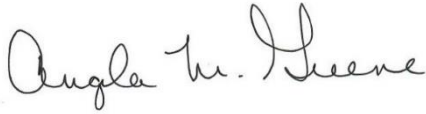
	<b>LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>  <b>POLICY AND PROCEDURE GENERAL ORDER</b>	Distribution <b>ALL PERSONNEL</b>	General Order Number <b>7.06</b>
		Original Issue Date <b>01/06/2024</b>	Reissue/Effective Date <b>01/06/2024</b>
Order Title:  <b>ACTIVE THREATS</b>	CALEA Accreditation Standard:  46.1.10	Section  7	
	Rescinds: OPR 06.02		
Section Title:  <b>SPECIAL OPERATIONS</b>		  <b>Angela M. Greene, Chief of Police</b>	

*This General Order is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This General Order should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this General Order will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.*

## I. PURPOSE

The goal of police intervention in active threat incidents is to neutralize the threat(s) by preventing access to potential victims, rescuing injured persons and potential victims, or a movement to neutralize the threat(s). This goal can be achieved by various means, up to and including, the use of deadly physical force.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Lexington Police Department, based on training and experience, to allow initial responding officers the authority and responsibility to take immediate action to contain and if necessary, neutralize active threat incidents.

## III. DEFINITIONS

Active Threat: suspect(s) who is actively engaged, or has the potential to engage, in a life threatening situation where the delayed deployment of officers could result in loss, or further loss of life. The Active Threat is an armed person who has used deadly physical force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. The specific objective of the active threat appears to be that of mass murder, rather than other forcible felonies such as robbery, hostage taking, etc. Active Threats may involve a variety of weapons including, but not limited to firearms, knives/swords, explosives and other devices intended to cause death or serious bodily harm.

Barricade: Where the individual is held up in a specific area. The individual may have the windows and doors protected. The individual may be holding hostages and the suspect shows no sign of surrender/giving up.

Casualty Collection Point (CCP): A location designated for the holding, further assessment and treatment of casualties. A secure area within the warm zone. An ideal CCP has cover and concealment.

Dynamic Situations: Where the situation is changing vary rapidly along with active shooter actions.

Entry Corridor: Path from the Cold Zone to the Warm Zone. An established path to a location that has security measures in place. An Entry Corridor is generally utilized to move to an affected site or to leave a site and/or evacuate injured from the site.

Immediate Action Rapid Deployment: The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement personnel and resources to ongoing, life threatening situation where delayed deployment of personnel could otherwise result in death or great bodily injury to innocent persons. Immediate Action Rapid Deployment tactics are not substitute for conventional response tactics to a barricaded gunman.

Incident Transition: The point in the incident where the individual stops their violent actions and attempts to escape the location or go to barricade.

Rescue Task Force (RTF): The RTF consists of EMS and law enforcement personnel who work together to move victims from a hot zone to a CCP in the warm zone for EMA to access and provide medical care faster. This team must have front and rear guards whose sole job is security.

Static Situations: Where nothing is in motion and the active shooter may be contained in a specific location.

Time Line of Violence: The first violent action until the action has stopped. The individual has moved to another location/activity

Task Force : Any combination of single resources, but typically two to five assembled to meet a specific tactical need.

Operation Zones:

- *The Hot Zone*: The area where there is a known hazard or threat to life that is potentially direct and immediate. This includes any uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage people.
- *The Warm Zone*: The areas where law enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat, and the risk is minimal or has been mitigated. This area may be considered clear but not secure.

- *The Cold Zone*: The area where there is little or no threat. It may include the outside of the building or an area law enforcement has secured. It is safe to operate in this zone.

#### IV. PROCEDURE

##### A. Law Enforcement Priorities

1. Lives of the innocent and the victims
2. Lives of law enforcement officers
3. Lives of the suspect(s)

##### B. Procedures

###### 1. Introduction

- a. These scenarios require immediate action and rapid deployment of patrol personnel prior to the arrival of the tactical team. In these cases delayed deployment could have catastrophic consequences. These scenarios often involve ongoing “shots fired” calls. These scenarios may necessitate the immediate and rapid deployment of law enforcement personnel to contain and prevent the escape of an armed and dangerous person (s).
- b. The active threat concept represents a shift in patrol response tactics, equipment needs and command protocol. These situations require initial police responders arriving on scene to have authority and the capability to take action without waiting for command staff or for the arrival of specialty units such as the Special Weapons and Tactics Team (ERT) or Crisis Negotiator.

