

SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT

ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE MANUAL



RM 532.04

09-23-2026



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



POLICY STATEMENT

General Order 110.01 (General Order Authority) implements this manual, requires all employees read, understand, and adhere to this manual relating to active shooter response.

This policy statement is an expansion of active shooter response contained in general orders. It shall be the policy of the Sacramento Police Department to allow initial responding officers the authority and responsibility to take immediate action in response to active shooter incidents with the primary goal of stopping the suspect to prevent access to potential victims and to prevent the loss of life. If an active shooter situation stabilizes into another type of tactical incident (e.g., barricaded subject, hostage situation), standard tactical incident response procedures would apply (See RM 532.08 [Tactical Incident Response Manual]).

While this manual provides guidance and best practices under most active shooter conditions, it is not a substitute for sound judgment. Officers have the authority to deviate from these guidelines to the extent necessary to address emergencies. Nothing in this manual is intended to diminish the decision-making authority of the responding officers as it relates to responding to active shooter incidents.

Compliance with this manual is intended to provide the necessary level of organizational structure and discipline to maximize safety and standardization.

Officers shall report, through the chain of command to the chief of police, any discrepancies or conflicts they discover between the contents of this manual and current law or police procedure.

Zachary Bales
Interim Chief of Police



Table of Contents

Chapters

1. GENERAL	1
2. ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE GUIDELINES	2
3. TEAMS	3
4. CONTACT TEAM FORMATIONS	4
5. RESCUE PROCEDURES.....	11
6. BARRICADED SUSPECTS	13



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



CHAPTER 1 GENERAL

A. GENERAL

1. 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 the shooter decides to stop.
2. 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 supervisory or management staff or the arrival of specialty units (e.g., SWAT or Crisis Negotiations Team [CNT]).

B. DEFINITIONS

1. **ACTIVE SHOOTER** – An armed person who has used deadly force on another person and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.
2. **CONTACT TEAM** – A team of first responding peace officers tasked with rapidly locating and stopping one or more armed suspects who are actively placing any other persons' lives in immediate danger of great bodily injury or death.
3. **IMMEDIATE ACTION RAPID DEPLOYMENT (IARD)** – A tactic that provides swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to developing or ongoing, life-threatening situations where delayed deployment of emergency personnel could otherwise result in death or great bodily harm to innocent persons. IARD, also known as "Crisis Entry," is not a substitute for conventional response tactics to a barricaded subject and should include the following overall goals:
 - a. Stop the threat.
 - b. Isolate the suspect from additional potential victims.
 - c. Conduct rescue operations.

C. CHARACTERISTICS OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

1. Active shooters usually focus on assaulting persons with whom they come in contact. Their intention is generally an expression of hatred or rage rather than the commission of the crime.
2. An active shooter is likely to engage multiple targets. Active shooters may be intent on killing a number of people as quickly as possible.
3. Generally, the first indication of the presence of an active shooter is when they begin to assault victims.
4. Active shooters often target locations where potential victims are close at hand (e.g., schools, theaters, concerts, shopping malls, etc.). 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.
5. An active shooter may act alone or in tandem with another suspect.
6. Traditional police tactics such as containment and negotiation, normally associated with barricaded subjects or hostage situations, may not be adequate in active shooter events.
7. Active shooters typically continue their attack despite the arrival of first responders.
8. Active shooters are often better armed than police, sometimes making use of explosives, booby traps, and body armor.
9. Active shooters may have a planned attack and will 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.
10. Active shooters may employ a diversion.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



11. Active shooters may be indiscriminate in their violence or they may seek specific victims.
12. 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.
13. Active shooters usually have some degree of familiarity with the building or location they choose to occupy.

