
	<b>SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT</b> <b>POLICY MANUAL</b>	<b>POLICY</b> <b>#1.7.1</b>
EFFECTIVE DATE 8/18/22	 Andrew Shearer, Chief of Police	

## Active Violence Incident Response

### 1.7.1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide protocols for assessing an active violence threat and immediately intervening to limit serious injury or loss of life during such incidents.

Active violence incidents pose an ongoing deadly threat to the safety of individuals present at the site of the incident and the community at large. Therefore, it is the policy of the Springfield Police Department to require immediate action by its members at the scene of active violence incidents, including the objectively reasonable use of force, to achieve three primary goals: neutralize the threat, prevent access to additional potential victims and rescue injured victims.

### 1.7.1.2 DEFINITIONS

Active Violence: An incident involving an armed person(s) who has the ability and intent to use or has used deadly force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. These incidents include circumstances under which the threat of deadly force may include, but are not limited to, a suspect's use of knives, firearms, vehicles and/or explosive devices.

Casualty Collection Point (CCP): A forward location where victims can be assembled for movement from areas of risk. Based upon incident dynamics, such as the number and location of victims, multiple CCPs may be required.

Cold Zone: A geographic area where first responders can operate with minimal threat to personal safety or health

Contact Element: The first officer(s) at the scene of an active shooting tasked with locating the suspect(s) and stopping the threat

Hot Zone: A geographic area, consisting of the immediate incident location, with a direct and immediate threat to personal safety or health. All violent incidents are considered hot until law enforcement determines otherwise. Only law enforcement should operate in the hot zone.

Immediate Action: Rapid response by one or more officers to an Active Violence Incident (AVI) based on a reasonable belief that failure to swiftly seek out and address the threat would result in death or serious bodily injury

Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for on-scene incident activities, including developing incident objectives and ordering and releasing resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility

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for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all operations at the incident site.

Inner Perimeter: An area established to keep the threat contained to a specified location

Outer Perimeter: An area established to keep the inner perimeter secured and to prevent outside elements from entering the incident

Warm Zone: The geographic area of operation that has been cleared of any immediate safety threats and has security measures in place. This is an area where a victim staging area may be established and life-saving medical care will be provided.

### 1.7.1.3 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER INTERVENTION PRIOR TO 9-1-1/DISPATCH NOTIFICATION

In some instances, an individual member may be present in or near the active violence location (e.g., a mall or school). Whether on or off duty, in uniform or civilian clothes, the member may determine that immediate action is necessary and reasonable to stop the threat(s), in which case the member may take objectively reasonable steps to stop the threat(s). In making that determination, the member must contemplate whether he/she is capable of effectively intervening based on his/her training and equipment. When displaying firearms while in plainclothes, members shall, if feasible, verbally identify themselves as law enforcement officials, and conspicuously display their badges and/or other law enforcement identification to alert security personnel, arriving members or civilians who may be armed. When tactically feasible, members shall notify Dispatch that an active violence situation exists. The member(s) should provide the following information and updates as available:

- a) a description of the threat;
- b) general location of the threat; and
- c) an estimated number of victims.

The officer should also provide his/her location, description, whether he/she is armed, and request that this information be provided to responding officers to avoid misidentification as the "threat."

### 1.7.1.4 SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT

Based on available information, members already at the incident scene should attempt to verify that an active violence situation exists through information provided by Communications personnel; from persons confined within or exiting the target location; from witnesses; by reports or indicators of active violence; or through related means.

As time and resources permit, members on-scene should ask witnesses or others for any detailed information about the incident, so they form a tactical response to locate the suspect(s). Members on-scene should communicate the information they gathered and broadcast their situation over the radio to inform responding members.

### **1.7.1.5 CONTACT ELEMENT RESPONSE**

The objective of the contact element is to locate and neutralize the threat(s). Even if the threat seemingly has been terminated, contact element(s) are required to continue to render the location safe, assist in the screening and orderly evacuation of persons to a designated area, and locate any other persons still in hiding. The contact element may take reasonable steps to locate and neutralize the threat(s) without waiting for Incident Command (IC) elements to be present on-scene.

Multiple contact elements may be needed to locate the threat(s) and neutralize the threat(s) to the public.

When feasible, the contact element(s) shall attempt to provide a clear communications channel to supply the following types of information:

- a) actions regarding the threat(s), and
- b) the location and number of victims and their medical needs.

The contact element(s) shall locate the threat(s) in the most expeditious manner possible in order to stop the threat(s). In an active violence situation, the priority of members is to neutralize the threat(s), not to render medical aid to injured victims.

In the absence of clear indicators, members shall search the scene with the intent of locating the threat(s) and/or injured persons.

Arriving tactical or other officers should be called upon to help clear the location of potential threats, locate and evacuate persons in hiding, and render safe any dangerous munitions or armament.

After neutralizing the threat(s) and clearing the location, the contact element(s) shall immediately shift their objective to providing medical response.

