



TALLAHASSEE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS

 Proudly Policing Since 1841	SUBJECT High-Risk Incidents		 Nationally Accredited 1986
	CHIEF OF POLICE <i>Signature on file</i>		
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AUTHORITY/RELATED REFERENCES

Special Order 1, Emergency Management Procedures
 General Order 18, Criminal Investigations
 General Order 36, News Media Relations
 General Order 75, Tactical Apprehension and Control Team
 General Order 86, Special Response Team
 PTL-9, Watch Commander
 CIRC 2.2, Active Threat/Shooter Response

ACCREDITATION REFERENCES

CALEA Chapters 11, 41, 46, 81

KEY WORD INDEX

Additional Protocols Annual Review of Policy and Training CDA Responsibilities Lifesaving Hierarchy Response Priority and Awareness Responsibilities – First Officer(s) on Scene Responsibilities – First Supervisor on Scene Responsibilities – Incident Commander Responsibilities – Support Officers	Procedure VII Procedure IX Procedure VIII Procedure I Procedure II Procedure III Procedure IV Procedure V Procedure VI
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POLICY

The Department shall establish procedures and training for properly addressing high-risk incidents. Officers are responsible for adhering to established procedures and associated training when responding to such incidents in an effort to prevent or reduce injuries or loss of human life, locate and eliminate

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threats, and isolate and contain the incident.

DEFINITIONS

Active Threat: A deliberate incident that poses an immediate or imminent danger to citizens and responding officers by the suspect's use of a firearm or other weapon or implement intended to cause harm (e.g., ongoing shooting incident at a mall or school).

Command Post: The field headquarters from where the Incident Commander directs activities related to the high-risk incident. It can be informally or formally established depending on available resources and the incident location.

High-Risk Incident: Any situation involving an act of violence or potential act of violence in which officers, in the course of their official duties, may be at a tactical disadvantage and are reasonably believed to be subject to extreme danger.

These incidents include, but are not limited to, hostage takings, armed barricaded felony suspects, armed barricaded suicidal persons who are a threat to others, bombings or explosions due to criminal act, sniper incidents, active shootings and other active threats, certain crowd control incidents, and certain pre-planned arrest/search/surveillance operations.

Incident Commander: The highest-ranking officer who has assumed command at the scene of a high-risk incident.

Officer: An employee who is a certified police officer as described in FS Chapter 943.

Special Response Team (SRT): A group of officers (ideally between 80 and 100) who have received specialized training in tactics which address volatile civil disturbances using organized team techniques, small squads or other mobile responses.

SRT Activation: Whenever the SRT Commander, or designee, authorizes a complete or limited deployment of team members to assist in the resolution of a crowd control situation or similar high-risk incident. Activations can be for either planned events or unplanned situations with crowd control concerns. Utilization of only on-duty SRT members to resolve a spontaneous and/or rapidly developing event is not considered an SRT activation.

TAC Call-Out: Whenever the TAC Commander, or designee, authorizes a complete or limited deployment of TAC Team members to assist in the resolution of a high-risk incident, with the following exceptions: 1) The use of on-duty team

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members to resolve a spontaneous and/or rapidly developing incident, and 2) A preplanned arrest/search/surveillance operation.

TAC Team: Tactical Apprehension and Control Team. A specially trained rapid response unit designed to address high-risk incidents.

PROCEDURES

I. LIFESAVING HIERARCHY

Officers involved in the resolution of high-risk incidents shall adhere to the following lifesaving hierarchy when evaluating resolution options:

- A. Victims in the face of immediate peril will be regarded as the top priority, and their health and welfare will be held in the highest regard.
- B. Innocent bystanders subjected to dangers to their health and welfare by their proximity to a high-risk incident will be held in the next highest regard.
- C. Law enforcement officers are recognized as the defenders of the health and welfare of the persons listed above and will be held in the next highest regard.
- D. Suspects, out of due respect for human life and when practical, will be afforded the opportunity to cease the actions causing officers to fear for the lives of others and themselves, but only when doing so does not place a victim, innocent bystander or law enforcement officer in imminent peril.

II. RESPONSE PRIORITY AND AWARENESS

- A. The primary goal in a high-risk incident is the preservation of life and eliminating or containing any threat.

[REDACTED]

- 2. The priority in an active threat situation is to locate, move to and eliminate the threat.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

B. On duty officers responding to a high-risk incident should be aware other law enforcement officers may respond to the incident, including officers:

1. From other agencies, and
2. Attired in plainclothes.

C. Off duty or plainclothes officers responding to a high-risk incident shall make every effort to be readily identifiable as a law enforcement officer, to include:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

III. INITIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST OFFICER(S) ON SCENE

Regardless of their rank or assignment, the first officer(s) on the scene of a high-risk incident play a critical role in its resolution, and the officer(s) shall:

- A. If possible, collect and assess information while enroute to the location to:
1. Determine if a high-risk incident actually exists or is probable,
 2. Identify the location of incident and/or suspect(s),
 3. Coordinate a response with other responding officers, and
 4. Mentally prepare to engage the suspect(s) and plan their approach.
- B. Determine if the incident involves an active threat, assess the situation, and immediately take action to locate and eliminate the threat. This action shall be implemented in accordance with:

