

Burleson Police Department

Administrative Policy and Procedures

Number: 07-0015

Document Title: Active Threats

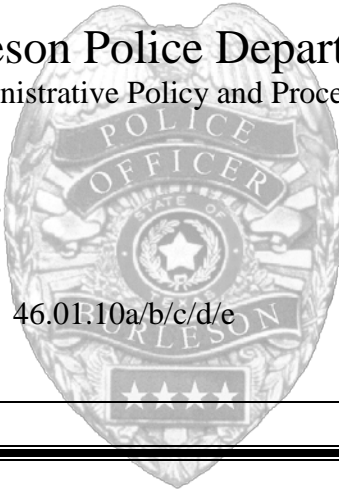
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CALEA Standards Referenced: 46.01.10a/b/c/d/e

ISSUING AUTHORITY: _____

Billy Cordell, Chief of Police



I. PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. **Purpose:** To establish policies and procedures for the Burleson Police Department in response to active threats.
- B. **Responsibility**
 - 1. It will be the responsibility of all personnel of this Police Department to study, understand, and follow the policy and procedures set forth and established in this directive.
 - 2. It will be the responsibility of the Incident Commander to cause the notification and response of additional departmental resources and personnel and mutual aid response.
 - 3. It will be the responsibility of the Public Information Officer to notify and update the media and community of any rapid response event.
 - 4. It will be the responsibility of the Training Coordinator to train all officers and dispatchers in this policy and to conduct an annual review of this policy and training needs.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **ACTIVE THREAT:** An active threat is any deliberate incident that poses an immediate or imminent danger to others. Although these events often involve the use of firearms by perpetrators, they may also involve the use of other types of weapons or implements with the intent to cause harm.
- B. **ACTIVE SHOOTER:** One or more subjects who participate in a random or a 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, hostage taking, etc. For the purpose of this policy, the term "active shooter" will also include anyone who uses any other deadly weapon (knife, club, bow and arrow, explosives, etc.) to systematically or randomly inflict death or serious bodily injury on others over a continuous or extended period of time.
- C. **ACT OF TERRORISM:** An activity that involves an act dangerous to

human life or that is potentially destructive to critical infrastructure or key resources, is a violation of the criminal law, and is intended to intimidate or coerce the civilian population; influence a government; or affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping.

- D. **BARRICADED PERSON**: A situation in which a person(s) who is armed or believed to be armed, suicidal, or mentally unstable resists being taken into custody by barricading themselves in a room, building or other location.
- E. **CONTACT TEAM**: An officer or group of officers who are the first line of police response in a rapid response event. Contact teams move quickly through unsecured areas bypassing the dead, wounded, and panicked citizens with the goals of locating, isolating, and neutralizing the active threat. The optimal number of officers for a contact team is four (4).
- F. **EVACUATION TEAM**: The final line of police response in a rapid response event whose goal is to control the removal of innocent parties to pre-designated safe areas when the threat(s) are contained or eliminated.
- G. **HOSTAGE INCIDENT**: A situation in which a person(s) holds another person(s) against their will by force, threat or violence, and law enforcement officials are present at the scene attempting to obtain the release of the hostage.
- H. **PERIMETER TEAMS (INNER AND OUTER)**: The third line of police response in a rapid response event whose goal is to shrink the perimeters, provide a safe area for the evacuation of injured, cut off suspect escape routes, and allow for the evacuation of a portion of the building.
- I. **RAPID RESPONSE**: The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to an on-going, life-threatening situation where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or serious injury to innocent persons.
- J. **RESCUE TEAM**: The second line of police response in a rapid response event whose goals are to locate injured, provide immediate treatment, triage, and evacuation if necessary. [The rescue team may operate in any zone.](#) If confronted by an active threat they will respond as a contact team. The rescue team will consist of at least four (4) officers when possible.
- K. **RESCUE TASK FORCE**: [The rescue task force is similar to a rescue team but consists of Fire or EMS personnel making entry to locate injured, provide immediate treatment, triage, and evacuation if necessary. The rescue task force operate within the warm zone will consist of at least two \(2\) officers to provide team security and two \(2\) FD/EMS personnel to provide medical treatment within the warm zone.](#)

