

## I. Purpose

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## I. Purpose

The purpose of this Directive is to establish cohesive and clear guidelines for Division personnel to follow in such crises.

## II. Policy

The Division's policy is to assure efficient and effective inter-agency coordination and cooperation in such crises. Each such incident will be critiqued in order to continually improve the Division's effectiveness in successfully handling such situations.

III. *Definitions*

A. ***Barricade Incident*** – *When a person takes refuge in a fortified location to avoid apprehension; these frequently involve bizarre behavior where a person has threatened the safety of himself/herself or others.*

B. ***Hostage Incident*** – *Incidents where a person attempts to avoid apprehension by seizing captives and threatening them with injury to deter police action.*

C. ***Active Shooter Incident*** – *Incidents where one or more person(s) is engaged in an ongoing shooting spree with the imminent threat of serious bodily injury or loss of life to others.*

D. ***Contact Team*** – *An immediate action response formation made by the initial officer(s) on the scene to locate and neutralize the active shooter threat(s).*

E. ***Quick Response Team (QRT)*** – *A team of officers formed to enter after the initial contact team for the purpose(s) of securing an inner perimeter, denying further access by occupants, and facilitating evacuation of innocent occupants.*

F. ***Rescue Team*** – *A team of officers that will assist emergency rescue personnel with the rescue and removal of injured victims from the target location.*

G. ***Staging Area*** – *Assembly point for officers responding to hostage/barricade incidents; it should be conveniently accessible and of sufficient size to accommodate the expected personnel volume.*

- *The area shall not be used as a Command Post (CP), the location of which shall be selected by the Conflict Management Team (consisting of, on-scene Commanders, SWAT Team, hostage negotiators, etc.) from the Montgomery County Police Department.*

H. *Tactical Assault* - Physical intervention by police. Actions include the use of weapons and tactics.

IV. *Hostage/Barricade*

- A. The first officer on the scene will verify the incident and begin establishing an outer perimeter, positioning arriving officers until relieved by a supervisor. Officers should avoid confrontations with the subject(s) and attempt to manage the situation until hostage negotiation and/or tactical personnel arrive.
- B. Notifications will be made by the Communications Section; when directed Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (E.C.C.) will make additional notifications per their procedures.
- C. The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) shall establish a safe staging area outside of visual or audible range of the incident. This location shall be up-wind from the incident and be large enough to accommodate a Command Bus, SWAT truck, and approximately 20 vehicles.
- D. A Park Police Command Staff member shall respond to the scene and relieve the shift supervisor.
- E. The Park Police OIC shall institute a Unified Command/Incident Command Structure and act as liaison between the MCP Emergency Response Team.
- F. Any evacuations will be carried out by police personnel at the direction of the Incident Commander. The names and addresses of all evacuated persons shall be recorded by the evacuating officers.
- G. When practical, all negotiations shall be handled by the County Police Hostage Negotiation Team.
- H. Media personnel will be directed to a designated staging area and Unified/Incident Command PIO will maintain contact with and control over the media throughout the incident. All press releases shall be cleared through the Unified/Incident Commander.
- I. The Unified/Incident Command Team will direct the appropriate agency to transport and process any arrestee/detainee(s).
- J. Due to the nature of these incidents, where situations may change suddenly, nothing in this directive shall preclude immediate reaction by officers on the scene, when necessary to protect life.
- K. The OIC will complete an After-Action Report and ensure the completion of all appropriate incident and crime reports *by the end of their shift*. A post-incident debriefing will be scheduled as soon as practical, to include all involved agencies and available on-scene personnel.