### **1.7.1.6 INCIDENT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The IC shall ensure that the following actions are accomplished as time and resources permit:

- a) ensure both the Special Weapons And Tactics Team (SWAT) and Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) are activated in accordance with Policy 47.1.1, SWAT Team;
- b) ensure the Explosives Disposal Unit (EDU) is notified in accordance with Policy 46.3.3, Bomb Threat/Disposal, if there are confirmed or suspected reports of explosive devices present at the incident site;
- c) establish a command post and assign a recorder to document actions. This person may be sworn or non-sworn;

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- d) organize and establish unified interagency communication(s) with other essential agencies responding to the incident scene such as Eugene-Springfield Fire (ESF), Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and other law enforcement agencies;
- e) establish an inner perimeter to control access to and egress from the area of risk;
- f) establish an outer perimeter;
- g) establish staging areas in the cold zone for the following purposes and notify Dispatch of their locations:
  - 1. for responding members and other emergency personnel (A staging area manager designated by the IC shall brief arriving personnel, maintain communication with the contact element(s) and assign duties as directed by the IC);
  - 2. for treatment of the injured and evacuation by EMS or medevac;
  - 3. where individuals without injuries should be directed for identification and debriefing (evacuation area);
  - 4. to accommodate arriving family members and/or friends of persons at the incident scene (Resource center); and
  - 5. for the media;
- h) ensure that members assigned to the notification center maintain accountability of the individuals involved in the incident by documenting their identities until they can be reunited with family or others. Victims and witnesses suffering from emotional and/or physical trauma or shock should be kept under the observation of medical personnel until such time as they may be safely transported to a hospital or home in the care of family or friends;
- i) summon peer support officers to provide emotional support to victims and witnesses and information to family and friends of the victims;
- j) request mutual aid, if necessary;
- k) establish traffic control and management for the ingress and egress of public safety vehicles. Special consideration should be given to maintaining open routes for rapid transport of the injured;
- l) contact appropriate aviation resources to control air space for possible medical evacuation resources and to establish restricted air space for law enforcement use only;
- m) request emergency medical assistance;
- n) coordinate with ESF and EMS to deploy a Rescue Team but only after the contact element(s) has made entry, provided a status report, notified the command post of the location of victims, established warm zones, and determined that rescue efforts may begin;

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- o) initiate intelligence gathering on possible suspects;
- p) coordinate with owners or officials of the target location for floor plans; site layout; and a roster, including emergency contact information as available, of employees, students, residents, visitors, or others believed to be on-site;
- q) coordinate with investigative units to ensure the scene is properly preserved once the event enters the criminal investigation phase; and
- r) adhere to the supervisor responsibilities in accordance with Policy 1.5.1, Use of Force, if force was used.

#### **1.7.1.7 REUNIFICATION PROCESS**

Depending on the nature and location of an active violence incident, the IC must determine whether to evacuate and transport uninjured victims and witnesses to another location. In circumstances where evacuation is necessary, the IC shall broadcast over the radio the need for a reunification site away from the incident area to reunite family and friends. The IC or his/her designee shall

- a) identify a location in reasonable proximity to the incident area that has the capacity to receive the appropriate number of individuals;
- b) identify a secondary location in the event the primary reunification site is overwhelmed;
- c) identify resources to adequately staff the reunification site(s);
- d) acquire or request transportation assets (e.g., LTD buses, school buses, private charter buses) to transport individuals from the incident area to the reunification site(s);
- e) direct the evacuation and transportation of individuals from the incident area to the designated reunification site(s); and
- f) communicate with members positioned at the reunification site(s) on the status of evacuation and transportation of individuals from the incident area.

Members assigned to the reunification site(s) shall

- a) direct vehicles transporting evacuated individuals from the incident area to a secure assembly area out of view of the check-in location for family or friends;
- b) establish a check-in location for individuals searching for family or friends involved in the active violence incident;
- c) greet and inform family and friends checking-in of the reunification process and request that they provide basic information of the individuals they are searching for so that members can identify and reunite the proper individual(s); and
- d) reunify individuals from the secure assembly area with family or friends in a separate reunion area.

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Detectives assigned to investigate the active violence incident shall attempt to locate, identify, and interview witnesses while being mindful and considerate of the situation.

### **1.7.1.8 COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION**

As directed by the Incident Commander (IC), the SPD Community Information Coordinator or other designated individual(s) shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate information is distributed in a timely manner to the community. This may include

- a) shelter-in-place warnings for nearby locations during active shooter situations;
- b) alerts to avoid the area due to heavy law enforcement activity and potential road closures; and
- c) specific directions for individuals who elect to visit the scene.

The Community Information Coordinator or other designated individual may communicate with the City Office of Emergency Management to broadcast alerts through the community emergency notification system.

### **1.7.1.9 DEBRIEFING**

The Department shall schedule an informal debrief with all responding Department members to discuss the events as they unfolded in real time as soon as practical, after the incident. This debrief should address the initial notification and response of an active violence incident to actions taken to neutralize the threat and then the transition to search and rescue of injured persons.

As soon as is reasonably possible after the incident, the IC shall hold a formal debrief of the incident to discuss the overall plan, tactics, staffing and areas of improvement. The debrief should include key supervisory member participants in the incident, as well as representatives from Training, Professional Standards and the Chief's Office.

The Department's Peer Support Coordinator shall schedule a Critical Incident Stress Debriefing for Department members involved in the incident as well as other personnel who were directly impacted (e.g., dispatchers, emergency medical responders). Members shall refer to Policy 13.7.1, Peer Support, for additional information.

### **1.7.1.10 TRAINING & REVIEW**

SPD shall provide initial and ongoing active violence training to all sworn personnel, including simulation exercises conducted in schools and other facilities and partnering first response agencies, where appropriate.

All member actions under this policy will be evaluated under an objectively reasonable police officers' standard under the totality of the circumstances, which includes consideration of the exigency related to addressing and neutralizing actively violent incidents.