CHAPTER 2 **ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE GUIDELINES**

- A. The inherent reluctance of peace officers to accept any casualties to law enforcement personnel and innocent civilians during rescue operations 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.
- B. **PRINCIPLES**
 1. Locate.
 2. Stop.
 3. Contain.
- C. **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.
- D. **BYPASS WOUNDED VICTIMS AND 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.
- E. **ACTIVE SHOOTER ENVIRONMENTS**
 1. Schools
 - a. Large student population.
 - b. Suspect familiar with campus surroundings.
 - c. Suspect may have specific targets.
 2. Mall/Business
 - a. Large indoor infrastructures.
 - b. Multiple entry/exit locations.
 - c. Multiple floors.
 3. Open Area
 - a. Lack of cover and concealment for contact team.
 - b. Weather and lighting factors.
- F. **INITIAL RESPONSE**
 1. Equipment
 - a. Basic duty gear.
 - b. Ballistic helmet.
 - c. Ballistic vest.
 - d. Rifle (if available).
 2. Verify That an Active Shooter Situation Exists
 - a. Visual or auditory reports.
 - b. Witness statements.
 3. Form a contact team
 - a. Assemble a sufficient number of officers.



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



- b. Notify dispatch.
- c. Deploy team.

CHAPTER 3 **TEAMS**

A. CONTACT TEAM(S)

1. Team of first responding peace 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.

2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]

B. RESCUE TEAM(S)

1. Team(s) of responding peace officers deployed during the early phases of an active shooter/intentional mass casualty incident to initiate an evacuation of persons from the indirect threat or direct threat zone.

C. RESCUE STRIKE TEAM

1. Team consisting of peace officers and Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) personnel that is deployed after the contact team has stopped or isolated the threat.

2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]

6. If time and personnel issues prohibit the implementation of a rescue strike team then rescue team protocol will be followed.

7. [REDACTED]



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D. TACTICAL COMMUNICATION

[REDACTED]

4. Update dispatch to include
 - a. Location of contact team(s).
 - b. Reported location of suspect(s).
 - c. Status and location of victim(s).

[REDACTED]

