




## ARLINGTON COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE MANUAL

<b>Chapter: 5</b> Procedures	<b>Effective Date:</b> May 18, 2018	<b>Amends/Supersedes:</b> March 15, 2012	<b>By Authority of the Chief of Police</b>   Charles A. Penn
<b>Accreditation Standard(s):</b> OPR.05.01			

### 537.02 Emergency Evacuations

#### I. Policy

The Arlington County Police Department's primary objective when conducting the emergency evacuation of a threatened area is the protection of life. This is accomplished by establishing procedures for the orderly and swift evacuation of the affected civilian population, while at the same time ensuring that emergency personnel and equipment can respond to the affected area with a minimum of delay so as to mitigate or eliminate the conditions requiring evacuation.

#### II. Procedure

##### A. Initial Response to Potential Emergency Evacuation Event

1. Watch Commander's Responsibilities - Watch Commanders who are notified of an incident or threat that may require an emergency evacuation shall perform the following duties:
  - a. Personally respond to the scene of a potential emergency evacuation, in order to supervise the deployment of police department resources.
  - b. Employ the Incident Command System (ICS) and establish a primary staging area for initially responding personnel.
  - c. The Watch Commander shall establish a command post and activate other appropriate aspects of the ICS if the fire department has not yet arrived in accordance with Manual directive *570.01 Incident Command System*.
  - d. If the fire department has already arrived at the scene and established a command post, the Watch Commander (or another police supervisor delegated in his place) shall respond to that command post to provide assistance and establish a police department incident liaison.
2. Incident Commander's Responsibilities
  - a. Establish a staging area a safe distance from, and upwind of, the incident scene if evidence indicates officers may be exposed to radiological, biological, or chemical contaminants - minimum perimeter distances for radiological incidents are found in Manual directive *573.02 Hazardous Material Incidents*.
  - b. Notify the ECC of the location of the primary staging area, and direct responding units to that location, with explicit instructions to avoid passing near the incident site while en route.

- c. Ensure that a perimeter is established around the incident scene, and deploy a sufficient number of officers to this perimeter to ensure that unauthorized persons do not enter contaminated or threatened areas. The Incident Commander shall also ensure that the perimeter boundaries are periodically broadcast over all active police radio channels. (If fire department officials are already on the scene, the Incident Commander shall seek their guidance regarding the appropriate perimeter location).
- d. Establish and secure response routes for emergency personnel and equipment.
- e. If necessary, establish a secondary staging area for emergency responders to assemble who are not initially dispatched to the scene of the incident. The Incident Commander shall ensure that the ECC is aware of the location, and directs all supplemental emergency response to this site. The Incident Commander shall also assign an officer to the secondary staging area to coordinate assignment of emergency assets from the secondary staging area to the incident site.
- f. Establish and secure evacuation routes for the affected civilian population.
- g. Coordinate the establishment of a decontamination/quarantine site for the affected civilian population if needed.
- h. Request and coordinate the establishment of emergency shelters if needed.
- i. Ensure that appropriate notifications are made within the police department, and also that notifications are made to other County agencies, such as the Office of Emergency Management, in accordance with the [Emergency Operations Plan](#).

### 3. Responding Officers' Responsibilities

- a. Report to the Incident Commander for Assignment – Unless otherwise directed by the Incident Commander, officers shall respond to a staging area for deployment upon notification that they have been assigned to an emergency evacuation incident.
- b. Observe and Report Conditions - As officers respond toward the staging area, they shall be alert for indicators that may help identify the geographic areas where contamination may be present. When such indicators are found, they shall immediately report them to the ECC.

These indicators may include:

- 1) Mass casualties - numerous individuals exhibiting unexplained serious health problems ranging from nausea, disorientation, difficulty breathing, miosis (pinpoint pupils), salivation, uncontrollable defecation and urination, convulsions, or death.
- 2) Blisters/rashes - individuals experiencing unexplained water-like blisters, wheals (like bee stings), and rashes.

