

Systemwide Guidance: Immediate Action/Rapid Response and Deployment

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Summary

Violence committed by an individual or a group of individuals determined to target and kill people in a confined and populated area often evolves quickly, demanding immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to stop the violence and to mitigate harm to innocent victims. The purpose of this guidance is to identify responsibilities and factors that will assist responding officers in situations that call for Immediate Action/Rapid Response and Deployment.

Definitions

Immediate Action/Rapid Response and Deployment - The swift and rapid deployment of law enforcement resources to “on-going, life-threatening situations” (e.g., active shooter/attacker situation) where delayed deployment could otherwise result in multiple deaths or serious bodily injuries to innocent persons.

Systemwide Guidance

A. When to Deploy

The following are examples of when Immediate Action/Rapid Response and Deployment tactics may be employed. Such situations include, but are not limited to:

1. Aggressive Deadly Behavior – The event is on-going, and the subject(s) is actively engaged in causing death or great bodily injury. This may be the result of:
 - a. An active shooter;
 - b. An attack with edged weapons; and/or
 - c. Placing and/or detonating explosive devices.
2. Citizen/Officer Rescue

- a. A citizen or law enforcement officer is gravely wounded, and delayed recovery could result in their demise.
- b. The subject may or may not be actively involved in an assault; however, an assault is imminent and immediate recovery is crucial.
- c. Due to the location of the victim(s), an immediate recovery may be necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm.

B. Initial Responder

The initial responder is most likely to be a patrol unit. The actions of the initial responders are critical and certain steps should be followed:

1. Assess Situation
 - a. Establish an Incident Commander (IC). This is generally the responsibility of the senior officer on the scene. The IC responsibility can later be assumed by the first arriving supervisor.
 - b. Request appropriate resources:
 - i. Additional patrol units;
 - ii. Police Rifle response;
 - iii. Tactical Team;
 - iv. Bomb squad; and
 - v. Fire Department.
 - c. Determine if Immediate Action/Rapid Response Deployment tactics are necessary
2. Broadcast Situation to Responding Units
 - a. Location and number of subjects (if known);
 - b. Type(s) of weapons involved;
 - c. Location(s) involved;
 - d. Safe approach route; and
 - e. Incident Command Post location, if possible.
3. Assemble Contact and/or Recovery/Rescue Team
 - a. Team Composition
 - i. Contact Team - may consist of one to five officers. Typically, a contact team consists of a point officer, a left and right flank officer, and a rear guarding officer.
 - ii. Recovery/Rescue Team - may consist of two to five officers and or EMT staff. Typically, a rescue/recovery team consists of a point officer, EMT or rescue staff and rear guarding officer.
 - b. Recommended Equipment
 - i. Police Rifle/Shotgun;
 - ii. Ballistic vest and helmet;
 - iii. Radio;
 - iv. Flashlight;
 - v. Raid jacket or visible identification (for plain clothes officers);
 - vi. Handcuffs; and
 - vii. Ballistic shield (as needed or appropriate).
 - c. Contact Team – The conduct of the Contact Team should be as follows:
 - i. Stop deadly behavior.

- ii. Limit subject(s) movement.
- iii. Prevent escape.
- iv. Continue past victims.
- v. Communicate progress to responders.
- vi. Provide preliminary assessment.
- vii. Victim(s) location and medical needs (prioritize if possible - deceased vs. living).
- viii. Explosives - types and location.
- ix. Subject(s) description and location.
- x. Identify types of weapons (if known).
- d. Rescue/Recovery Team - The conduct of the Rescue Team should be as follows:
 - i. Priority is the rescue and recovery of the victim(s).
 - 1. Enter and/or approach location to locate victim(s).
 - 2. Report subject(s) location, if possible.
 - 3. Extract victim(s) to a safe area and notify the Incident Commander.
 - 4. Notify medical personnel, if necessary.
 - ii. When multiple victims are present:
 - 1. Expand Rescue Team size and number of teams.
 - 2. Emphasize custody and control.
 - 3. Initiate identification and accountability of victims.
 - i. Coordinate actions with the Contact Team leader and responding personnel.

C. Use of Deadly Force

When the subject(s) behavior presents an immediate threat of death or great bodily injury to an innocent person, it may become necessary to use deadly force to stop that behavior. There is no exception to the law or department policy. The following principles will apply:

- 1. Based on IDOL (Immediate Defense of Life).
- 2. Utilized to stop the threat.
- 3. The law - "Objectively Reasonable."
- 4. Individual Officer makes the decision.

