

Asheville Police Department Policy Manual

Chapter: 11 - Special Operations

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- [Policy 402 – Response to Resistance](#)
- [Policy 403 – Less Lethal Weapons](#)
- [Policy 1100 - Critical Incident Response](#)
- [Policy 1105 - Bike Response Team](#)
- [SOP 3002 – Blue Team Reports](#)
- [SOP 3013 – Public Order Operations](#)

Introduction

The Asheville Police Department's Crowd Control Team (CCT) is equipped to respond to civil disorders/riots, natural disasters, or other catastrophic events where necessary. The department must quickly restore order, prevent incidents from escalating, protect innocent citizens, and isolate spontaneous events or incidents.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Asheville Police Department (APD) to preserve public peace, prevent crime, and protect the rights of persons and property during events of civil unrest. The department respects citizens' right to peaceably assemble and exercise free speech as provided by law.

Definitions

Bicycle Response Team (BRT): a team of bike-certified police officers who have been specifically trained to use their department bicycles in the tactics of crowd management. BRT officers train with and complement the tactics of Crowd Control Team officers.

Civil Disorder/Riot: any public disturbance involving acts of violence by assemblages of three (3) or more persons, which causes an immediate danger of or results in damage or injury to the property or person of any other individual ([N.C. Gen. Stat. § 14-288.2/12 USC § 231](#)).

Crowd Control Team (CCT): specifically trained officers who provide a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd management, or other situations involving a tactical response.

Rules and Procedures

1104.1 Team Mission and Responsibilities

- A. The mission of the department's Crowd Control Team is to protect lives and property by maintaining community order during incidents of civil unrest by utilizing specially trained and equipped personnel.
- B. The department's Crowd Control Team is composed of specially trained personnel equipped for crowd management during civil disturbances. The CCT operates under the Patrol Operations Division.

1104.2 Team Organization

- A. The Crowd Control Team is led by the CCT Commander, as appointed by the chief of police. The CCT Commander is responsible for the regular operational and administrative duties of the team.
- B. In the absence of the CCT Commander, the senior CCT team leader will carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Commander.
- C. The Patrol Operations Division Commander is responsible for the operational command of the team. In the absence of the Patrol Operations Division Commander, the Patrol Executive Officer will assume operational oversight when a designee is not named in advance.
- D. Administrative requests and reports will be submitted to the Patrol Executive Officer for review.
- E. The CCT Commander is responsible for the following:

1. Implementing, organizing, and documenting training for CCT members.
2. Maintaining a list of all munitions and weapons systems approved for use by the CCT.
3. Quarterly documented inspections of non-issued CCT equipment.
4. Maintaining an accurate roster of all active CCT personnel.
5. Accounting for all CCT-issued equipment during event demobilization.
6. Coordinating and ensuring the completion of all appropriate reporting following CCT actions, such as use of force reports, injury exposure reports, etc.

F. Removal from the CCT is at the discretion of the chief of police or designee.

1104.3 CCT Selection

- A. Officers will be assigned to the CCT based on the Asheville Police Department's need for staffing and maintaining a sufficient number of trained CCT personnel.
- B. Assignment to the CCT is an appointed assignment.

1104.4 Training

- A. The CCT commander will implement training consistent with national standards for submission to the Patrol Executive Officer and Patrol Operations Division commander for approval.
- B. CCT will train [at least sixteen \(16\) hours annually over the span of four separate training days](#). Training may be increased or decreased depending upon the needs of the department, with the approval of the police executive staff. [33.6.1 b]
- C. The CCT and Bicycle Response Team units will train both separately and together, see [Policy 1105 - Bike Response Team](#).
- D. Members of the CCT will attend the 24-hour Field Force Operations course as soon as practical, prior to or once appointed to the team. [33.6.1 a]
- E. Pepperball officers and chemical munitions operators must train annually and recertify/requalify as required.

1104.5 Equipment

- A. CCT members will be provided with personal protective equipment as well as the tools and equipment necessary for the safe and effective completion of all assigned tasks.

1. While on duty, all CCT members will have all issued CCT equipment immediately accessible and will report directly to incident staging locations as directed upon CCT activation.
 2. CCT members will ensure all issued equipment remains in proper working order.
 3. Issued equipment will not be altered in any manner unless approved by the CCT Commander.
- B. Respirator fit testing will be completed annually for employees issued a respirator in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.
- C. Issued equipment will be inspected and the inspection documented on officer inspection reports by their direct supervisor. This includes pepper ball guns that are assigned to officers.
- D. All stored general CCT equipment (chemical munitions, bullhorns, pepper ball guns, identification patches, etc.) will be inspected quarterly by the CCT commander.

1104.6 Activation

- A. In a situation that requires immediate attention, the CCT Commander and Watch Commander have the authority to place the CCT on stand-by. Activations of the CCT must be approved by the Patrol Operations Division Commander [or designee](#).
- B. Activation of the CCT will follow mobilization procedures in [SOP 3013 – Public Order Operations](#).
- C. The CCT Commander will maintain a roster of all active CCT personnel and will ensure all related databases are updated accordingly. This will ensure a rapid analysis of available CCT resources.
- D. CCT personnel will respond to the designated staging location as directed upon notification of an incident.

1104.7 Team Operations

- A. The use of less lethal munitions by CCT members must follow all guidelines in [Policies 402 – Response to Resistance](#) and [403 – Less Lethal Weapons](#).
- B. When deploying riot control agents, officers will use only that amount necessary to restore order to an area.
- C. Specific procedures related to team operations are located in [SOP 3013 – Public Order Operations](#).

- D. The CCT Commander or designee will conduct an annual review of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) best practices and recommendations for implementation of any new stated standards for submission to the Patrol Executive Officer.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MLH".

Michael Lamb
Chief of Police