

**TYLER POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDER**

**ACTIVE THREATS**

**17.800**

**REVISED**

**EFFECTIVE 08/22/14**

17.801 PURPOSE

- A. The purpose of this policy is to provide a general guideline of tactics and procedures to aid officers and supervisors with the initial patrol level response to Active Threat Incidents. The concepts and principles outlined in this policy are not to be interpreted as concrete rules that must be strictly followed, but rather as a general guide to aid in the rapid problem solving and decision making that must take place in such fast moving incidents. Nothing in this policy is intended to limit or replace the ability of officers or supervisors to exercise their own judgment or decision-making abilities when seeking to resolve an Active Threat Incident.
- B. Active Threat Incidents are often chaotic, emotionally charged, very volatile and extremely unstable events in which victims have been, are currently, or may be seriously injured or killed. In the event of an Active Threat the goal of this agency is to first contain, isolate, and, if possible, eliminate the threat as quickly as possible so as to reduce the extent of injury, death and / or property damage inflicted by the actors(s). Second, but equally important, it is our goal to preserve the lives of the injured by providing timely aid, evacuation and medical intervention. To achieve this, the first responders must quickly recognize the type of active threat they are dealing with, implement the appropriate tactics and take immediate action.
- C. Once an Active Threat has been isolated or eliminated, it may be necessary to call in additional personnel, procure additional resources, request aid from other organizations or transition to an extended operation. Tyler Police Department Policies 12.700, 12.800, 17.300, 17.400 and 17.600 provide guidance for Civil Disturbances and Mass Arrest, Emergency Mobilization Plan, Hostile Tactical Situation Plans, Bomb Threat Plan and Incident Command System (ICS) – All Hazards Plan respectively. Depending on the scale of the incident, the supervisor in charge should consider establishing an emergency operations center with a National Incident Management System incident command structure to manage follow-up operations.

17.802 DEFINITIONS

- A. **Active Threat** – a continuous and on-going criminal incident that poses a substantial risk of serious injury, death and / or major property damage to a large number of citizens or first responders. Active Threats may include but are not limited to the following: Active Shooter Incidents, Hostage Incidents, Bombings and Civil Disturbance. Active threats can occur in any environment including educational campuses, malls, businesses, special events and general workplace. They can include physical or virtual threats.
- B. **Active Shooter** – One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic assaultive spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously seriously injure or kill others. An active shooter’s overriding objective appears to be that of mass murder, rather than criminal conduct such as robbery, kidnapping, etc.” The definition of “active shooter” includes assault with any deadly weapon with the intent of causing mass casualties.
- C. **Hostage Incident** – A situation in which a person(s) holds another person(s) against their will by force, threat or violence, and law enforcement officials are present at the scene attempting to obtain the release of the hostage.
- D. **Bombing** – The detonation of an explosive device(s) with the intent of causing mass casualties or widespread property damage. This does not include an unconfirmed threat of a bomb.

- E. **Civil Disturbance** – Any incident meeting the definition of a riot as defined by Chapter 42.02 of the Texas Penal Code that is causing substantial property damage or that threatens serious injury to citizens and first responders.

17.803 PROCEDURES

- A. Notifications – All active threat incidents
  - a. Dispatch
    - i. broadcast an emergency tone on all three primary channels
    - ii. broadcast the location and any available information about the incident on all three channels
    - iii. advise all responding units to go to channel 1 and place a marker on that channel
    - iv. announce the incident over the PA within the police building
    - v. dispatch EMS and Fire to stage in the area
    - vi. notify additional resources (SWAT, Negotiations, Investigations, etc.) as directed by a sworn supervisor
    - vii. request assistance of other agencies or organizations as directed by the shift commander
    - viii. make public notifications via the early warning system, Code Red or press release as directed by the shift commander to ensure public safety
  - b. Shift Commander
    - i. as soon as practicable, notify the Chief of Police and Patrol Division Assistant Chief
    - ii. make notifications as needed or required to other local, state or federal agencies who may have concurrent jurisdiction over the incident
- B. Response
  - a. Active Shooter – Stop the Killing, Stop the Dying, Conduct Follow-up
    - i. All available units, including detectives and support services officers, in the involved district (either north or south) should respond to the scene
      - 1. Marked units respond code 3
      - 2. Park, leaving the roadways open for emergency vehicles
    - ii. Units in the uninvolved district should reposition themselves throughout the city to provide emergency coverage in the event of a concurrent emergency. They should respond to the primary incident only as directed by a sworn supervisor.
    - iii. The first officer(s) on scene should form a contact team and take immediate action to quickly locate, isolate and utilize whatever force is reasonably necessary to stop the actor(s).
    - iv. Secondary responders should evaluate the status of the incident, determine if additional contact teams are needed, begin forming rescue teams, establish a secure area within the structure, provide combat casualty care, establish a casualty collection point, secure a safe cordon for ingress and egress of fire and EMS and assist with casualty evacuation.
    - v. The first police supervisor on scene who is not part of the primary contact team should:
      - 1. Direct a sufficient number of personnel to act as contact team(s) until the incident is contained (no one else is currently being seriously injured or killed)
      - 2. Ensure that as soon as the incident is contained and security established in the immediately area, critically injured victims begin receiving aid.
      - 3. Designate a command post and establish a unified command with the ranking fire supervisor on scene
      - 4. Assign officers as needed to:
        - a. Provide aid to victims
        - b. Act as security for fire and EMS
        - c. Secure an inner and outer perimeter
        - d. Provide traffic control