- L. **HOT ZONE** - Area where there is a known hazard or a direct and immediate life threatening situation, i.e., any uncontrolled area where an “active shooter” could directly engage a rescue team.
- M. **WARM ZONE** - Area of indirect threat, i.e. an area where LE officials have either cleared or isolated the threat to a level of minimal or mitigated risk. This area can be considered clear but not secure.
- N. **COLD ZONE** - An area where there is little or no threat due to geography or having been secured by law enforcement personnel. The triage, treatment, and medical transport units will be established in the Cold Zone.
- O. **CASUALTY COLLECTION POINT** – The location to which patients are evacuated from the Warm Zone to be triaged. This area should be located in the Cold Zone and serves as a marshalling area for standard mass casualty incident treatment actions to begin.

III. POLICY

- A. Burleson Police Department will respond, contain, stop threats, and administer aid to victims. When officers are faced with the ongoing or reasonably likely continuation of the use of deadly force by a suspect(s), and delay in action by police could result in additional deaths or injuries, officers shall use rapid response tactics to stop the active threat.
- B. The on duty supervisor will immediately respond to the incident and take command.
- C. The authority to implement this plan shall rest with the Chief of Police or the command level officer designated Incident Commander.
- D. Burleson Police Department will conduct rapid response operations by providing proper deployment of necessary personnel and equipment to ensure the success of the operation and the safety of all persons involved.
- E. Burleson Police Department will use the services of recognized emergency technicians, trained in bomb disposal operations, when a suspected explosive device has been located.
- F. Burleson Police Department will conduct rescues and evacuations in coordination with the Fire Department, when possible, in a manner that upholds the safety of all persons.
- G. Burleson Police Department will preserve the scene as a crime scene after the incident has concluded. In the event of any mass casualty incidents, refer to

BPD SOP 07-002 Emergency Operations Plan.

IV. PROCEDURES**A. OFFICER RESPONSE [46.1.10c]**

1. All on-duty officers and uniformed officers working an extra duty job that are not on an emergency call will respond to an active threat situation.
2. All S.W.A.T. and CNT members will be notified as soon as possible.
3. All personnel will restrict their radio use for emergency traffic only.
4. Units equipped with emergency lighting and siren will respond code three when advised by dispatch or incident command.
5. During a rapid response event, officers will prioritize response by the following:
 - a. Stop the threat(s)
 - b. Rescue the victims
 - c. Provide medical assistance
 - d. Conduct a safety sweep for unknown hazards
 - e. Evacuate citizens; and
 - f. Preserve the crime scene.
6. Officers should make entry at a location other than the main entrance, if possible, as this is the place where a suspect might logically set up barricades, explosives, or an ambush. Officers will have the authority to breach another location if needed, make entry, and stop the active threat.
7. **Initial Response [46.1.10c]**
 - a. The initial responding officers have the responsibility for stopping active threats.
 - b. A single officer entering a structure is not ideal but must be allowed to act singularly if the officer feels that a delay in entry will place more victims in danger and waiting for more officers will allow the suspect(s) more time to injure or kill more victims. The single officer must understand the inherent risk assumed in taking such action.
 - c. The first officers on scene will form a contact team and:
 1. Stay together as much as possible and enter the involved structure quickly
 2. Maximize communication by maintaining contact with other first responders and dispatch
 3. Maximize threat coverage by addressing all angles
 4. Perform threshold evaluations (the technique used to search the majority of a room prior to entering the room)
 5. Differentiate between “slow search” (no active threat) and

“direct-to-threat” speeds (active threat present) and use the appropriate speed for the circumstances

6. Differentiate between a rapid response situation and a barricaded person/hostage incident and respond appropriately; and
7. Use cover-contact principles when taking suspects into custody.

