



TIVERTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS

Subject: All Threats Response		General Order Number: 810.80
Section: 800- Special Operations		Subsection: 10- General
Amends/Supersedes: 810.80 (08/11/2020)		
Effective Date: 08/11/2020	Revised Date: 01/13/2021	Review Date: As Needed
Per Order Of: Patrick W. Jones, Chief of Police		
RIPAC: 10.12		
Distribution: Sworn Department Members, Communication Center Operators		

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Tiverton Police Department, and is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish baseline agency/departments protocols across the Tiverton Police Department for immediate threat situations. The policy also provides protocols for assessing the threat and immediately responding during active shooter situations to limit serious injury or loss of life. This plan is a guideline only.

II. DEFINITIONS

Active Shooter – For purposes of this policy, an active shooter is defined as a person or persons who appear to be actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. In most cases, active shooters use a firearm(s) and display no pattern or method for selection of their victims. In some cases, active shooters use other weapons and/or improvised explosive devices to cause additional victims and act as an impediment to emergency responders. These improvised explosive devices may detonate immediately, have delayed detonation fuses, or detonate on contact.

Active Shooting – An incident in which one or more armed persons have used, or are reasonably likely to use, deadly force in an ongoing manner, and where persons have been injured, killed, or are under imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm by such persons.

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 Officer or Team – 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 shooting based on a reasonable belief that failure to swiftly seek out and address the threat would result in death or serious bodily injury.

Incident Command (IC) – The individual responsible for all incident activities, including the development of strategies and tactics and the ordering and release of resources. The IC has overall authority and responsibility for conducting incident operations and is responsible for the management of all operations at the incident site. Responsibilities of the IC can be assumed by the officer handling the original call to the chief executive of the agency and any additional qualified officers, depending on the size, scope, and complexity of the incident or event

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

Rescue Task Force (RTF) - A team consisting of fire/emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, paired with law enforcement officers. Fire/EMS personnel are tasked with initial treatment and triage of victims in the warm zone. Law enforcement officers are assigned as the protection for this team and should not separate from the fire/EMS personnel.

Staging Area - An area or location near the incident where outside resources respond and are quickly inventoried for utilization and assignment at the incident. There may be more than one staging area per incident.

Unified Command (UC) - An incident command system used when there is more than one agency with incident jurisdiction, or when incidents cross political jurisdictions. Agencies work together through designated members of the UC, often the senior person(s) from agencies and/or disciplines participating in the UC, to establish a common set of objectives and strategies. The IC responsibility is shared within the UC, with the function most important at the time taking the lead role. The lead responsibility may shift as the incident progresses.

Warm Zone - A geographic area where law enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat to a level of minimal or mitigated risk; can be considered clear, but not secure.

III. POLICY

It is the policy of the Tiverton Police Department in immediate threats situations where ongoing deadly force is reasonably likely to be employed by a suspect—and delay in taking law enforcement action could result in injury or death—that immediate action by officers at the scene is necessary when such actions are deemed reasonable to prevent further injuries or loss of life.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Situational Assessment

1. Based on available information, dispatched responders or officers already on scene may verify that an active threat situation exists through information provided by dispatch; from persons confined within or exiting the target location; from witnesses; by reports of, or sounds of, gunfire; or through other related means.
2. When available and as time permits, witnesses, or others should be asked about the location and number of suspects, the type of weapons exhibited by the suspects, persons injured, the number and location of persons in

possible danger, and the use or location of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

3. Upon completion of the initial assessment, the first arriving officer(s) shall:
 - a. advise dispatch and request resources as deemed necessary, and
 - b. determine whether to take immediate action alone or with another officer or wait until additional resources are available.

B. Individual Officer Intervention

1. In some instances, an individual officer may be present within or near the active threat location. Whether on or off duty, in uniform or civilian clothes, he or she may determine that immediate action is necessary and reasonable to stop the threat. The decision may take into consideration the officer's capability to effectively intervene, based on his or her training.
2. As soon as possible and/or practical, officer(s) shall notify communications that an active threat situation exists. The officer(s) should provide the following information and updates as available:
 - a. the identity, location, clothing description, and proposed actions of the officer(s) on scene;
 - b. information about the suspect to include weapons, a physical description, equipment (ex. Ballistics armor), and current location/actions and;
 - c. available information on persons injured or under threat, their locations, emergency resources required, and recommended points of entry.
3. When displaying a firearm while in plainclothes, officers shall verbally identify themselves as law enforcement officers, and clearly display their badges and/or other law enforcement identification to alert security personnel, arriving officers, or civilians who may be armed.
4. If officers are unarmed, they can still play a crucial role in active threat response through the following actions:
 - a. Facilitating evacuation by
 - (1) Locating evacuation/escape points and directing people to those evacuation points in reasonably safe for them to do so and;
 - (2) Locating and directing persons hiding in unsecure locations to evacuation points.
 - b. If evacuation is not possible,
 - (1) helping locate and direct persons to safer locations, preferably with thick walls and solid doors with locks; or, in the absence of such locations, rooms that can be barricaded with heavy furniture or objects;
 - (2) directing individuals to silence all personal electronic devices, take cover, and remain silent; and
 - (3) taking any actions possible to distract, disrupt, divert, or incapacitate the suspect using surprise attacks and any aggressive force possible.
 - c. When possible, assisting with the injured and directing incoming teams to injured persons.