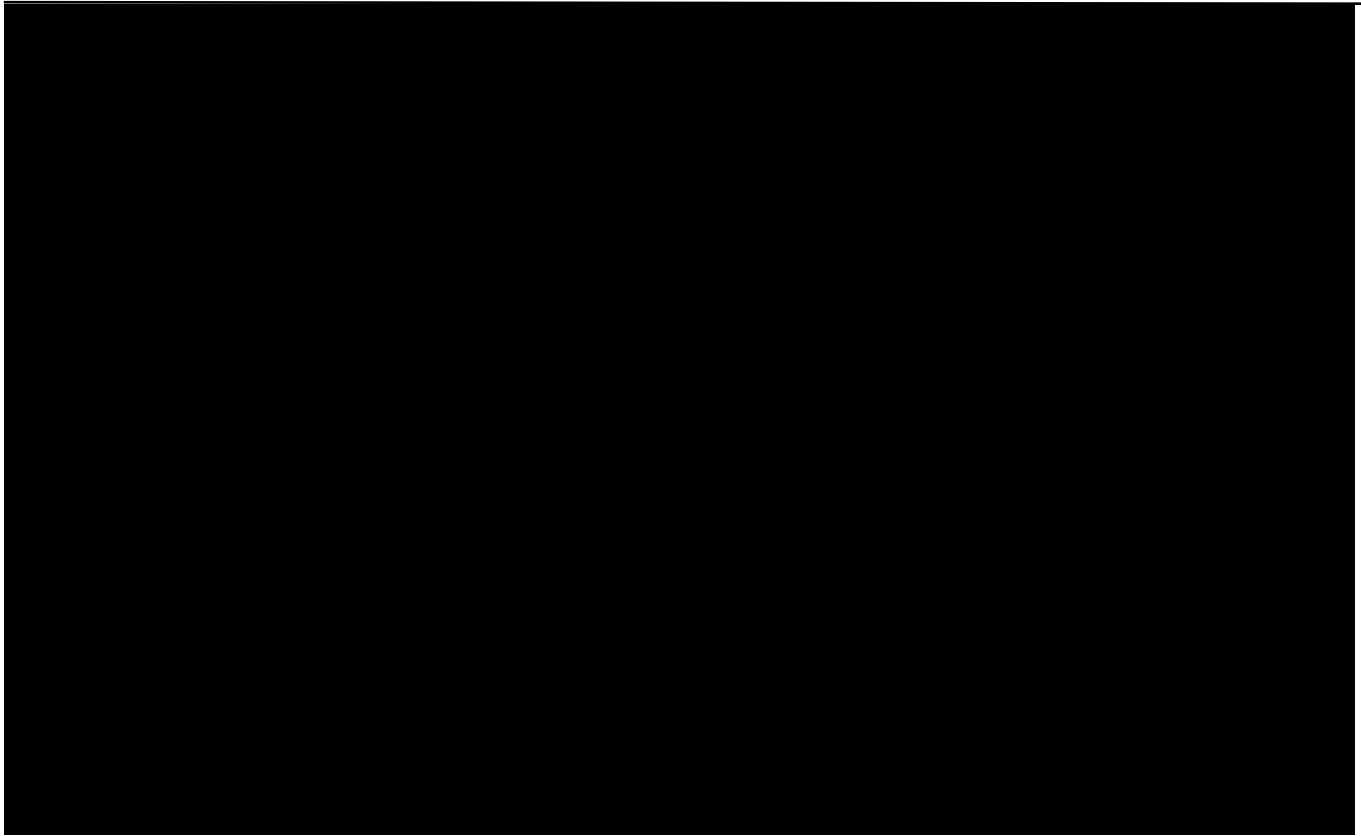
CHAPTER 4 CONTACT TEAM FORMATIONS

- A. [REDACTED]
 1. [REDACTED]

