

TOWN OF CHEEKWAGA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Effective: October 9, 2015	Subject: ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS
Rescinded:	

GENERAL ORDER O-9-6

PURPOSE

To provide a policy for the swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to on-going life threatening situations where the coordination between Police, Fire, and EMS could possibly increase the likelihood of saving lives and suspect apprehension.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Cheektowaga Police Department to protect life by any legal means possible. Officers responding to an active shooter incident shall accomplish this goal by utilizing the procedures in this policy to make contact with the active shooter(s) and stop the threat. This may include, but not limited to arrest, containment or use of deadly force. Any use of force must be in compliance with the department's use of force policy (A-12-1) and Article 35 of the New York State Penal Law.

The philosophy driving this policy recognizes the aggressive deadly behavior of an active shooter must be stopped before he/she can injure or kill any more innocent persons. It is the duty and responsibility of the responding officers to use all legal means to arrest, contain or otherwise eliminate the threat caused by an active shooter(s). The prioritization of activities, in their order of importance is:

1. Stop the active shooter
2. Rescue the victims in coordination with Fire and EMS
3. Facilitate evacuation
4. Preserve the crime scene

While it is important to provide medical treatment to the wounded, it is our duty as law enforcement officers to first protect all innocent life by stopping the actions of the active shooter.

DEFINITIONS

Active Shooter One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. Their overriding objective appears to be that of mass murder, rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery, hostage taking, etc.

For purposes of this policy, the term "active shooter" will also include anyone who uses any other deadly weapons (knife, club, bow and arrow, explosives, etc) to systematically or randomly inflict death or great bodily harm on people.

Barricaded subject Any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, officers or others in the community and who is in a stronghold position.

Hostage Any person held by another against his/her will by force, threat, expressed or implied.

Contact Team - Officers who are assigned to pursue an active shooter. The focus of the contact team is to make contact as soon as possible and stop the active shooter by arrest, containment or use of deadly physical force. The team will move towards the location of the active shooter or if the situation dictates, take up containment positions to assist with insertion of Rescue/EMS teams. The contact team will not do a thorough clearing but will continue to move past victims or distractions. The location of the victims may be relayed to the rescue team.

Rescue/EMS Team – Teams consisting of officers and firemen. The Rescue/EMS Teams will locate and assist in the removal of injured victims and direct uninjured victims to a casualty collection point (CCP) or secure location.

DEPLOYMENT CRITERIA

Contact/Rescue Teams will be deployed if any of the following criteria are present:

1. The event is ongoing and the active shooter is actively engaged in causing death or serious physical injury.
2. Direct offensive action by the police is necessary to contain the movements and the continued aggressive actions of the active shooter.
3. The situation has escalated to the point where immediate intervention and direct tactical intervention is necessary to stabilize the incident.
4. A victim is injured and an immediate recovery may be necessary to prevent death or further bodily harm.

DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURE

A. Dispatch

1. Obtain as much information from the caller as possible such as:
 - Number of gunmen
 - Physical description including age
 - Last known sighting of gunmen which will help determine initial deployment location
 - Types of weapons
 - If hostages are taken
 - Conditions of victims
2. Notify Patrol Force, Watch Commander and Lead PSD
3. Activate Fire/EMS Personnel – Give location of command location
4. Notify surrounding jurisdictions via chatter

B. Initial Responding Officers

1. Assess situation and attempt to obtain as much information as possible as to location of active shooter(s).
2. Request and advise Dispatch of all pertinent information
3. Attempt to determine point of entry based on active shooter's activity, witness reports and observations.
4. Give out on radio door number where officer will make entry and make attempt to link up with other officers.
5. Attend to and evacuate injured persons if safe to do so.
6. Make entry.
7. If at any time the situation changes to a barricade or Hostage situation and the shooter is no longer "active", standard protocol for such situations can be transitioned too.

C. Initial Responding Supervision

1. Establish Incident Command
2. Report to dispatch location of command
3. Assess information & formulate plan for response to incident
 - Coordinate arrival of responding units
4. If possible, assist in setting up staging areas
 - Casualty Collection Point
 - Evacuated persons
 - Assisting Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Responding family members
 - Press
 - Any other personnel equipment needed at scene
5. The Supervisor will assist in transition of officers and information to the Tactical Unit, if the situation dictates.

POST INCIDENT

Cheektowaga Police Protocol for handling of the post events of a critical incident will be followed.

Date:	Chief of Police:
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