


**LANCASTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL**

Effective Date September 2, 2015		Amended Date December 12, 2017		Directive 8.01.1	
Subject Tactical Incidents and Responses					
Reference				Approved  Chief of Police	
Distribution All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		TPCA Best Practices <i>Recognition Program Reference</i> 8.01; 8.07; 8.08; 8.09; 8.12		Review Date December 12, 2017	
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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

This directive provides general guidelines for responding to high-risk and tactical incidents.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the department that when responding to high risk situations such as in a hostage or barricaded subject situation, to consider the lives of civilian and officers involved to be of the utmost importance; whenever possible, to enhance the prospects of peacefully resolving the incident through communication with the suspect.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

1. For each of the tactical incident types discussed in this directive, certain general response procedures apply and should be followed. Procedures may vary according to the actual scenario and circumstances.
2. Securing Scene
 - a. Officers responding to a tactical incident or when a tactical incident develops after the officers' arrival shall immediately secure the area and establish a perimeter.
 - b. The size or area of the perimeter will be dictated by the incident location. The larger the area in which the person is located or the higher number of potential targets that exist will expand the perimeter exponentially.
3. Incident Command
 - a. The first officer on the scene will be the incident commander until relieved by a higher ranking supervisor.
 - b. The incident command should be established in accordance with established procedures.

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- c. The supervisor will request the SRRG–Special Response Team (SRRG-SRT) be notified, and if necessary, will request for the SRRG–Crisis Negotiations Team (SRRG-CNT) be notified as well.

4. Medical Assistance

- a. Tactical incidents have a high probability of resulting in some type of casualty. Therefore, medical assistance should be placed on standby and staged in an area outside the perimeter. The Fire Department will be responsible for determining the level of response based on the information that is provided by the incident command staff.

5. Use of and Activating SRRG–Special Response Team (SRRG–SRT)

- a. For many high-risk, tactical scenarios, the SRRG–SRT may be needed to resolve the conflict or to prevent further escalation of the conflict.

B. MAJOR INCIDENT (TPCA 8.08) (12-12-2017)

- 1. A major incident is defined as an unplanned major event of significant public or community interest that requires an extraordinary response by the police. Typically these are unexpected mass gatherings fueled by a common concern or theme that result in multiple arrest and/or property damage. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- a. unplanned or unpermitted gatherings that lead to civil disobedience and are focused on the action(s) of police personnel (a controversial officer-involved use of force incident); or
- b. unexpected celebratory crowd that turns riotous or destructive (a crowd celebrating a sports event that degrades to property damage and mass arrest.)

C. LARGE SCALE DISASTERS OR UNUSUAL HAZARDOUS EVENTS (TPCA 8.07c)

- 1. For guidance related to natural disasters, man-made disasters, hazardous materials, biohazard incidents, etc. see City of Lancaster Emergency Management Plan and Annex A-V.

D. BARRICADED PERSON (TPCA 8.01)

- 1. As resources become available, officers should begin canvassing neighbors, family members, and other acquaintances of the barricaded person in order to gather information about the barricaded person that might be helpful for the SRRG–SRT and SRRG-CNT members in developing their response plans. Information gathered should relate to:

- a. the barricaded person's mental state, biographical background, and possible motivation;
- b. weapon types and locations within the premises (and proficiency with the weapons);
- c. layout of the premises, including all doors and windows, and potentially covert locations inside the premises;

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- d. medications the barricaded person may be taking or should be taking but has not;
- e. who the intended target may be;
- f. persons the barricaded person trusts

2. Entry by non-SRRG-SRT personnel should be avoided, unless immediate entry is absolutely necessary to prevent imminent serious bodily injury or death. If the barricaded person is alone, the urgency to enter is lessened considerably.

E. HOSTAGE SITUATION (TPCA 8.01)

- 1. As resources become available, officers should canvass neighbors, family members, and other acquaintances of the hostage and hostage taker to gather information about those persons that might be helpful for the SRRG-SRT and SRRG-CNT members.
- 2. Entry by non-SRRG-SRT personnel should be avoided unless credible information indicates that serious bodily injury or death is imminent if action is not taken.

F. ACTIVE SHOOTER

- 1. An active shooter is one who is unlawfully discharging a firearm at an intended target or multiple targets. The term or scenario is normally associated with a school setting, but can be any setting.
- 2. The goal of first responders is to eliminate the threat as quickly as possible, without any unnecessary delay. Once a team of first responders has arrived, the team should immediately seek out the assailant and neutralize the situation.

G. CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND RIOTS (TPCA 8.07a)

- 1. The initial responding officers will assess the situation and the level of response that is immediately needed.
- 2. Once the resources arrive, the incident command will monitor the need for additional resources.
- 3. Responding officers should not attempt to take enforcement action against the crowd until directed to do so by the responding supervisor or by the incident commander.
- 4. If an officer-involved shooting occurs within the affected area, every attempt will be made to secure the scene for investigation. However, if the violence creates an additional safety hazard, the scene may have to be abandoned until control can be achieved.
- 5. Once the crowd has been disbursed or stabilized; looting prevention in the affected area(s) shall become a priority.

H. MASS ARRESTS (TPCA 8.07b)

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1. Generally, a mass arrest is associated with a riot or civil disturbance, where the number of arrests exceeds the resources that are available in the field to arrest and immediately transport the arrested persons.
 2. The department will utilize mutual aid as needed to assist in the detention and transport of arrested persons to the jail.
 3. Prior to transporting arrested persons to the regional jail, the incident command post will contact the jail to advise them the number of arrested persons and to get direction on how many prisoners may be transported to the jail. The incident command will coordinate with area jails to house the prisoners.
 4. The incident command will maintain a list of all prisoners and the jails to which they were transported.
- I. **BIO HAZARD INCIDENTS (TPCA 8.12)**
1. Officers responding to a known bio hazard incident should not respond directly to the location. Instead, the fire department will be notified for the response since they are specially trained and equipped to handle these events.
 2. The Fire Department will contain and decontaminate the bio hazard location.
 3. The Police Department will provide perimeter control and evacuation functions.
- J. **AFTER-ACTION CRITIQUE AND REPORT (TPCA 8.08)**
1. After an incident, the incident commander will conduct an after action debriefing to critique a tactical operation discussed in this directive. The debriefing should minimally include the incident command staff, supervisory personnel who were at the incident, and the initial responding officers.
 2. The report must include the following information:
 - a. description of incident;
 - b. description of resources used;
 - c. description of property damaged or statement that no property was damaged;
 - d. description of injuries to any person or statement that no injuries occurred;
 - e. description of arrests made (number and charges known at time of report) or statement that no arrests were made;
 - f. description of problems encountered in mobilizing or deploying personnel or in communications;

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- g. the result of the situation;
- h. recommendations for the future;
- i. if SRRG-SRT responded and took an active role in the incident, the after-action report will be prepared by the SRRG-SRT commander; otherwise, the patrol commander will prepare the report

K. REVIEW OF EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN

- 1. At least biennial, the City of Lancaster's emergency operations plan will be reviewed. (TPCA 8.09)
- 2. A log documenting any changes (including no changes) will be maintained with the master copy of the plan.

L. SCOPE OF 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.