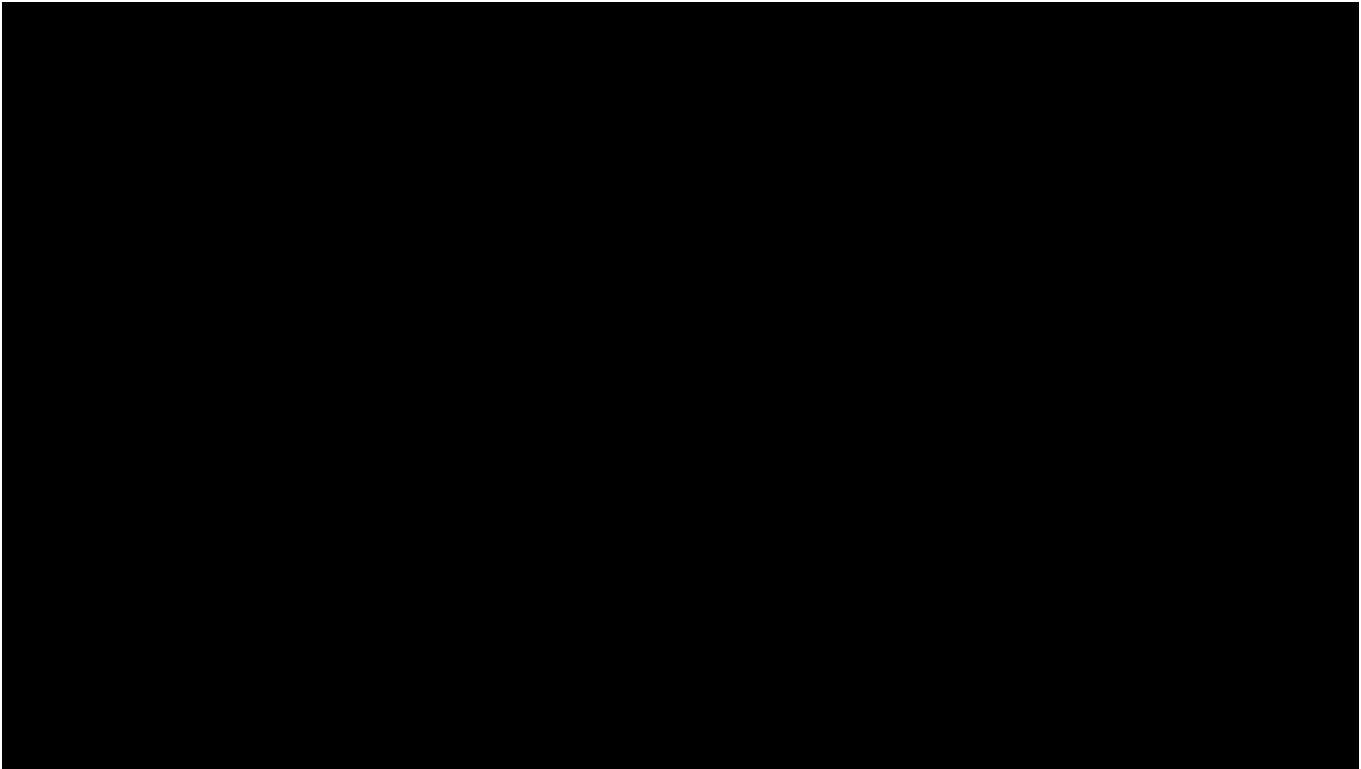
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