

# SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE MANUAL



RM 532.04



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01-31-2020

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to allow initial responding officer(s) the authority and responsibility to take immediate action in response to active shooter incidents with the primary goal of stopping and, if necessary, neutralizing the suspect(s) to prevent access to potential victims and to prevent the loss of life. There is the possibility in an active shooter incident for the suspect(s) to cease being an active shooter, take hostages, and/or barricade themselves. If this situation were to occur, standard hostage/barricaded subject procedures would apply (See Hostage Manual RM 532.08).

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### I. GENERAL

Incidents involving active shooters experienced across the country suggest that the typical police response involving containment, isolation, and negotiation may not be adequate. Unlike most criminals, active shooters are likely to continue to use deadly force until intervention occurs or until the shooter decides to stop.

Active shooters represent a shift in patrol response tactics, equipment needs, and command protocol. These situations require the initial police responders arriving on scene to have the authority and capability to take action without waiting for command staff or for the arrival of specialty units such as SWAT or Crisis Negotiators (CNT).

### II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Active Shooter: An active shooter is an armed person(s) who has used deadly force on another person(s) and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.
- B. Contact Team: A team of first responders tasked with rapidly locating and stopping one or more armed suspects who are actively placing people's lives in immediate danger of great bodily injury or death.
- C. "Immediate Action Rapid Deployment" (IARD): A police tactic that provides swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to developing or on-going, life-threatening situations where delayed deployment of emergency personnel could otherwise result in death or significant bodily injury to innocent persons. IARD tactics are not a substitute for conventional response tactics to a barricaded gunman, and they should include the following overall goals:
  - 1. Stop the threat(s)
  - 2. Isolate the suspect(s) from additional potential victims
  - 3. Conduct rescue operations

### III. CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

Characteristics of an active shooter may involve, but are not limited to the following:

- A. Active shooter(s) usually focus on assaulting persons with whom he/she comes in contact. Their intention is usually an expression of hatred or rage rather than the commission of the crime.
- B. An active shooter is likely to engage multiple targets. Active shooters may be intent on killing a number of people as quickly as possible.
- C. Generally, the first indication of the presence of an active shooter is when he/she begins to assault victims.
- D. Active shooters often go to locations where potential victims are close at hand, such as schools, theaters, concerts, or shopping malls. Active shooters may act in the manner of a sniper, assaulting victims from a distance. Active shooters may also engage multiple targets while remaining mobile.
- E. An active shooter may act alone or in tandem with another shooter.
- F. Traditional police tactics such as containment and negotiation, normally associated with standoff incidents, may not be adequate in active shooter events. Active shooters typically continue their attack despite the arrival of first responders.
- G. Active shooters are often better armed than police, sometimes making use of explosives, booby traps, and body armor.
- H. Active shooters may have a planned attack and be prepared for a sustained confrontation with the police. Historically, active shooters have not attempted to hide their identity or conceal the commission of their attacks. Escape from the police is usually not a priority of the active shooter.
- I. Active shooters may employ a diversion.

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- J. Active shooters may be indiscriminate in their violence or they may seek specific victims.
- K. Active shooters may be suicidal, deciding to die in the course of their actions either at the hands of others or by self-inflicted wounds.
- L. Active shooters usually have some degree of familiarity with the building or location they choose to occupy.
- M. Active shooter events are dynamic and may go in and out of an "active" status; a static incident may turn into an active shooter event or an active shooter may become "inactive" by barricading him/herself with or without access to victims.

IV. ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE GUIDELINES

The inherent reluctance of law enforcement to accept any casualties to police personnel and/or innocent civilians during rescue operations actually creates a defensive delay in response, while other less hazardous options are considered. This time delay works in favor of the suspects' planned activities, greatly increasing the likelihood of a higher casualty count among victims. First responding units at the scene shall form a contact team and stop the shooter at the earliest opportunity.

- A. Principles
  - 1. Locate
  - 2. Stop
  - 3. Contain
- B. Considerations while moving through unsecured areas
  - 1. Large area (e.g. businesses, schools, shopping malls, etc.)
  - 2. Time is a factor
  - 3. Limited number of officers
- C. Bypass wounded victims and/or panicked citizens
  - 1. While it is important to provide medical aid to the wounded and dying, it is the duty of officers to first protect lives by stopping the active shooter(s)
  - 2. Direct citizens out the way officers came in or to shelter in place
  - 3. Don't delay

V. ACTIVE SHOOTER ENVIRONMENTS

- A. Schools
  - 1. Large student population
  - 2. Suspect familiar with campus surroundings
  - 3. Suspect may have specific targets
- B. Mall/Business
  - 1. Large indoor infrastructures
  - 2. Multiple entry/exit locations
  - 3. Multiple floors
- C. Open Area
  - 1. Open ground
  - 2. Need for and/or hazard of long range shot (i.e. rifle)
  - 3. Lack of cover and/or concealment for contact team
  - 4. Weather and/or lighting factors

VI. INITIAL RESPONSE

- A. Equipment
  - 1. Basic duty gear
  - 2. Ballistic helmet
  - 3. Ballistic vest
  - 4. Shotgun (if available)
  - 5. Rifle (if available)

