

Active Shooter Incidents

413.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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.

413.2 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 is 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 and Article 35 of the New York State Penal Law.

The philosophy driving this policy recognizes that 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:

- (a) Stop the active shooter
- (b) Rescue the victims in coordination with Fire and EMS
- (c) Facilitate evacuation
- (d) 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.

413.3 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.

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413.4 DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURE

Dispatch

- (a) Obtain as much information from the caller as possible such as:
 - 1. Number of gunmen
 - 2. Physical description including age
 - 3. Last known sighting of gunmen which will help determine initial deployment location
 - 4. Types of weapons
 - 5. If hostages are taken
 - 6. Conditions of victims
- (b) Notify patrol force, watch commander and lead PSD
- (c) Notify surrounding jurisdiction via chatter

Initial Responding Officers

- (a) Assess the situation and advise dispatch of pertinent information.
- (b) Make entry and engage the active shooter.
- (c) 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 to.
- (d) Attend to, and evacuate, injured person (s) if safe to do so.

413.5 POST INCIDENT

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

413.6 TRAINING

The Personnel Development Unit Lieutenant should include rapid response to critical incidents in the training plan. This training should address:

- (a) Orientation to likely critical incident target sites, such as schools, shopping centers, entertainment venues and sporting event venues.
- (b) Communications interoperability with other law enforcement and emergency service agencies.
- (c) Patrol first-response training, including patrol rifle, shotgun, breaching tool and control device training.
- (d) First aid, including gunshot trauma.
- (e) Reality-based scenario training (e.g., active shooter, disgruntled violent worker).