

GENERAL ORDER, OPERATIONS, NUMBER 18
APRIL 3, 2001
WATERLOO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A. SUBJECT:

High Risk Incidents

B. PURPOSE:

To establish a standard and effective procedure for initial Department response and Tactical Unit activation in the event of a high-risk incident.

This General Order is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only, in a nonjudicial, administrative setting.

C. POLICY:

It is the policy of this Department to employ all reasonable efforts to resolve high-risk incidents peaceably whenever possible. The use of force, including deadly force, shall be in accordance with the provisions set forth within the Iowa Code.

D. PROCEDURES:

1. Priorities

Reasonable efforts will be implemented to satisfy the following priorities in management of a high-risk incident:

Isolation
Containment
Negotiation
*Assault

*Law enforcement resources and officers can be committed to an assault of a location or suspect(s) when life is in imminent danger or when reasonable, good faith efforts at negotiation fail.

2. Definitions

a. High-risk incidents include:

1. Hostage situations.
2. Barricaded persons.
3. Armed suicidal(s).
- 4.* Armed and/or wanted persons refusing to surrender or threatening resistance.
- 5.* Raid on locations known or suspected to contain weapons.
6. Civil disturbances.
7. Sniper situations.
8. Hijackings.
9. Terrorist incidents.

*These situations may not be of an emergency, unplanned nature but are still considered high-risk incidents. This order is limited to procedures regarding unforeseen incidents.

b. Tactical Unit

The Tactical Unit members of the Department or an assisting law enforcement agency, with special training and equipment in Tactical Operations and Negotiations.

c. Command Post

Location near the scene and out of sight of the incident from where the operation will be directed and personnel not initially involved will respond to for assignment.

d. Safe Entry Route

A route to and from the Command Post out of the line of fire and usually out of sight of the incident.

e. Outer Perimeter

An area with controlled access surrounding the incident but out of suspect firing range manned by on duty patrol officer(s) and/or other assisting agencies if needed.

f. Inner Perimeter

An area within suspect firing range of the incident location initially consisting of patrol officers.

g. Intelligence

Information concerning the location, suspect(s), hostage(s) that may be beneficial to resolving the incident.

h. Fire Discipline

Non-Tactical Unit officers will initiate the use of firearms only to protect life when in imminent danger. Weapons use will otherwise be restricted to officers of the Tactical Unit who are properly equipped and trained in the use of specialized weapons and tactical procedures.

3. Initial Responding Officer(s) - Specific Responsibilities:

a. Isolate and contain subject(s) to the immediate area in which they are located while maintaining firearms discipline.

b. Determine necessity to evacuate the location or area to:

1. Protect innocent persons.
2. Remove persons who may interfere with Department operations.

c. Relay all available information as soon as possible to the Communications Section. This will include, but may not be limited to:

1. Location of hostage(s).
2. Description of subject(s).
3. Number and type of weapons.
4. Possible escape routes.
5. Location assisting unit(s) should respond to.
6. Unsafe areas or routes for responding units.
7. Casualties.
8. Medical service needed.
9. Other support functions required.

d. Request a patrol supervisor and brief, if possible.

e. Detain or direct with safety witnesses or others who may have valuable information for debriefing.

f. Report to the Command Post when relieved from inner perimeter by

Tactical Unit or other officers for debriefing and reassignment.

4. Patrol Supervisor - Specific Responsibilities:
 - a. Immediately evaluate the scene, ensuring that the situation is contained and fire discipline is maintained.
 - b. Establish an inner perimeter assigning officers with attention to isolation and containment of subject(s) with no crossfire hazards.
 - c. Direct communications to notify all assigned and responding personnel to switch to a tactical radio channel.
 - d. Establish a Command Post as near as possible to the scene but not within the inner perimeter. When possible, this should be a structure with telephone service and a nearby mobilization area for vehicles and employees.
 - e. Request the Tactical Unit, including negotiators, through the Watch Commander.
 - f. Detain all witnesses or others who may have pertinent information for later debriefing unless already done so by initial responding officers.
 - g. Relinquish responsibility to Tactical Unit Command/Supervisor and direct establishment of an outer perimeter unless otherwise needed or directed.

5. Tactical Unit Commander - Specific Responsibilities:
 - a. Assume overall command of operations at the scene and direct resources through the necessary phases to the final resolution of the incident.
 - b. Confer with the patrol supervisor concerning the incident and current employee deployment.
 - c. Brief and assign responsibilities to Tactical Unit members:
 1. Inner perimeter.
 2. Scout teams.
 3. Negotiators.
 4. Marksman/Observers.
 5. Entry/Arrest Team.
 6. Other assignments as necessary.
 - d. Request support personnel/equipment considering anticipated or

possible need.

1. Ambulance.
2. Fire truck.
3. Investigators.
4. Command Post record keeper.
5. Identification Unit photographer.
6. Utility companies.
7. Helicopters.
8. Additional Department personnel.
9. Public Information officer(s)
10. Other law enforcement agencies.
11. Any other sources needed.

e. Select and designate areas for support personnel/equipment as deemed necessary.

1. Investigative area.
2. Emergency services area.
3. Negotiators area (if not Command Post).
4. News media area.

6. Watch Commander - Specific Responsibilities:

a. Approve or disapprove the patrol supervisor's request for activation of the Tactical Unit. If approved:

1. Direct additional personnel as needed to the incident Command Post.
2. Notify Black Hawk Consolidated Communications Center and request an on-duty dispatcher to exclusively monitor the Tactical channel.
3. Notify the Tactical Unit Commander and supervisors of the situation.
4. Notify the other Tactical Unit officers to report to a location determined by the Tactical Unit Commander or supervisors.
5. Notify on duty Investigative Division officers of a need for intelligence gathering activity at the Command Post. If not available, contact off duty Investigative Supervisor(s) for direction on calling specific off duty officers.
6. Notify the Patrol Division Commander and the Chief of Police.
7. Request assistance or standby status of other law enforcement agencies if deemed necessary.
8. Perform other duties and notifications as needed or requested by on scene employee(s).

BY ORDER OF:

Thomas J. Jennings
Chief of Police