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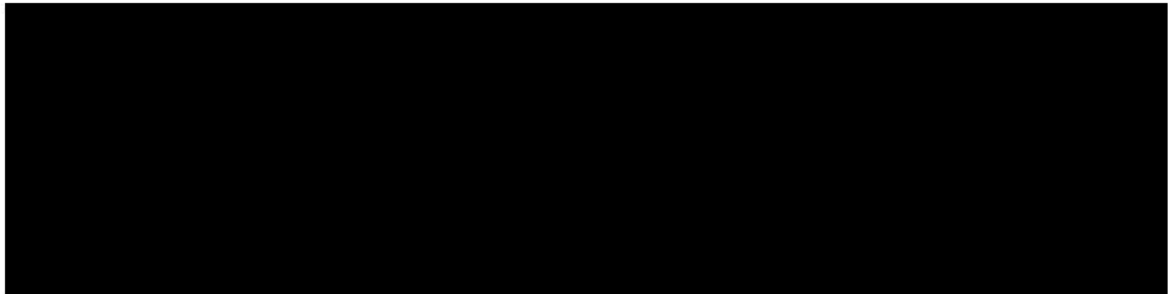
- B. Verify that an active shooter situation exists
  - 1. Visual or auditory reports
  - 2. Witness statements
- C. Form a contact team
  - 1. Assemble a sufficient number of officers
  - 2. Notify dispatch
  - 3. Deploy team

VII. CONTACT TEAM(S)

Team of first responding officers tasked with rapidly locating and stopping one or more armed suspects who are actively placing people's lives in immediate danger of great bodily injury or death.

- A. 

VIII. TACTICAL COMMUNICATION



- D. Update Dispatch to include:
  - 1. Location of contact team(s)
  - 2. Reported location of suspect(s)
  - 3. Status / location of victim(s)

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IX.

[REDACTED]

A.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.

[REDACTED]

B.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1.

[REDACTED]

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1.

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X.

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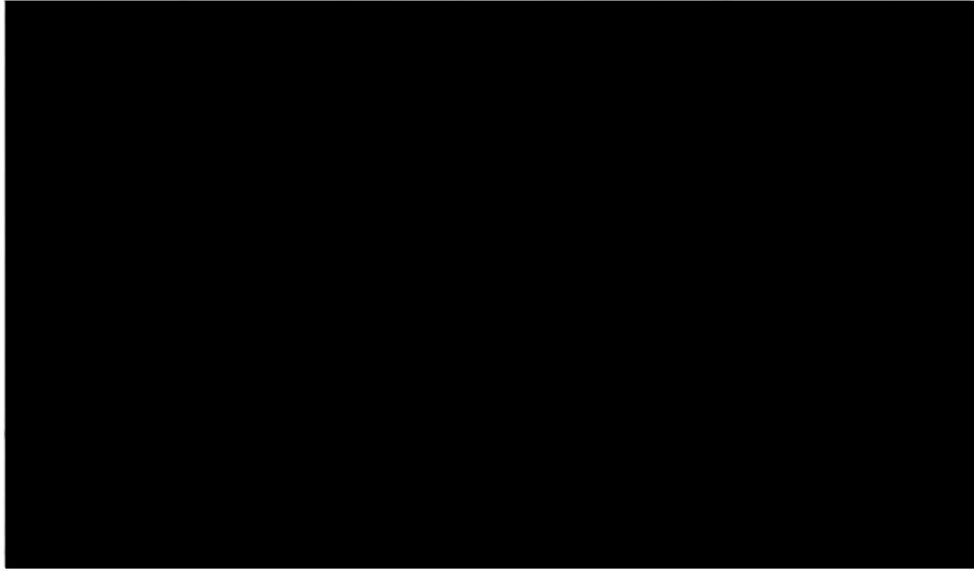
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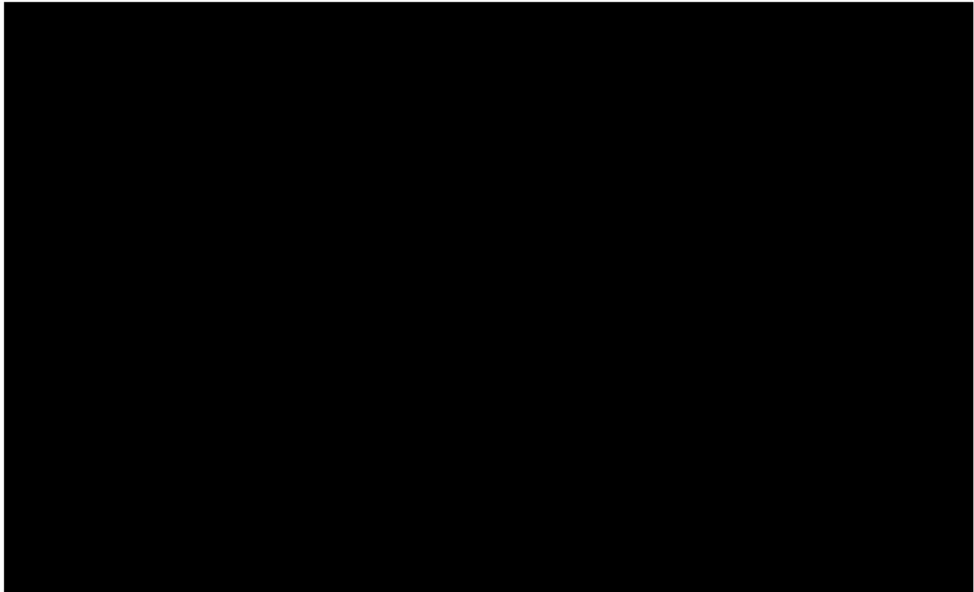
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3.



4.



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XI. BARRICADED SUSPECTS

- A. Contact team(s) unable to obtain entry to area secured by the suspect(s).
- B. Suspect(s) located and contained with or without victims.
- C. Active shooter status becomes “inactive” turning into a barricaded/hostage situation.
- D. Update Dispatch and implement procedures referenced in the Hostage Manual RM 532.08.