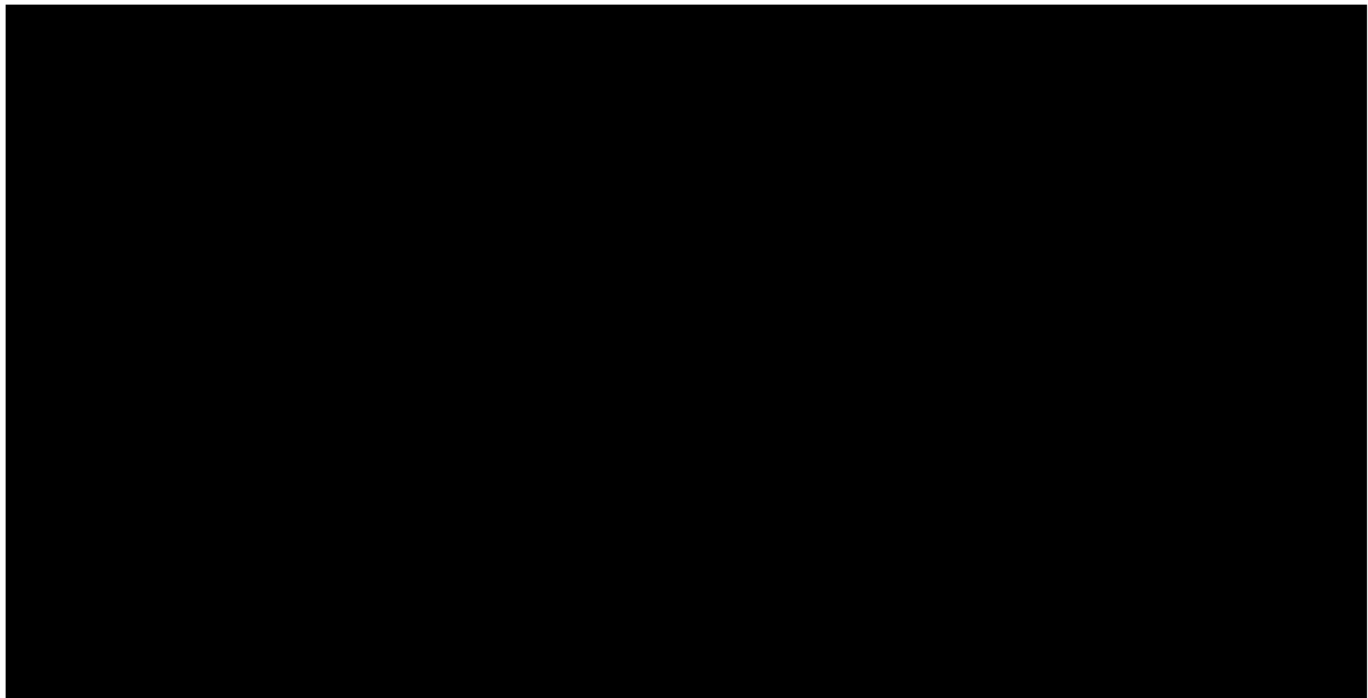
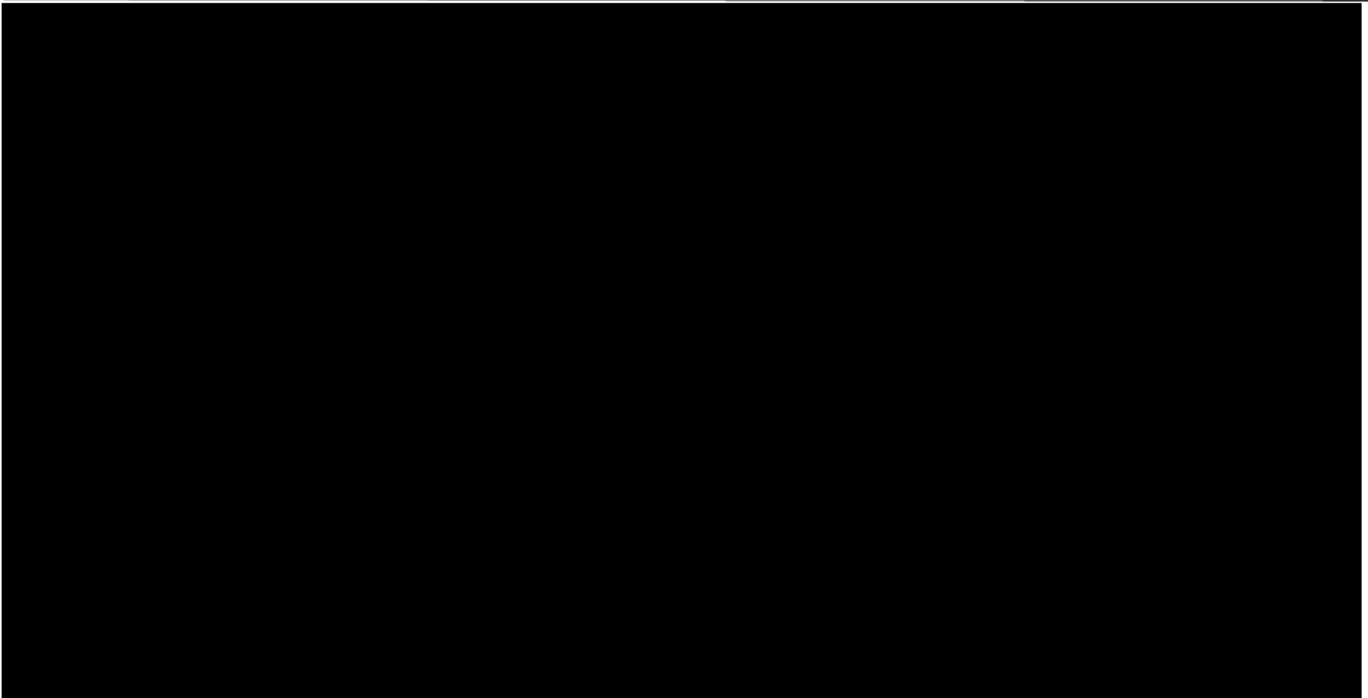


