

TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

<i>Effective Date</i> <b>December 1, 2015</b>		<i>Amended Date</i>	<i>Directive</i> <b>7.34.1</b>
<i>Subject</i> <b>Critical Incidents In-Progress (Active Shooter)</b>			
<i>Reference</i>			
<i>Distribution</i> <b>All Personnel City Manager City Attorney</b>	<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> <b>7.34 Critical Incidents In-Progress (Active Shooter)</b>	<i>Review Date</i> <b>November 14, 2023</b>	<i>Pages</i> <b>3</b>

This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

#### **SECTION 1 PURPOSE**

To establish policy and procedures governing the response and activities associated with an active-shooter event that will mitigate any further risk of injury or death to civilians or law enforcement personnel.

#### **SECTION 2 POLICY**

An active shooter is defined as one or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic homicidal spree by demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. The subject's overriding objective appears to be mass murder rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery or kidnapping.

It is the policy of the Department to respond, contain, and stop the threats and to administer aid to the victims.

#### **SECTION 3 PROCEDURES**

- A. The ranking supervisor or officer will notify the chain of command to include the Chief of Police or his designee of any active shooter event. Fire and EMS should be notified and requested to stand by in accordance with their protocols.
- B. Upon arriving at the scene of an active shooter event and after assessing the crime scene, the Department should implement its mutual aid agreements with other police agencies if necessary, and with fire and rescue agencies. Additionally, it may be necessary after the incident to collaborate with recovery agencies to assist with the scene and any victims.
- C. The first two to five responding officers should form a single team and enter the structure. A single officer entering a structure must understand the inherent risk assumed in taking such an action. The first officers entering the structure should recognize that their primary objective is to stop further violence. Officers should identify and communicate locations of victims needing medical attention. If practical, and only absent continued shooting, officers should treat any massive hemorrhaging that may result in the immediate loss of life.

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1. Safe, effective responses to active shooters are designed around concepts and principles. The first responding officers should:
  - a. Stay together as much as possible and enter the involved structure quickly.
  - b. Maximize communication by staying in close contact with other first responders.
  - c. Maximize threat coverage by addressing all angles.
  - d. Visually search involved areas all around and above the team.
  - e. Evaluate rooms from the threshold (commonly referred to as slicing the pie).
  - f. Differentiate between deliberate and direct-to-threat speeds and use the appropriate speed for the circumstances.
  - g. Use cover-contact principles when taking suspects into custody.
- D. Follow-on responders should be directed to victim locations if there is no active threat. Follow-on responders should:
  1. Establish and maintain security in the area that follow-on responders occupy.
  2. Consider the involved structure as unsearched.
  3. Not enter a hallway unannounced if it is occupied by other officers.
  4. Unless what other officers want accomplished is very clear, move to them after notifications and conduct a face-to-face meeting.
  5. Direct victims to safety by utilizing either shelter-in-place or evacuation. If evacuating, establish a cordon of first responders to the desired exit point to ensure safety of victims.
  6. Establish a casualty collection point (CCP) for injured persons. The CCP should be a room or open area (if outside of the structure) capable of holding all victims with injuries that require medical treatment. A series of rooms next to each other can be considered if casualties exceed available space.
  7. Communicate with all involved responders to ensure the area remains secure while facilitating victim treatment.
- E. Responses to an active-shooter event must include the aftermath of the incident. Officers should apply the SIM model (Security / Immediate Action Plan / Medical).
  1. Security should take priority. Responding officers must ensure that the immediate environment in which they are working remains secure, particularly if the active shooter remains a threat.

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2. After officers address known threats, they should formulate an immediate action plan as quickly as possible. This plan should be quick and simple and address: “if / then” – the fluid variables of the situation.
  3. Responding officers should address medical issues as soon as they establish security and have an immediate action plan in place.
- F. Should there be an exchange of gunfire, the Department will implement the officer-involved-shooting policy and respond accordingly.
- G. All requests for information should be referred to the Public Information Officer (PIO) for vetting and coordination. Consideration should be given to establishing a media staging location that is not within the immediate vicinity of the active-shooter event.
- H. RESPONSIBILITY
1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
  2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.