

PATROL

RESPONSE TO ACTIVE AGGRESSOR INCIDENT

Purpose: To provide immediate response procedures for officers to stop a suspect or suspects who are posing a threat to human life.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the North Little Rock Police Department to provide an immediate and organized response to any active aggressor incident where human life is being threatened. The response will be directed to isolate, distract, neutralize or apprehend the threat as well as to rescue and evacuate innocent persons. The three primary objectives during an active aggressor/active attack incident are: **1st Stop the Killing, 2nd Stop the Dying and 3rd Rapid Casualty Evacuation to a Medical Facility.**

Summary of Changes: Additional definitions, language reflecting current nationally recognized best practices.

Definitions:

Active Aggressor/Active Attacker - One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic homicidal spree by demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. Their overriding objective appears to be mass murder rather than other criminal conduct such as robbery, kidnapping, etc. This definition includes any assault with a deadly weapon capable of causing mass homicide such as knives, explosive devices, vehicles, etc.

Contact Team - A team of officers whose primary objective is to locate the active aggressor then isolate, distract, and neutralize him/her.

Rescue Task Force (RTF) - A team of secondary responders comprised of law enforcement officers, fire fighters or EMS Medics/EMTs whose primary objective is to move into a "warm zone" and provide advanced medical care and evacuation.

Security Cordon/Safety Corridor – A corridor/area secured by law enforcement and should be considered a "warm zone", allowing freedom of movement for rescue task force personnel. The area should include the Casualty Collection Point and evacuation route to be used for the Ambulance Exchange Point/Casualty Exchange Point.

Casualty Collection Point (CCP) - An area capable of holding all victims with injuries that require medical attention and can be secured by law enforcement personnel. It may be a single room or series of rooms used to assist responding medical personnel with triaging, treating and transporting injured victims. As a general rule, hallways should not be utilized as a CPP.

Ambulance Exchange Point (AEP)/Casualty Exchange Point (CEP) – A secured location identified by a Contact Team or Rescue Task Force which allows for quick ingress and egress of the crisis location receiving casualties for transport to a medical treatment facility. Transport may be conducted by use of ambulance or under extreme circumstances, unorthodox transport (patrol vehicle, privately-owned vehicles, etc.).

Procedures:

1. First Officer on Scene:

1.1 The first officer on scene should evaluate the situation by determining if one of the following conditions exists:

- 1.1.1 Active gunfire or observance of a lethal threat;
- 1.1.2 Actionable information from victims or witnesses as to the location of the suspect(s);
- 1.1.3 Any other information that reasonably indicates a continuing threat to public safety exists;
- 1.1.4 General or specific location of suspect(s),
- 1.1.5 Number of suspects,
- 1.1.6 ETA of available backup officers,
- 1.1.7 Ability to communicate your situation to arriving backup officers.

- 1.2 The first officer should use these factors in decision making on whether to hold in place for additional officers or make a solo officer entry while remembering the priority of life scale: 1st innocent civilians, 2nd first responders, 3rd suspects.
- 1.2.1 A solo officer entry is advocated when the facts indicate an active attacker is present and/or casualties require immediate medical intervention.
- 1.3 The first officer on scene shall assume command of the incident and announce this action over the radio. This is an "interior/mobile" command and should be transferred to the exterior as soon as the tactical situation permits.