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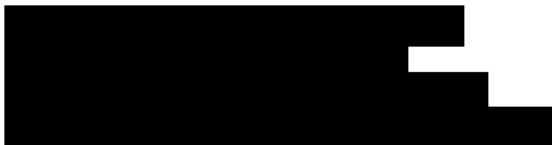




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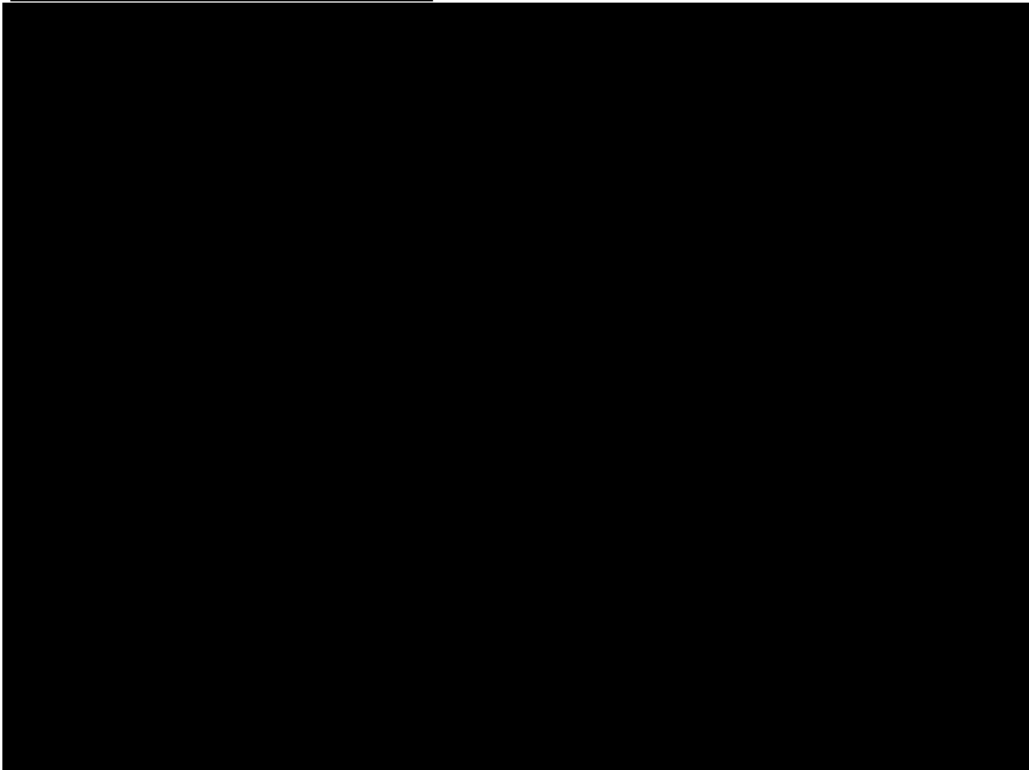