- 3) Unexplained odors - avoid breathing odors from undetermined chemical sources; most chemical weapons are effective via the respiratory system. Smells range from sweet to pungent. It is important to determine whether the particular odor is completely out of character with its surroundings.
  - 4) Low-lying vapor clouds - low-lying vapor clouds or fog like condition that cannot be explained.
  - 5) Unusual liquid droplets - exposed surfaces exhibit oily droplets or film.
  - 6) Dead animals or plant life - numerous dead animals, or vegetation that is dead or discolored.
  - 7) Abandoned spray devices, unusual debris or mechanical devices that look out of place in the surroundings.
- B. Evacuation Procedures - Normally, the fire department determines whether to evacuate an area or building. The police department's role is to assist in implementing the fire department's decision. However, prior to the arrival of the fire department, police personnel may perform an emergency evacuation if an immediate threat to human life appears to exist and the officers can perform the evacuation without knowingly entering a contaminated zone. If emergency evacuation becomes necessary, care shall be taken to remove victims along a route that does not inadvertently expose them to higher levels of contamination.
1. The Incident Commander shall designate a team leader to search each evacuation area in order to carry out the evacuation. This may be any sworn member of the department regardless of rank. Search/evacuation areas may be cleared using one of the following search techniques:
    - a. Floor to floor.
    - b. By block - recommended for outside evacuations. Good for smaller scale operations with limited resources.
    - c. By sectors - recommended for large scale evacuations where clear barriers are difficult to draw.
    - d. Other techniques known to the Incident Commander
  2. All search teams shall report to the Incident Commander or the Incident Commander's designee for assignment. Each team member will enter the evacuation area with a clear set of instructions and will be given the following information:
    - a. The identity of their team leader and a designated radio channel for operations.
    - b. Established evacuation routes and assembly sites for civilian decontamination if needed.
    - c. Time constraints which exist, i.e. detonation time.
    - d. Anticipated size of the population.

- e. Intelligence suggesting additional threats.
  - f. The location of emergency shelters and aid sites.
3. If the targeted evacuation area is relatively small (e.g. the floor of a building, business, school, etc.), the voluntary assistance of the site's employees/residents, or other persons familiar with the location's layout, shall be requested so that the safest and most expeditious means of evacuation may be employed. These personnel shall themselves evacuate the site as soon as their assistance is no longer necessary.
  4. If the targeted evacuation area is relatively large (e.g. a cluster of buildings, neighborhoods/sections of the County, the entire County itself, etc.) it may not be possible to personally notify each member of the affected population of the evacuation. Accordingly, every effort should be made to use alternate methods of notification such as the Everbridge Alerting System, Emergency Subscriber Listing, and the Emergency Alert System, as well as more traditional methods such as loudspeakers and police vehicle public address systems.
  5. If the targeted evacuation area contains individuals with special needs (e.g. individuals unable to evacuate without assistance such as the elderly, young children, non-ambulatory, etc.), additional resources may be needed to assist in their evacuation. Resources available to assist with the evacuation of individuals with special needs include, but are not limited to:
    - a. EMS Medic Units.
    - b. Arlington Chapter of the Red Cross.
    - c. WMATA/Arlington County buses with wheelchair lifts.
    - d. Military vehicles from surrounding military facilities.
  6. If any person refuses to evacuate, that person shall be advised of the risks and strongly urged to comply. However, such person shall not be forcibly evacuated against his or her will.
  7. If evacuation is deemed too risky, occupants of the threatened site may be directed to shelter in place (e.g., remain in a room or other enclosure that provides some measure of protection from flying glass and debris, etc). Officers shall be instructed to don PPE gear.
  8. Police personnel should be stationed in such a manner to prevent anyone from re-entering an area once it has been evacuated.
  9. It is imperative that search teams keep the ECC apprised of their locations and status at all times, in order that the Incident Commander may be aware of all resources at his disposal.
- C. Post-Evacuation Procedures - Evacuated individuals in need of decontamination due to exposure to radiological or biological material shall be assembled at the decontamination site, in order that decontamination and/or medical assessment may be performed. Officers should discourage exposed

individuals from leaving the decontamination site without an evaluation by a competent authority (e.g., fire department, health department, medical personnel, etc.). Refer to Manual directive *573.03 Medical Quarantines and Seizures* for further information relating to this subject.

Evacuated individuals not in need of decontamination should be directed to emergency shelters (if established). Officers should maintain a perimeter around the evacuated area to prevent unauthorized re-entry of evacuees and looters.