###### 2. Characteristics of an Active Threat

- a. Active threats usually focus on assaulting persons with whom they come in contact. Their intention is usually an expression of hatred or rage rather than the commission of a crime.
- b. An active threat is likely to engage more than one target. Active threats may be intent on killing a large number of people as quickly as possible.
- c. Generally, the first indication of the presence of an active threat is when they begin to assault victims.
- d. Active threats often go to locations where potential victims are close at hand, such as schools, theaters, concerts, or shopping malls. Active threats may act in the manner of a sniper, assaulting victims from a

distance. Active threats may also engage multiple targets while remaining constantly mobile.

- e. Tactics such as containment and negotiation, normally associated with standoff incidents may not be adequate in active threat events. Active threats typically continue their attack despite the arrival of first responders.
- f. Active threats are often better armed than police, sometimes making use of explosives, booby traps and body armor. Active threats are not limited to the use of firearms in accomplishing their attacks on victims. They may use bladed weapons, vehicles or any tool that, in the circumstance in which it is used, constitutes deadly physical force.
- g. Active threats may have a planned attack and be prepared for sustained confrontation with the police. Historically, active threats have not attempted to hide their identity or conceal the commission of their attacks. Escape from the police is usually not a priority for the active threat.
- h. Active threats may deploy some type of diversion.
- i. Active threats may be indiscriminate in their violence or may seek specific victims.
- j. Active threats may be suicidal, deciding to die in the course of their actions either at the hand of others or by self-inflicted wound.
- k. Active threats usually have some degree of familiarity with the building or location they choose to occupy.
- l. Active threats are dynamic and may go in and out of an “active” status; a static incident may turn into an active threat or an active threat may go “inactive” by going to a barricaded status without access to victims.

### 3. Communications Responsibilities

- a. Lexington Emergency Communications will act as the link between the responding officers and the individuals within the active threat situation. As such, Communications personnel must try to gather as much information about the active threat(s) and any other facts that may assist the responding officers.
- b. Communications personnel will, upon receipt of the call of an active threat, dispatch all available police units to the scene, will dispatch EMS to the prearranged staging areas, and fire units to the prearranged staging

and access control points. EMS units from adjoining towns will also be requested and advised to proceed to the staging area.

- c. Communications personnel will notify the supervisor, Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Lieutenant, and the Public Information Officer.
- d. Communications will advise caller to instruct others to take reasonable precautions to protect themselves by: sheltering-in-place (hide-out); evacuating; or as a last resort, taking action against the active threat if their life is in imminent danger.
- e. Communications personnel will notify all members of the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office ERT Team (ERT). Additionally, Communications personnel will notify the Virginia State Police and the Rockbridge County Sheriff's Office and request assistance.
- f. Once proper law enforcement, fire and EMS agencies are notified, Lexington Emergency Communications personnel will activate the public notification system (Everbridge, Reverse 911, Twitter, etc.) regarding the incident. Such notification should include instructions on civilian/parent staging area to await further instructions. Unless designated by the Board of Education (if a school based incident) in their public notification, the civilian/parent staging area will be the media staging area.
- g. Media members will be directed to the pre-determined media staging area, and all media inquiries will be directed to the Public Information Officer.

#### 4. Response Guidelines

- a. Active threats incidents are dynamic, evolving and sufficiently individualistic that procedures should be referred to as guidelines not limitations on police response to an active shooter situation. The significant factor of these tactics is that they represent a means of intervention with an elevated risk to officers and bystanders. This risk is deemed acceptable in light of the potential these tactics represent for saving lives. Officers arriving at the scene of an active shooter are authorized to intervene prior to the arrival of command personnel and specialized units.
  - i. **Goal:** The purpose of intervention is to save lives and prevent injuries. The law enforcement goal is neutralization by denying access to additional victims, rescuing injured victims and/or rescuing potential victims.