5. Work with fire to establish an outside casualty collection point and triage area.
  6. Prepare for transition of the scene to investigators and crime scene for follow-up.
- b. Hostage incident – 5 C’s
- i. Upon recognition that an incident is a hostage situation, responding officers and supervisors should work to
    1. Contain
      - a. Isolate the suspect to the smallest area possible
    2. Control
      - a. Establish inner and outer perimeters
      - b. Evacuate or shelter in place surrounding citizens as necessary
    3. Communicate with the suspect(s)
      - a. Deescalate the incident with calm demeanor and actions
      - b. Begin establishing a rapport
      - c. Gain intelligence
      - d. Buy time
    4. Call for SWAT and Negotiations
    5. Create immediate action plans
      - a. Contingency plans should be formed on an individual, team and incident level to address issues such as:
        - i. Escape attempt
        - ii. Hostage(s) being released
        - iii. Surrender
        - iv. Crisis entry (if suspect begins harming hostages)
- c. Bombing
- i. Upon the detonation of a bomb or the discovery of an unexploded bomb, first responders should be constantly mindful of the possible presence of secondary devices.
    1. Officer responsibilities
      - a. Establish a perimeter a minimum of 300 ft. from the device
      - b. Perform an initial sweep for victims
      - c. Begin evacuating citizens as directed by command
    2. Supervisor responsibilities
      - a. Establish a unified command post with the highest ranking fire supervisor in scene
      - b. Assist Fire and EMS to establish a casualty collection point and triage area outside of the danger zone
      - c. Assign officers as needed to
        - i. Secure an inner and outer perimeter
        - ii. Provide victim aid
        - iii. Provide crime scene control
        - iv. Provide traffic control
      - d. Instruct dispatch to make public notifications as necessary to ensure public safety
      - e. Notify the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives
      - f. In the event of unexploded devices, request EOD assistance from Ft. Hood at (254)–287-2929 or (254)-287-2309.
      - g. Call in additional personnel or request additional resources as
- d. Civil Disturbance
- i. The initial patrol level response to a civil disturbance event will be determined by the location and scale of the disturbance. It may be possible to contain and defuse small scale disturbances at a patrol level. However, large scale disturbances will likely require resources beyond the on-duty patrol division. In either case, the following priorities should be addressed
    1. Acting patrol Lieutenant responsibilities

- a. Respond to the scene and assess the scale of the disturbance
- b. Base actions on the following priority
  - i. Safety of citizens
  - ii. Safety of first responders
  - iii. Protection of property
  - iv. Apprehension of violators
- c. If additional resources are required, notify the patrol division Assistant Chief and Chief of Police and begin implementing the procedures outlined in General Order 12.700 – Civil Disturbance and Mass Arrest.
- d. Establish a perimeter to exclude additional actors and prevent citizens from unknowingly entering the area
- e. Evacuate or shelter in place citizens in the affected area
- f. If it can be done so safely and without further escalating the incident, remove the primary instigator(s) or source of the disturbance
- g. Direct dispatch to make public notifications as necessary to ensure public safety

#### 17.804 TRAINING

- A. Officers will receive training in dealing with events involving active shooters and hostage situations, in the basic academy. Officers will also receive periodic training and updates in dealing with these events as victim rescue, combat casualty care, crisis intervention, bomb recognition and response and riot control from roll-call training and other in-service training.
- B. During its annual training advisory board meeting, the training division will evaluate the need for additional in-service training for active shooter, victim rescue, combat casualty care, crisis intervention training, bomb recognition and response, and riot control.

#### 17.805 POLICY REVIEW

- A. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to remain current with industry practices.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony M. Scandella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.