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V. *Active Shooter*

- A. *The first officer on the scene of an active shooter incident will assess the scene, attempt to verify if the threat is confirmed/ongoing, and will provide an update as soon as possible. Time is critical in order to mitigate the potential number of casualties. If the ongoing threat of serious injury or death is not present, then operational guidelines outlined in section IV of this Directive will be followed.*
- B. *Responding officer(s) should be prepared to form a Contact Team to address the threat immediately!*
- C. *The Contact Team should ideally consist of 3 to 5 officers, whose mission is to locate and neutralize the active threat(s), by utilizing the level of force reasonable and necessary under the circumstances.*
- D. *Contact Team officers must prepare themselves mentally for the possible carnage and reality of having to pass by wounded individuals. Any time lost accomplishing their mission could result in additional casualties and/or loss of life. History has shown that stopping to render aid will likely exponentially increase the number of overall victims.*
- E. *Officer(s) should secure all cell phones, keys, or any other items that may make unnecessary noise.*
- F. *Contact Team officers should take the following equipment with them when available or practical:*
- 1. Breaching tool(s)*
  - 2. Complete duty gear/belt including flashlight*
  - 3. Issued protective gas mask with carry bag*
  - 4. **Radio with microphone and earpiece***
  - 5. Soft body armor with trauma plate or pad*
  - 6. Shotgun loaded with slugs or patrol rifle loaded with appropriate ammunition*
  - 7. Active shooter bag*
- G. *Contact Team officers must be aware that additional Contact Teams or Quick Response Teams may be in the target location. All involved officers must maintain peak awareness and firearms discipline to avoid crossfire situations.*
- H. *A Contact Team should:*
- 1. Establish a secure point of entry*
  - 2. Notify the Communications Section prior to entry*
  - 3. Limit radio transmissions*
  - 4. Designate one officer as the point of contact (POC), and when feasible provide updates, to include casualty locations, status of the search, and other relevant information*

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5. *Provide scene security and assist in the effort to render aid to victims, once the active threat has been stopped/neutralized*
  6. *Be aware of possible booby traps or secondary devices*
- I. *After the Contact Team has made entry, there may be a need for the formation of a Quick Response Team(s).*
- J. *The primary mission of the Quick Response Team(s) will be to assist in a more methodical search for possible suspect(s), secure an inner perimeter and assist in the evacuation of innocents.*
- K. *Where practical, the Quick Response Team(s) should:*
1. *Consist of 4 to 6 officers*
  2. *Attempt to follow the same path as the Contact Team*
  3. *Not stop to render aid to victims*
  4. *Designate a team leader for radio transmissions*
  5. *Secure an inner perimeter inside the target location as needed*
  6. *Provide radio updates on their location, information on evacuees that will be coming out and whether or not they have been checked for possible involvement and/or weapons*
- L. *After an inner perimeter has been established by the Quick Response Team, approval may be given for the formation and deployment of Rescue Teams.*
- M. *Rescue Team(s) should:*
1. *Ideally consist of 4 officers; 2 for rescue and 2 for cover*
  2. *Advise Communications prior to entry and ensure that the Quick Response Team(s) are aware of their deployment*
  3. *Transmit their location and intention to remove a victim*
  4. *Use recommended lifting and removal techniques; i.e. the one person drag, two-person carry, and two-person chair*
- N. *The Communication Section shall:*
1. *Ensure that the on-duty supervisor is aware of the Contact Team's decision to deploy*
  2. *Coordinate the response of additional officers to the scene with the on-duty supervisor*
  3. *As soon as practical, move non-incident radio traffic to an alternate talk group*
  4. *Not request the status of Contact Team(s) or use the alert tone unless directed to by the OIC*
  5. *Ensure that any responding police department is made aware of the limited radio transmissions status of the primary talk group*
  6. *Alert MC ECC when an active threat is verified*
  7. *Ensure Command staff notifications have been made*

- O. The on-scene On-Duty Supervisor or Officer in Charge (OIC):*
- 1. Will assume command of the scene until relieved by a higher ranking member of the Division*
  - 2. Will operate in accordance with the established Incident Command System, established Mutual Aid protocols and related Division Directives*
  - 3. Shall coordinate with Montgomery County Fire Rescue to determine a staging area for casualty collection*
  - 4. Shall coordinate a command post and staging area for additional responding units*
  - 5. Shall ensure an appropriate perimeter and traffic route has been established for authorized access to the scene*
  - 6. Shall designate a media staging area*
  - 7. Shall determine the need for additional equipment and personnel*
  - 8. Shall ensure that the necessary notifications have been or are in the process of being made*
- P. In the case of Mutual Aid, officers of this Division will follow the Unified/Incident Command.*
- Q. The OIC will complete an After-Action Report and ensure the completion of all appropriate incident and crime reports by the end of their shift. A post-incident debriefing will be scheduled as soon as practical, to include all involved agencies and available on-scene personnel.*

**Approved Park Police Document  
Signed Original on File**

**End of Directive**