2. First Responders (Contact Teams) on Scene:

- 2.1 Verbally check in with the Communications Center and remain on "PD Dispatch 1" talk-group;
- 2.1.1 In locations where radio communications are poor, consider the use of cell phone as an emergency mode of communication with dispatch.
- 2.2 Determine if an incident is in progress;
- 2.3 Assess the situation and determine the most appropriate course of police action to locate the threat;
- 2.4 Notify additional units and Special Operations Teams if necessary;
- 2.5 Select appropriate entry points for the primary entry officers and advise responding units of safe approach route;
- 2.5.1 Designating the sides of a structure can expedite response of officers and FD/EMS personnel. The common designations used by all FD/EMS organizations are shown in Attachment 1 and shall be used by NLRPD personnel.
- 2.6 Conduct a solo-officer entry or establish a Contact Team and enter the involved structure with the overall objective to isolate, distract, and/or neutralize the aggressor. Preventing the suspect(s) from committing further acts of harm is the primary concern of the Contact Team (Stop the Killing).
- 2.6.1 Any SWAT Team member who is a first responder will assume roles that are best suited for their specialized training and equipment.
- 2.7 While moving through the structure, officers should identify and communicate number and locations of victims needing medical attention and location of any suspected explosive devices to secondary responding officers and the Communications Center. They should also continually update their location and location of the threat, if known.
- 2.8 If practical, and absent continued active attack, officers should treat any massive hemorrhaging that may result in the immediate loss of life and protect the victim's airway by placing them in the "recovery position" (Stop the Dying).
- 2.9 Multiple Contact Teams may be deployed, depending on the scope of the incident. Their deployment will be communicated and coordinated with the other teams to prevent incidents of friendly fire.
- 2.10 Responding officers not in uniform will wear an outer garment that identifies them as a police officer.
- 2.11 Contact Teams shall report all contact with suspect(s) and their location(s). If the suspect has been isolated, distracted and/or neutralized, consider redirecting any responding units, not on scene, to the FD/EMS staging location for the purpose of establishing Rescue Task Forces.
- 2.12 Establish the Casualty Collection Point (CCP) and consolidate casualties in a single CCP, if possible. It may be necessary to create multiple CCPs based on the tactical situation.
- 2.13 Once the active killing has been stopped, officers should provide casualties immediate life-saving medical treatment within the scope of their training.

3. Secondary Responders (Rescue Task Forces):

- 3.1 Enter the structure utilizing Contact Team tactics;
- 3.2 Be directed to victims' locations by the Contact Team(s) or by the Incident Command if established;
- 3.3 Keep in mind that assisting some victims may not be immediately possible if the suspect has not been contained;
- 3.4 Direct victims to safety by utilizing either shelter-in-place or evacuation through an established exit point;
- 3.5 Leave fatalities in place for crime scene preservation;
- 3.6 Establish a CCP for injured victims if not already established by a Contact Team;
- 3.7 Maintain security for the CCP.
- 3.8 Rescue Teams assembled to treat victims will consist of NLR Fire Department and/or MEMS personnel along with officers assigned as their security. Rescue personnel must be protected at all times while treating victims inside the scene. Officers will not leave them unguarded at any time.
- 3.9 Officers assigned as RTF security will provide escort for FD/EMS personnel during the evacuation of casualties from the CCP to the AEP/CEP (Rapid Casualty Evacuation to a Medical Treatment Facility).

4. Transition to a Hostage or Barricaded Suspect Incident:

- 4.1 If the incident turns into a hostage or barricaded suspect situation, officers should:
 - 4.1.1 Call Special Operations/SWAT
 - 4.1.2 Contain the incident by preventing movement of the suspect(s);
 - 4.1.3 Clear/evacuate innocents from the immediate area;
 - 4.1.4 Communicate an update of the situation to the Command Post.
 - 4.1.4 Create an Immediate Action Plan in the event the suspect begins killing victims, surrenders, releases the hostages or creates any other situation that requires immediate response by officers.
- 4.2 Officers should keep in mind circumstances may require isolation of the hostage/barricade incident while simultaneously addressing an active aggressor/active attacker and/or victims requiring immediate medical attention.

5. Incident Command:

- 5.1 The first officer on scene, who is not part of a Contact Team, shall be the Incident Commander until a transfer of command occurs. Nothing precludes the initial responding supervisor from deploying as part of a Contact Team.
 - 5.1.1 A goal of the initial Incident Commander should be to establish direct contact with members of FD and EMS service to ensure appropriate resources are requested and deployed in a timely manner.
- 5.2 An Incident Command Post will be established per PD 40-04, Emergency Operations and Mobilization Plan, and should be expanded to create a Unified Incident Command that incorporates other responding entities. Multiple personnel may be needed in the Command Post to monitor secondary radio channels; coordinate with the Communications Center and other responding entities, request additional resources, etc.
- 5.3 The Incident Commander will ensure notifications have been made to the Chief and appropriate Division Commander, as well as the Public Information Officer (PIO).
- 5.4 Establish an evacuation area for non-injured victims with the assistance of the location officials. Depending on the scope of the incident, off-site locations may need to be considered along with transportation resources from outside entities. Always evaluate the situation prior to evacuating the non-injured. Sometimes it is safer to shelter them in place until the scene has been cleared of threats.
- 5.5 Any person who can supply pertinent information concerning the incident will be identified and secured.
- 5.6 A media location will be established in coordination with the PIO. It will be the duty of the PIO or their designee to communicate to local media and social media outlets for public awareness and safety.

Mike Davis
Chief of Police