C. Contact Officer or Team Response

1. The mission of the contact officer or team is to locate and stop the threat. Even if the threat seemingly has been terminated, contact officers or teams are required to render the location safe, assist in screening and the orderly evacuation of persons to a designated area, and locating any other persons still in hiding.
 2. Normally, only one contact officer or team shall be deployed at any given time. Additional officers or teams may be deployed at the direction of the Incident Commander to provide tactical advantage. The Incident Commander shall ensure that each team is aware of the other officers' or teams' locations and actions.
 3. The contact officer or team shall be provided a clear communications channel to supply the following types of information:
 - a. The officer or team's progress and location.
 - b. The location and number of victims and their medical needs.
 - c. The estimated number of suspects involved.
 - d. The suspect's description and weapons, if known.
 - e. The location of any traps, explosives, or IED's. If discovered, the contact officer or team leader shall determine whether to post an officer near it, report it, or mark it for later removal.
 4. The contact officer or team shall locate the suspect(s) in the most expeditious manner possible in order to stop the threat. In doing so, officers should not stop to render aid or assistance to victims, but may, where reasonably possible, inform them that RTFs are forthcoming and direct them to a safe point of exit or hiding if they require medical personnel and it is deemed safe for them to do so.
 5. The contact officer or team should employ tactical advantages such as avoiding the use of the main entrance to provide an element of surprise and to bypass potential booby traps or ambush.
 6. The contact officer or team should not attempt to conduct a thorough clearing of the location, but should follow sounds, such as gunfire, yelling, and screaming; observations of victims and bystanders; and related information to help locate the suspect(s) as soon as possible.
 7. Once the location of the suspect(s) is known and any immediate threat is eliminated, the contact officer or team should proceed to clear all portions of the location in the event that more suspects are in hiding. If victims are encountered who require immediate trauma care, the contact officer or team shall provide such care prior to continuing to clear the location. Arriving tactical or other officers should be called upon to help clear the location of potential suspects, locate and evacuate persons in hiding, and render safe any dangerous munitions or armament.
 8. The contact officer or team shall switch its focus to providing trauma care as necessary when the primary mission is completed.
- D. Rescue Task Force (RTFs)
1. Once the contact officer or team is deployed, and as officers and resources arrive at the incident scene, the IC should ensure that RTFs are formed to provide trauma care and help evacuate victims.
 2. RTFs shall be organized under a team leader, deploy in tactical formations consistent with agency training, and be prepared to respond to hostile action as rapidly changing circumstances may place them in contact with

suspects. In such instances, the RTF shall be prepared and equipped to serve as the contact team.

3. RTFs shall be deployed only after the contact officer or team 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.
4. Wounded and injured persons shall be quickly searched, if reasonable, for weapons, quickly treated for obvious life-threatening injuries and removed to the designated CCPs with cover and movement of such persons provided by RTF members. If emergency medical personnel are not yet in place, basic trauma care shall be the responsibility of RTF members until they are relieved by medical personnel.
5. Rescue and recovery operations shall continue until the IC has declared the scene clear and safe.

E. Unified Command

1. Unified incident command shall be established as soon as possible.
2. The IC shall ensure that the following actions are accomplished:
 - a. Organize and establish unified interagency communication(s).
 - b. Establish an inner perimeter to control access to and exit from the area of risk.
 - c. Establish an outer perimeter.
 - d. Establish staging areas in the cold zone for the following purposes and notify communications of their locations:
 - (1) for responding officers and other emergency personnel;
 - (2) for treatment of the injured and evacuation by EMS or medevac (CCP);
 - (3) where individuals without injuries should be directed for identification and debriefing (evacuation area);
 - (4) to accommodate arriving family members of persons at the incident scene (notification center); and
 - (5) for the media. (This area should be staffed with appropriate personnel, such as public information officers.)
 - e. Ensure that officers assigned to the notification center maintain custody and control of all persons and document 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.
 - f. Request mutual aid if necessary.
 - g. Establish traffic control and management for the entrance and exit of public safety vehicles. Special consideration should be given to maintain open routes for rapid transport of the injured.
 - h. Request emergency medical assistance.
 - i. Initiate intelligence gathering on possible suspects.
 - j. Summon chaplains and peer support officers to provide information to relatives of victims.
 - k. 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.
1. Assign a recorder to document actions at the command post.
 3. When available on the scene, a tactical team may be assigned as appropriate to:
 - a. contain the location,
 - b. assist RTFs,
 - c. help locate the suspect(s) or relieve the contact officer or team,
 - d. help locate and safeguard explosives pending removal, and
 - e. provide special weapons and equipment as needed.
- F. Community Notification
- The Chief of Police or other designated individual(s) shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate information is distributed in a timely manner to the community. This may include
1. shelter in place warnings for nearby locations during active shooter situations;
 2. alerts to avoid the area due to heavy law enforcement activity and potential road closures; and
 3. specific directions for individuals who elect to visit the scene.
- G. ALICE Protocols – Active Shooter Threats
1. Since 2019 the Tiverton School Department has been training staff and students in the ALICE active shooter protocol.
 2. ALICE is an easy to remember acronym that stands for the following:
 - a. Alert- Alert is your first notification of danger.
 - b. Lockdown- Barricade the room. Prepare to EVACUATE or COUNTER if needed.
 - c. Inform- Communicate the violent intruder's location and direction in real time.
 - d. Counter- Create Noise, Movement, Distance and Distraction with the intent of reducing the shooter's ability to shoot accurately. Counter is NOT fighting.
 - e. Evacuate- When safe to do so, remove yourself from the danger zone.
 3. Officers should be aware of ALICE protocols when responding to an active shooter at a school location.
- H. Debriefing
1. As soon as reasonably possible after the incident, the agency shall conduct potential improvement and determine whether changes in operational protocols, policy, or training may be warranted.
- I. Training
1. The Planning & Training Division shall conduct an annual review of all agencies policies/practices and training needs.