


<p style="text-align: center;">STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT</p> 	Type of Directive: Policy and Procedure	Updated: 02-01-2023
	Title: Civil Disturbance & Natural Disaster Plan	No. 7.24.1
	Issuing Authority: Chief Joseph McNeil	Issued: 04-22-2019
	Reference: Rescinds 7.24.2 Tier One Accreditation 1.7.4	

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a set of guidelines in the event of a civil disturbance.

POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Stratford Police Department to respond to and manage civil disturbances and natural disasters when they occur with the intent to maintain public peace, protect property and disperse, detain or arrest criminal offenders.

PROCEDURE:

Initial Contact

If possible, identify and contact the organization or group that is attempting to schedule a demonstration and set up a dialogue. Identify and contact the leaders and meet with those individuals as soon as possible to determine the following:

- Their grievances
- The manner in which they plan to voice their complaint
- Where this action is to take place
- When and for how long the demonstration will last
- Document the information for the Chief of Police and Command Staff

Plans and Operations

The Chief of Police or his designee will designate a command staff plan for the incident. A member of the staff will contact the demonstration leaders and go over the initial information given and to determine if there are any changes. A plan will be formulated that will take the following into account.

- Duties and responsibilities of Departmental Personnel
- Procedures and guidelines to be followed by command staff, officers and line staff, dispatchers
- Traffic, crowd control, and expected crime problems, if appropriate
- Public facility security considerations
- De-escalation opportunities / considerations
- Community relations considerations / rumor control
- Procedures for notification of additional agencies such as fire department, EMS, public works, State Police, etc...
- Research the appropriate local , State and Federal laws, as well as Departmental Policies
- Confer with the Town Attorney

Implementation

Initiate any special training that may be required for the demonstration. Purchase, construct, or borrow any required special equipment. Adjust the manpower to fit the situation as it develops. Arrange a media liaison and document all incidents and critique the operation at its completion

Whenever the Town Chief Executive Officer, upon recommendation of the Chief of Police, determines that there has been an act of violence or flagrant and substantial defiance of, or resistance to, a lawful exercise of public authority and there is reason to believe that clear and present danger exists that riots, public disorder, widespread disobedience to law and substantial injury to persons and property exists, he/she may declare that a state of emergency exists

The following acts may be prohibited for the duration of the emergency:

- The sale of any firearm of any size or description and the sale of any ammunition, or explosive or other destructive device
- The intentional possession in a public place of any firearm by a person except a duly authorized law enforcement officer or military person active in the official performance of his duty
- The establishment of curfews, including vehicle movement except Fire, Police, EMS, and Public Utilities
- The prohibition of sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages, with or without payment, or the possession by any person in a public place of any portable container containing any alcoholic beverage
- The closing of places of public assembly

- The prohibition of sale or transfer or possession of gasoline or other combustion liquid except for delivery directly into the tank of a motor vehicle, boat or other combustion -propelled vehicle
- The prohibition of the possession in a public place of any portable container containing combustible liquid

Upon the Declaration that a state of emergency exists, the declaration must be delivered to the media with the emergency measures imposed for widest dissemination. In the event of a declared emergency the following procedures will apply:

Communications

A Police Supervisor shall be assigned to the communications center, if required, at all times during the period of the disorder. The Police Supervisor will prepare a situation map when appropriate. In the event of loss of radio or telephone communications, a system of runners using community services officers as well as police officers shall be established.

Field Command Post

The Chief of Police or his designee will determine the utilization of field command post(s) and the deployment of the Special Response Team.

Inter-Agency Support

Manpower requirements will be predicted on the size and composition of the disturbance. The mutual aid agreement (Blue Plan) will be utilized as well as the Connecticut State Police depending on the size and scope of the disturbance. The Chief of Police or his designee will have the responsibility for this request.

Military Support

The Governor is the sole authority for commitment of state military forces.

Court Assistance

The State Attorney will be asked to provide legal assistance in arrest, incarceration, and court proceedings.

Casualty Information

Names, addresses, or other identifying data pertaining to casualties will be released by the public information officer.

Media Releases

Public information media briefings will be conducted by the public information officer as required.

Traffic Control

Traffic and security checkpoints shall be established at each entrance or exit from the affected area. All persons desiring entry into the affected area will be denied access except persons on official business.

Juvenile Offenders

Segregate from adult population and process through normal juvenile channels. Release to parents or guardians or arrange for intake if the juvenile meets the criteria.

Equipment

Each line car shall be equipped with a riot helmet and baton. Supervisor vehicles shall be equipped with protective shields. Gas masks, ballistic vests, flex cuffs, and O/C spray shall be issued in the event of a civil disturbance.

Mass Arrest Plan

In the event that the Stratford Police Department is confronted with mass arrests as the result of a civil disturbance, or natural disaster, the following procedures shall be invoked.

Arrest, Search, and Handcuff

All prisoners shall be searched and properly handcuffed behind their backs. Flex cuffs will be used when available and removed at the processing location.

Contraband

All contraband seized shall be tagged and identified with the individual arrestee for additional charges.

Photographs

Personnel from the I.D. Bureau shall be assigned to document the incident, including arrests using video and/or photographic equipment.

Transportation

If feasible all arrestees will be transported in the Stratford Police Department prisoner van. Two Police Officers will be assigned to the prisoner van.

Booking

All prisoners will be transported to the Stratford Police Department for booking and detention. If possible at least two (2) officers will be assigned to conduct the booking and processing of offenders. These officers will be responsible for intake, booking paperwork and if necessary arranging for the transport of excess prisoners to neighboring lock-up facilities as per agreement with surrounding agencies.

After Action Reports

In order to prepare for future civil disorder an "after-action" report will be prepared. The report will include a chronological order of events.

- First indication of a disturbance
- Notification of Field units, Chief of Police and Commanders

- Establishment of field command post and communications
- Notification of off-duty and reserve officers
- Time and location of assembly, briefing, equipping, and committing of riot control force
- Request for assistance with Connecticut State Police, other Law enforcement agencies, Governor's office, fire Department, or local hospitals
- Establishment of traffic/security control points by location
- Arrival time of assisting agencies
- Special equipment requests to supporting agencies
- Arrival time of special equipment
- Deployment times for special assistance personnel and equipment

Other areas to be addressed in the "after-action" report are location of disturbance, size of disturbance, principal antagonists, reason for disturbance (political, economic, natural disaster, etc.) weapons used by the antagonists, total number of arrests, date and time dispersed, date and time order restored, and casualties (number of deaths, number with incapacitating injuries, number treated and released.)

Critique

The critique of the incident shall include the positive and negative results, any lessons learned, and recommendations for future commitments. Updates to this policy will be considered as necessary on an annual basis. This policy also will be published annually to all sworn staff via PowerDMS.