8. **Additional Arriving Officers**

- a. Additional arriving officers will:
 1. Establish a command post/staging area and continue the incident command system (ICS/NIMS). Any change in incident command will be made known to officers and dispatch
 2. Form additional contact teams **or rescue teams**
 3. **Establish a Warm Zone**, Form rescue **task force** in coordination with the Fire Department **to triage, treat, and evacuate injured persons from the scene**
 4. Establish a perimeter and perimeter teams
 5. Establish evacuation teams and coordinate evacuations to a designated area
 6. Coordinate medical support and a Casualty Collection Point for injured persons capable of holding victims with injuries that require medical treatment
 7. Conduct a safety sweep for persons and hazards/explosive devices
 8. Maintain communications with other law enforcement personnel and dispatch.
- b. The scene shall be kept secure until the Incident Commander has declared the scene to be opened.

10. **Explosives** [46.1.10c]

- a. When a team locates a possible explosive device:
 1. Visually inspect the device;
 2. Consider alternate route based on condition of device (e.g. timer activated, burning fuse, etc.);
 3. Move quickly away from device;
 4. Do not move or touch the device;
 5. Verbalize location of the device to the rest of the team;
 6. Report location of device to other teams, ICP (Incident Command Post), and dispatch;
 7. Limit use of radios, cell phones, or electronic devices;
 8. Move past device and continue search;
 9. If possible, mark location of device; and
 10. Be aware of possible booby traps.

- b. Emergency personnel trained in bomb disposal will be called when a suspected explosive device has been located.

B. DISPATCH RESPONSE

1. Dispatch shall retrieve and relay as much information from callers as possible and initiate a CAD entry.
2. Necessary units, including the on duty supervisor, will be dispatched to the event.
3. Dispatch shall direct all responding units to one radio channel and keep the radio channel closed for emergency traffic.
4. Dispatch shall confirm that the S.W.A.T, CNT, command staff, and Chief of Police have been notified of the incident.
5. Dispatch shall stage medics and confirm that the Fire Chief is notified of the event. Available units will escort fire personnel to the critically injured and provide cover to that area. If the area can be secured, fire/EMS personnel will treat the wounded.
6. At the direction of the Incident Commander, Dispatch will be responsible for requesting mutual aid and recall of off duty personnel. [46.1.10b]

C. MUTUAL AID [46.1.10b]

1. Upon assessing the scene, additional law enforcement, fire and rescue agencies may be requested by the incident commander.
2. Mutual aid will be requested as needed.

D. MEDIA

1. All requests for information should be funneled through the Police Department Public Information Officer (PIO) for vetting and coordination. Consideration should be given to establish a media staging location that is not within the immediate vicinity of the event. The PIO will utilize media outlets to notify the public of awareness and safety concerns. [46.1.10a]
2. If necessary, measures will be taken to establish public sheltering. The PIO will keep the media informed of public sheltering and current containment areas of the incident to be passed on to the community. [46.01.10 d]
3. The city's PIO, at the direction of the Chief or their designee, will be responsible for sending information over the city website, social media, and the emergency notification system. [46.1.10a]

E. POST INCIDENT REVIEW

1. The Incident Commander will prepare an After Action Report.
2. All offense reports and forms will be completed as required.
3. The Chief of Police, or their designee, will conduct a department

- debriefing.
- 4. Professional counseling will be provided to involved employees as appropriate.

F. **TRAINING**

- 1. All communications and sworn personnel will be trained in this policy at least bi-annually.
- 2. Hands-on rapid response training for sworn personnel will be conducted at least triennially. The training will include self-aid/buddy aid and basic medical training when possible.

G. **ANNUAL REVIEW:**

- 1. The Training Coordinator will complete an annual review of this directive and training needs. [46.1.10 e]