D. Suppressive Fire

When officers' movements across an open and unprotected area are jeopardized by the subject(s) deadly behavior, "Cover" or "Suppressive" fire can be used. In those situations, a high volume of weapons fire is directed toward the subject(s), thereby allowing the officers' movement. This tactic can be deployed against a "target specific" threat (active shooter) or toward a "specific threat area" (known area occupied by the subject). This is a worst-case scenario and should only be deployed when other options are not reasonable. When using suppressive fire, consider the following:

- 1. This tactic must be communicated to all concerned personnel before being deployed.
- 2. When moving under fire, officers utilize controlled suppressive fire in an attempt to stop deadly behavior.
- 3. During Officer/Citizen rescue operations or moving to gain a tactical advantage, officers utilize controlled cover fire to prevent the subject from initiating deadly behavior.

4. Suppressive fire should not be used if deployment of that tactic places innocent persons at greater risk than those actions of the subject(s).
5. Consider significant time lapses between the last observed subject(s) activity and intended employment of suppressive fire.

E. Expectations Upon Entry

The aforementioned scenarios bring with them a host of distractions. These distractions will include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Noise from alarms, people screaming, etc.
2. Confusion, victims hiding and frightened - not responding to law enforcement directions.
3. Carnage -possibly of the very young.
4. Fire and sprinkler operations.
5. Encountering explosives:
 - a. Visually inspect device for potential detonation-timing device, trip wire, lit fuse, etc.
 - b. Limit use of radios when informing others of device location.
 - c. Identify and, if possible, verbally report location(s) of device(s) - post officer to control effected area, if possible.
 - d. Do not move or touch them.
 - e. Move past device when part of a "Contact" or "Rescue" team.

F. Tactical Teams

When tactical team personnel arrive on scene, they are generally better equipped and trained to resolve crisis scenarios; however, continued assistance by initial responders is critical. As soon as practical:

1. Coordinate and relinquish contact responsibility.
2. Assist with containment responsibilities, if necessary.
3. Assist with rescue teams, if necessary.
4. Act as a "pathfinder" for Tactical Team personnel.
 - a. Direct to last known location of subject(s).
 - b. Report location of explosives.
 - c. Provide any pertinent information such as subject description, weapons, etc.

G. Command and Control

Command and Control issues are paramount when dealing with large-scale crisis events. Disseminating information and coordinating resources is critical. The expeditious establishment of Command and Control will enhance the probability of a shift resolution.

4. Command Post (CP)
 - a. Establish out of the line of fire and outside of the perimeter.
 - b. Provides easy access to the target area.
 - c. Telephonic capabilities.
 - d. Liaison officer or manager of crisis site.
5. Staging Areas
 - a. Tactical.
 - b. Bomb Squad.

- c. Investigative.
- d. Uniformed personnel.
- 6. Incident Command System (ICS)
 - a. Control of dissemination of accurate information.
 - b. Assign a logistics officer.
 - c. Assign an intelligence officer.
 - d. Assign a public information officer (PIO) to interact with the media, liaison officer between police and victim's relatives.
 - e. Investigative, perimeter and debriefing groups.
 - f. Area established for check in/out within staging area.
- 7. Multi-Agency Issues
 - a. Multi-Agency assignments, liaison officers, radio frequencies, etc.
 - b. Coordinate search and recovery teams, areas to be searched, etc.

Compliance / Responsibilities

A. Incident Commander (IC)

This is generally the responsibility of the senior officer on the scene. The IC responsibility can later be assumed by the first arriving supervisor.

B. Contact Team

May consist of one to five officers. Typically, a contact team consists of a point officer, a left and right flank officer, and a rear guarding officer.

C. Rescue/Recovery Team

May consist of two to five officers and/or EMT staff. Typically, a rescue/recovery team consists of a point officer, EMT or rescue staff and rear guarding officer.

Related Information

Individual University of California police department policies on immediate action and rapid response and deployment:

- University of California, Berkeley, Police Department Policy 413
- University of California, Davis, Police Department Policy 424
- University of California, Irvine, Police Department Policy 436
- University of California, Los Angeles, Police Department Policy 414
- University of California, Merced, Police Department Policy 423
- University of California, Riverside, Police Department Policy 424
- University of California, San Diego, Police Department Policy 411
- University of California, San Francisco, Police Department General Orders 10.1.5
- University of California, Santa Barbara, Police Department Policy 424
- University of California, Santa Cruz, Police Department Policy 424