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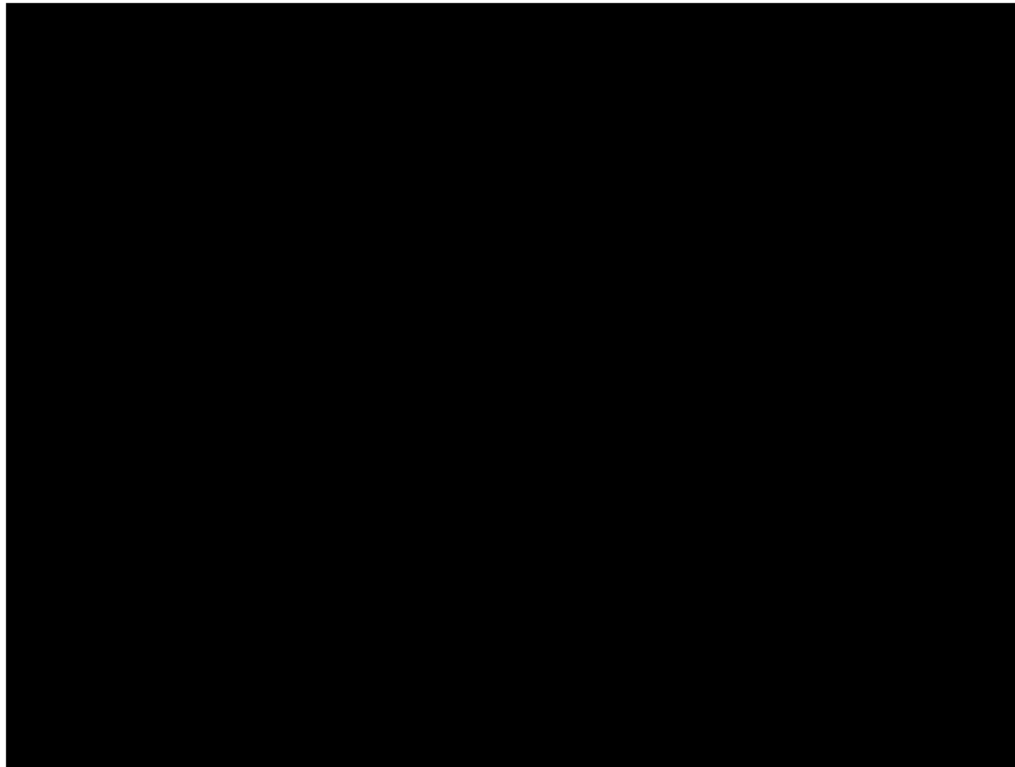


B.

1.



2.