- ii. **Response:** These events are manpower intensive and require the collective experience and effort of all units to resolve. It is imperative that officers respond immediately and safely, adhering to established department policy and applicable laws.
- iii. **Equipment Considerations:** All responding officers must wear body armor. ERT officers shall deploy with assigned specialized equipment. Plain clothes officers should be clearly identifiable by the use of a tactical vest with POLICE lettering clearly visible.
- iv. **Arrival:** The first arriving officers should approach the location cautiously, watching for suspicious activity. Position police vehicles so as to serve as an observation post and allow for cover as well. The first arriving unit shall attempt to confirm the dispatched call by witness information, observation or other means.
- v. **Assume Tactical Responsibility:** One initial officer must take charge of the active shooter incident. Assumption of responsibility may be based upon rank, expertise or seniority. However, such must be made immediately clear to both communications as well as to other officers. Assumption of responsibility may be passed to a superior officer upon their arrival and update of the situation. Any change in command will be made known to communications and all officers.
- vi. **Situational Analysis:** The analysis will be continuous, taking into account new information from communications as well as observations of officers and witnesses. The analysis must lead to a decision as to whether the situation is an active shooter event, whether opportunity exists for immediate intervention leading to the accomplishment of the law enforcement goal, and how responding units and resources should be deployed at the scene.
- vii. **Incident Command:** No action will be taken that is unplanned or without controls. The first officer arriving on scene will initiate the incident command. They will initiate the analysis and determine initial deployment of responding resources. At least one person possessing all available information on tactical plans will remain at the command post to brief arriving personnel. Command personnel en route to the incident will monitor the radio to gain information, but shall not obstruct ongoing intervention. Command personnel must be on scene and fully briefed before assuming incident command.

- viii. **Contact Team:** When responding to active threat incidents, the Lexington Police Department endorses the concept of first responder tactical intervention. It is critical that all officers, supervisors and command personnel are familiar with the definition of active threat as well as the tactics deemed appropriate for active shooter response. The first responding officers on scene should enter the building as “Contact Team 1” and determine if the threat is still active or if the situation has evolved into a barricade/hostage situation. First responding officers can utilize discretion to determine whether they should wait for SWAT or a negotiator, or if life is actively being threatened, how to neutralize the threat to minimize loss of life. First responder intervention will be based on opportunity. Contact teams will be in the form of officers with an identified unit leader. Team movement will be in a controlled and disciplined tactical action under the control and direction of the unit leader
- ix. **Perimeter/Containment:** After deployment of Contact Teams, additional arriving units should move to perimeter positions immediately surrounding the event location, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor on scene. Perimeter officers should maintain positions of cover/concealment, watching for suspicious activity to include any suspect(s) attempting to escape. Site containment will be left to the discretion of the first officer on scene that assumes incident responsibility and initiates the situation assessment. Containment of an active shooter incident may take the form of officers serving in an “observe and report” capacity.
- x. **Active Threat Site Security:** No location associated with an active shooter will be considered secure until the ERT commander declares it so. Officer assigned to the security function will maintain position until properly relieved.
- xi. **Emergency Response Team:** When ERT is deployed, the initial responding officers may be relieved or redeployed by ERT.

## 5. Rescue Task Force Procedures

- a. Law Enforcement Responsibilities
  - i. Prior to the deployment of a Rescue Task Force, specific thresholds must be met. These thresholds include:
    - 1) There are confirmed injuries

- 2) **Unified Command must be established prior to deploying the RTF.** (See General Order 7.03: Response to Unusual Occurrences) U/C may be established initially via radio but ultimately face-to-face. A shared command post should be established as soon as possible.
- 3) Establish and deploy Contact Teams to stop the threat.
- 4) Establish a Protective Element.
- 5) Identify and establish Entry Corridor, Warm Zone and Casualty Collection Point.

b. Protection Element Procedures

- i. Rescue Task Force Teams shall have, at a minimum, 2 law enforcement officers with lethal cover making up its Protection Element when escorting fire personnel to give adequate security.
- ii. General formation is one Protection Element officer up front covering 180 degrees of front and one Protection Element officer in rear covering 180 degrees to rear. When possible, assigning more Protection Element personnel to Rescue Task Force Teams is preferred (4-person protection element is the optimal staffing).
- iii. During injury retrieval, the Protection Element shall be tasked with EMS covering/security as first priority. However, the Protection Element officers must also prepare for new, active threats, at all times.
- iv. Rescuers may be tasked with treating and assisting, carrying, dragging injured back to Casualty Collection Point with security from the Protection Element officers.
- v. To maintain the highest level of effectiveness, safety and efficiency, law enforcement and EMS personnel are tasked with the responsibilities and objectives that they are trained and skilled in (operate in your lane/expertise while working side-by-side and in conjunction with other disciplines). EMS treat and conduct injury care, Law Enforcement provide security and deal with threats.
- vi. Injury retrieval security, when possible, should be enhanced by placing static Protection Element personnel along hallways (long cover) and at strategic locations (hallway junctions, overview locations, etc.) throughout the structure to reduce threats and



improve security measures.