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1. Department training (e.g., single officer response to active threat, rapid deployment, contact teams), and
 2. The life-saving hierarchy in section I above.
- C. Continue to assess the situation and, when practical, promptly relay information over the police radio concerning:
1. Suspects (number, descriptions, actions),
 2. Locations (suspect, victim, injured persons, egress/ingress),
 3. The need for additional officers to make entry, locate and/or contact the suspect(s), and eliminate any threat(s), and
 4. Other relevant information deemed noteworthy by the officers.
- D. Once it is determined no additional officers are needed to locate and eliminate any threats or render medical aid to victims, the next responding officers are responsible for:
1. Establishing Incident Command (IC),
 2. Announcing establishment of IC over the police radio, and
 3. Coordinating assignments for additional responding officers including, but not limited to:
 - a. Serving as additional entry teams,
 - b. Evacuating victims,
 - c. Rendering medical assistance to victims and coordinating emergency medical services (EMS) response,
 - d. Establishing inner and outer perimeters, and
 - e. Addressing other special considerations.
- E. If the assessment of available information indicates the high-risk incident does not require an immediate response, initiate actions to facilitate ICE protocols when appropriate.
1. **Isolate** – Determining as precisely as possible, based upon information available, the exact location of the incident so first

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responders are aware of potential danger zones and where resources are needed.

2. **Contain** – Making efforts to ensure the incident does not become larger or worsen, and non-first responders do not enter and suspects do not leave the area of isolation.
3. **Evacuate** – Coordinating efforts to rescue any injured, trapped, or endangered persons inside the containment area.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FIRST SUPERVISOR ON SCENE

The first supervisor on the scene of a high-risk incident, who does not have a role in locating and eliminating an active threat, plays a critical leadership role in the incident's successful resolution and is responsible for adhering to the protocols listed below.

- A. Assessing the available information and confirming whether or not a high-risk incident exists or is probable.
- B. Prioritizing duties of the officers on scene (with emphasis on locating and neutralizing any active threats) and immediately allocating available resources as necessary (e.g., entry-contact team formation, ICE protocols).
- C. Establishing IC and announcing establishment over the police radio.
- D. Debriefing the officer(s) on scene, if available, and determining if operational revisions are needed.
- E. Ensuring officers have legal authority (either by jurisdiction or enactment of mutual aid) to remain involved in the incident.
- F. As needed, referring to the appropriate Critical Incident Response Checklist found in Special Order 1 (Emergency Management Procedures) for the situation.
- G. Assessing the need for additional officers, equipment, specialized units and other resources.
- H. Briefing the Watch Commander of the situation and the need for any additional officers, equipment, specialized units or other resources.

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1. If necessary, supervisors are authorized to summon officers working secondary employment to assist in the resolution of a high-risk incident.
 2. A request for a TAC call-out requires Watch Commander (or higher rank) approval.
 3. A request for an SRT activation requires Watch Commander (or higher rank) approval.
- I. Establishing a command post (CP), if needed, at a location close to, but out of the line of sight of, the incident location, and:
1. Ensuring the CP location is reasonably safe based upon the known or suspected weaponry of the suspect,
 2. Announcing the CP location over the police radio, and
 3. If needed, assigning officers as CP and/or vehicle security.
- J. As soon as possible, designating an officer to maintain the following:
1. Officer assignment and location lists,
 2. Chronological list of significant events for the incident, and
 3. List of resources requested and received for the incident.
- K. If needed, establishing a staging area (away from the CP if possible) for assembling and deploying personnel and equipment.
- L. Unless there are orders to the contrary from the Incident Commander or higher authority, advising all responding officers to report to either the CP or staging area for assignment and briefing prior to deployment.
- M. Unless there are orders to the contrary from the Incident Commander or higher authority, requesting any other responding support personnel (e.g., fire department, EMS) to report to either the CP or staging area.
- N. If applicable, directing or initiating efforts to establish verbal contact with the suspect(s) when:
1. It is reasonable to believe such contact serves a tactical advantage, and

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2. Doing so is not contrary to the lifesaving hierarchy in section I above.
- O. If possible, ensuring updated information is gathered about the suspect and promptly disseminated to involved officers and others who may need the information (e.g., Public Information Officer, CDA dispatcher).
- P. If applicable and possible, ensuring information is gathered about any victims and disseminated to others who may need the information (e.g., TAC Team, investigators, CDA dispatcher, family members).
- Q. Once a high-risk incident is resolved, ensuring the area is treated as a crime scene in accordance with the crime scene management protocols of General Order 18 (Criminal Investigations).
- R. Assisting in the debriefing of the high-risk incident as directed by the Incident Commander.

V. INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Incident Commander (typically the Watch Commander) on the scene of a high-risk incident plays a critical management role in the incident's successful resolution, and is responsible for adhering to the protocols listed below:

- A. Ensuring the duties of the on-scene officers and the supervisor(s) are completed or are being completed in adherence to established procedures.
- B. Obtaining an up-to-date briefing from the on-scene supervisor, if available, to determine if operational revisions are needed.
- C. As needed, referring to the appropriate Critical Incident Response Checklist found in Special Order 1 (Emergency Management Procedures) for the situation.
- D. Ensuring media relations are maintained either through the Public Information Officer or a designee of the Incident Commander, in accordance with General Order 36 (News Media Relations), to include:
 1. Public notifications for awareness and safety (i.e., areas to avoid, street closures),
 2. Staging locations for media,

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3. Any evacuation location(s), and
 4. Any staging area for other citizens (e.g., family members).
- E. Ensuring information is relayed to the CDA regarding:
1. Notification of additional public safety entities (e.g., law enforcement, fire, EMS, hospitals),
 2. Notification of other needed resources (e.g., COT utilities),
 3. Notification of road closures, and
 4. Officer deployment locations.
- F. Ensuring command staff notifications are made in accordance with the established protocols in PTL-9 (Watch Commander).
- G. Assessing the need for a TAC call-out or SRT activation and summoning the TAC Team or SRT if needed (or consulting with the respective team commander to make a determination).
- H. If the TAC Team or SRT are utilized, maintaining liaison with the respective team commander or designee throughout the duration of the high-risk incident.
1. The Incident Commander will direct the actions of non-TAC Team/non-SRT members in support of the overall mission.
 2. The TAC Commander or SRT Commander will direct the actions of their respective team and their individual members in support of the overall mission.
- I. If indications are the high-risk incident may not be resolved in a short amount of time:
1. Establishing and implementing plans for relief staffing,
 2. Ensuring food and hydration needs are addressed, and
 3. Considering the need for transportation and temporary public sheltering.
- J. Contemporaneous to the resolution of a high-risk incident, the Incident Commander is responsible for coordinating a debriefing of the incident.

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1. All officers directly involved in the incident are required to attend the debriefing.
 2. If the high-risk incident involved a TAC call-out, the debriefing shall be coordinated with the TAC Commander.
 3. If the high-risk incident involved an SRT activation, the debriefing shall be coordinated with the SRT Commander.
- K. After the resolution of a high-risk incident not involving a TAC call-out or SRT activation, the Incident Commander is responsible for completion of an after-action report for the incident and forwarding the report to the Chief of Police via the chain of command within the established timeframe.
- L. After the resolution of a high-risk incident involving a TAC call-out, the TAC Commander is responsible for completion of an after-action report in adherence to the protocols in General Order 75 (Tactical Apprehension and Control Team).
- M. After the resolution of a high-risk incident involving an SRT activation, the SRT Commander is responsible for completion of an after-action report in adherence to the protocols in General Order 86 (Special Response Team).

VI. ON-SCENE SUPPORT OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Support officers in high-risk incidents who are not immediately needed to locate and eliminate a threat or render medical aid to victims shall report to the CP or other location ordered by the Incident Commander or designee.
- B. Support officers shall not deploy without an assignment from the Incident Commander or designee.
- C. Once assigned to a post, support officers shall maintain control of their post until relieved by the CP.

VII. ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

- A. The Watch Commander/Incident Commander is immediately relieved of command if taken hostage during a high-risk incident.

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- B. Regardless of attire, officers directly involved on the incident scene of a pre-planned high-risk incident shall wear ballistic vest protection.
- C. Officers performing support roles in a pre-planned high-risk incident shall wear ballistic vest protection as directed in General Order 4 (Appearance and Uniform Regulations) or as directed by their commanding officer.
- D. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has concurrent jurisdiction with the Department whenever the victim of a hostage taking is a foreign official or official guest of the United States, or the high-risk incident involves a federal crime (e.g., financial institution robbery).
 - 1. If an on scene ranking member of the FBI clearly indicates the Bureau's desire to command the incident, the Department will comply.
 - 2. Officers shall work cooperatively with the FBI, and other entities as warranted, in establishing a unified command.

VIII. CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the policy of the CDA to cooperate with the Department in resolving high-risk incidents, and to assist officers by completion of the tasks listed below.

- A. Ensuring the appropriate field supervisor and Watch Commander are aware a high-risk incident exists or has the potential to develop.
- B. Establishing emergency radio traffic on the applicable radio channel.
- C. Facilitating the completion of tasks requested by on-scene officers, on-scene supervisors, and the Incident Commander.
- D. Notifying the appropriate neighboring or shared jurisdiction agency whenever the incident location is in close proximity to a jurisdictional boundary or area of shared jurisdiction.

IX. DOCUMENTED ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY AND TRAINING NEEDS

- A. The Training Section is responsible for assessing the training needed to address officer response to active threats and other high-risk incidents.

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- B. The Accreditation and Inspection Unit is responsible for reviewing this policy for any needed modifications.

History: previous title (*high risk situations*) – issued 07/15/1985, revised 01/01/1991, 01/15/1991, 12/22/1995, 07/24/1998, 09/04/1998, 04/20/2000, 10/15/2001 (*change of title*), 10/01/2008, 08/16/2013, 11/16/2015, and 07/20/2018.