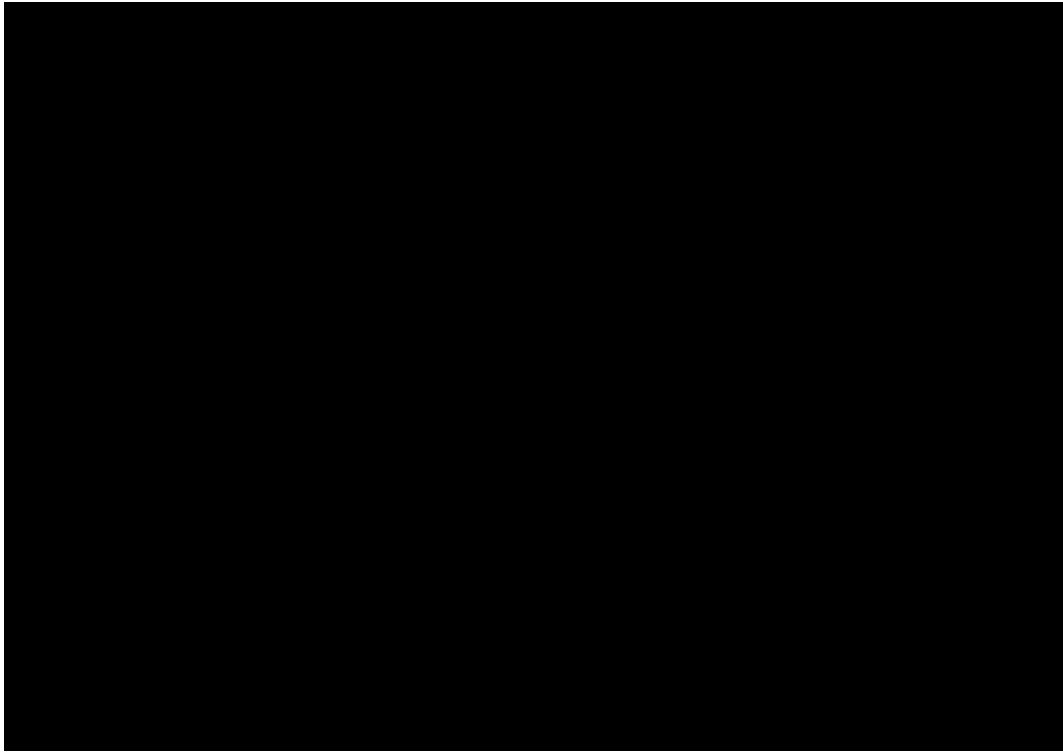




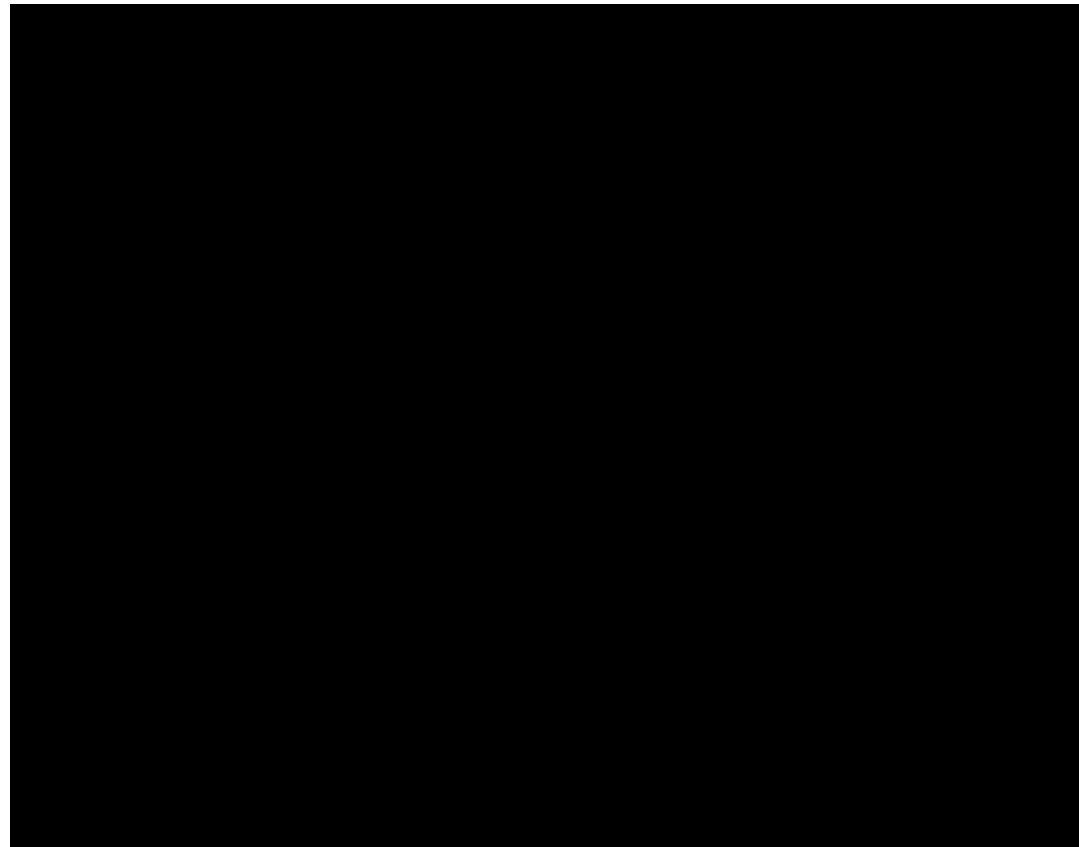
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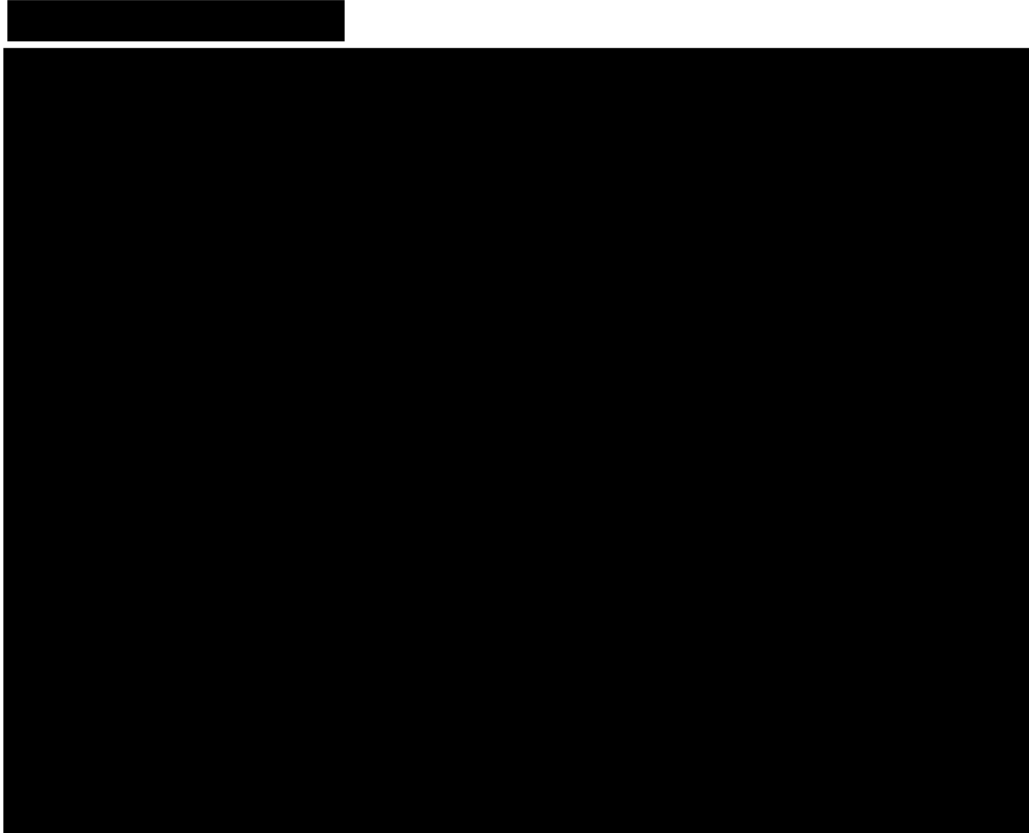




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5.



6.





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C. [REDACTED]



1. [REDACTED]



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CHAPTER 5 RESCUE PROCEDURES

- A. [REDACTED]
1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



3.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT REFERENCE MANUAL



CHAPTER 6 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 RM 532.08 Tactical Incident Response Manual.