with appropriate first aid supplies.

D. The priority of this team is the rescue and recovery of victim(s) and should be accomplished as follows:

1. Enter with Paramedics or EMTs and/or approach location to locate victim(s);
2. Report "new" suspect(s) location if applicable;
3. Extract victim(s) to a Casualty Collection Point and notify the Incident Commander;
4. Notify medical personnel if necessary; and
5. Coordinate action with the Contact Team and Incident Command.
6. If a suspect is located, the Rescue Task Force transitions to a Contact Team, but one (1) officer must stay with rescue personnel as security.

V. ARRIVAL OF SWAT (OR OTHER SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS)

- A. When tactical team personnel arrive on scene, they are generally better equipped and trained to resolve crisis situations. Continued assistance by initial responders is critical. The Contact Team will maintain command and control of the interior situation until transition of responsibilities can be made to the tactical team.
- B. The tactical team leader will assume responsibility after making direct contact with the Contact Team Leader.
- C. The Tactical Team Leader will advise the Contact Team to assist with containment responsibilities or redirect their assistance to the Rescue Task Force.

VI. EVACUATION

- A. In some situations, it will be necessary to implement an evacuation of a school, business, church, gym, etc. When it becomes necessary to evacuate a large area, the following procedures will be followed:
 1. Do not use the fire alarm system to cause evacuation.
 2. All hallways and staircases should be cleared by police personnel.
 3. All exit routes to be used shall first be inspected and declared "clear" and usable for evacuation by police personnel.

4. If possible, evacuate to at least 500 feet from the target area providing cover and concealment.

B. Schools pose unique situations and should be handled as follows:

1. Teachers and classes will be notified of evacuation by police personnel going room to room, and in rare cases, by utilizing the school's intercom system.

2. Officers should give specific instructions about the evacuation route and method and let school staff know these instructions are to be followed explicitly.

3. As students and staff evacuate, they should be instructed to move swiftly and quietly and to leave personal items or bags in place.

4. No student will be permitted to go to their locker or any other location following the announced evacuation route.

5. School staff should be the last to leave their assigned areas except that classroom teachers are instructed to leave with their students.

6. Leave doors and windows open. Open all shades and blinds.

7. Leave all room/building lighting alone.

VII. INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

A. Command and control issues are paramount when dealing with large-scale crisis events, such as disseminating information and coordinating resources. The quick and prompt establishment of the Incident Command System will enhance the probability of a swift resolution and should occur simultaneous to or shortly following the organization and deployment of Contact Teams and Rescue Task Forces. See Erie Police Department Written Directive 150.000 for further details on implementing ICS.

B. The Incident Commander shall as quickly as possible:

1. Establish a Command Post.

2. Request Dispatch patch radio channels as necessary to facilitate communication with outside agencies.

3. Initiate and assign the following functions as needed:

- a. Operations Function
- b. Planning Function
- c. Logistics Function
- d. Finance/Administration Function

4. If necessary, obtain support from other agencies.
5. Establish a staging area for any additional personnel.
6. Prepare to provide Public Information and media relations.
7. Maintain the safety of all personnel.
8. Designate a safe evacuation area in the event the evacuees need to be moved from the immediate area.

VIII. POST INCIDENT

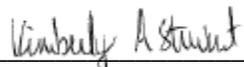
- A. Once the incident is under control, the Incident Commander may release resources as appropriate.
- B. The command element of each function of the Incident Command System shall complete a detailed after action report summarizing the activity of their function during the incident.

RULES:

NONE

REFERENCES:

Urbandale, IA, Police Department Policy Chapter 5 Section 46, 2014
Sterling Heights, MI, Police Department General order 6.68, 2014
Longmont Police Department SOP #301



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