c. Evacuation of External Injured

i. Rescue Task Force Teams (Consisting of Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement)

- 1) The goal is to get all injured to a medical facility for advanced medical treatment **within 60 minutes of notification of an active shooter.**
- 2) All Rescue Task Forces should generally consist of the following positions
  - a) Protection Element (L.E.) - Provide security measures for Rescue Task Force.
  - b) Rescuer/EMS/F.F. (EMS or L.E.) – Tasked with rendering aid and removing injured.
  - c) Rescue Task Force Team Leader (L.E.) – Coordinate and direct Rescue Task Force in its tasks
- 3) All Rescue Task Forces should have a designated Team Leader (law enforcement) to reduce confusion and minimize needless communication. The Team Leader should generally handle all communication with the Tactical Group (co-located with Triage group) unless communication responsibilities are reassigned within the Team.
- 4) The Rescue Task Force Team Leader is tasked with coordination and direction of Rescue Task Force and its assignment/s.
- 5) All Rescue Task Forces shall have law enforcement officers assigned to be the Team's Protection Element. The Protection Element will provide security measures for the Rescue Task Force.
- 6) A Rescue Task Force has Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or Firefighters (F.F.) assigned to the Team as "Rescuers" - **ALL UNARMED RESCUERS (EMS/F.F.) MUST HAVE MEMBERS OF THE PROTECTION ELEMENT (L.E.) PHYSICALLY WITH THEM**

**PROVIDING SECURITY MEASURES AT ALL TIMES WHILE IN THE WARM AND HOT ZONES OF AN INCIDENT.** The only time EMS and F.F. can be without an assigned Protection Element physically with them is when they are in the cold zones (i.e., staging areas). If you are assigned to a Protection Element for F.F. or E.M.S., you shall not physically leave them at any time while they are in the warm or hot zone.

- ii. Victims that are injured but ambulatory should be directed—verbally or with hand motions—to move to a perimeter position or in a safe direction away from the building structure. Those victims evacuated from the site need to be gathered and interviewed at a later time.
- iii. The location of where injured are being initially evacuated to must be communicated to Incident Command so Fire/EMS/Ambulance personnel can be made aware.

6. Supervisor Responsibilities

- a. The first arriving supervisor shall assume command of the Contact Team operations until relieved by a higher authority. The first responding supervisors duties are:
  - i. Attempt to verify the reported active threat if not already done
  - ii. Form additional Contact teams, as necessary, and organize efforts to stop the active threat
- b. The next arriving supervisor shall assume command of the perimeter operations, and their duties are:
  - i. Establish the command post and notify communications of its location
  - ii. Determine the need for additional resources, including but not limited to:
    - 1) Additional police units, including specialized units
    - 2) Fire Units
    - 3) EMS units
    - 4) Other needed resources

- iii. Establish a medical staging area for victims
- iv. Work with fire units posted at the access control points to direct all traffic away from the scene.
- v. Once the scene has been deemed safe, the on-scene supervisor shall secure the scene and remove any unnecessary units. Control of the scene shall be turned over to the Criminal Investigative Division. Any person that entered the structure shall remain on-scene until released by the Incident Commander or designee.

7. Post Incident Evaluation

- a. A post incident evaluation shall be conducted following any active threat response, whether it was an actual threat or a false alarm. Such evaluation shall ensure compliance with this policy as well as identify any equipment/training needs identified by such response.

8. Development of Intervention Tactics / Training

- a. All sworn personnel and dispatchers of the Lexington Police Department will receive annual training on active threat events which may include: Roll Call Training/Briefings, classroom instruction and/or practical application. This instruction will be provided by members of the Lexington Police Department regional Emergency Response Team or other qualified, trained law enforcement instructors.

9. Doumented Annual Review

- a. Annually, the Chief of Police, or their designee, shall review this policy and any active threat events which may have occurred. Such evaluation will ensure compliance with this policy, ensure compliance with the best practices of active threat incidents, and will seek to identify any departmental training needs