



Apex Police Department General Order



Title Active Threats		Order Number 1408-20
Effective Date: May 28, 2020	Amends: General Order 1408-17	
CALEA Standard: 46.1.10	Rescinds:	
Reference:	Pages: 10	
Forms:		

Active Threats

Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish a policy and procedure for the Apex Police Department to respond to active threat situations.

Policy

It is the policy of the Apex Police Department for police officers responding to and seeking to end an active threat incident to accomplish this goal, through any legal means, by locating, isolating and stopping the active shooter and ceasing any imminent threat. Those means may include arrest, containment, or the application of force, up to and including deadly physical force, if justified pursuant to applicable departmental written directives and North Carolina laws. This policy recognizes that officers must attempt to stop the active shooter before he/she causes serious bodily injury or death to innocent persons when the active shooter is engaged in a continuing criminal episode. Officer response to an active shooter situation will be consistent with standards established in this General Order, any other departmental directives, rules, regulations, and related training approved by the department.

Definitions

Active Shooter – One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. The overriding objective of the active shooter appears to be that of mass murder, rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery, hostage taking, etc. For the purpose of this General Order, the term “active shooter” will also include anyone who uses any other deadly weapon to systematically or

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randomly inflict death or serious bodily injury on others over a continuous or extended period of time.

Active Threats - 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. (SOURCE: CALEA)

This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records.

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Hot Zone – An area where hazards immediately dangerous to life and health are believed to exist.

Lockdown - A protective action employed to safeguard students and staff when there is an armed perpetrator approaching the campus, on campus, or in the school or workplace. Lockdown is employed to keep people away from a violent perpetrator while law enforcement engages the suspect.

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Rapid Deployment – 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. Rapid deployment tactics are not a substitute for conventional response to a barricaded gunman and/or hostage situation.

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Procedure

Deployment Situations/Locations/Priorities (46.1.10 (c))

1. The first and most critical priority for officers is to locate, isolate, and stop aggressive deadly behavior:
 - The incident is ongoing and the suspect(s) are actively engaged in causing death and/or serious bodily injury and who may, but not necessarily be:
 - An active shooter
 - An attacker with edged weapons
 - Placing and/or detonating explosive devices
2. The incident location, by its very nature, may contain multiple victims and could be, but not necessarily one of the following areas:
 - Public Buildings or Schools
 - Corporate Buildings or Businesses
 - Apartment Complexes
 - Crowded Open Areas
 - Sporting Events
 - Other Organized Activities or Public Events
3. The prioritization of activities in order of importance includes:
 - Locate, isolate, and stop the threat
 - Triage, treat and evacuate the injured
 - Establish containment with inner and outer perimeter safety sweeps for unknown hazards (46.1.10 (d))
 - Complete evacuation
 - Preserve the crime scene
4. To affect a citizen or officer rescue:
 - A citizen or officer is gravely wounded and delayed recovery could result in a significant worsening of his/her condition or death
 - The suspect(s) may or may not be actively involved in an assault; however, an assault is imminent and immediate recovery of a wounded citizen or officer is crucial
 - Although possibly uninjured, due to the location of the victim(s), citizen(s), and/or officer(s), an immediate recovery may be necessary to prevent death or serious bodily injury
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Initial Response (46.1.10 (c))

1. The Telecommunicator receiving a call of an active shooter will:

- Retrieve as much information from the caller as possible in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure C201 – *Call Processing* or any other applicable written directives
- Dispatch all available officers using the main dispatch channel
 - If utilizing a radio channel other than the main dispatch channel, direct all responding officers to switch to the identified operations channel and secure same for all incident traffic
- Initiate a Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) entry and notify the on-duty supervisor
- Monitor the radio and dispatch additional officers as directed
- On authority from either an on-duty supervisor or Incident Commander, activate a department recall pursuant to General Order 711 - *Notification Matrix* and initiate mutual aid response as needed

2. Responding officers will:

- This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

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- This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records.
■ [Redacted]
■ [Redacted]

Incident Command System

1. The first supervisor on scene, who is not part of a Contact Team, will be the Incident Commander. The Incident Commander will immediately identify the "Hot Zone," provide inner and outer containment of the scene, establish a command post and initiate the Incident Command System in accordance with the General Order 1401 – *All Hazard Plan*.
2. The Incident Commander or designee will:
 - Identify a route and safe staging area for arriving personnel
 - Notify Fire and Emergency Medical Services to respond to a staging area
 - Initiate the notification procedures pursuant to General Order 711 -*Notification Matrix*
 - Form additional teams, as necessary
 - Call for mutual aid from other law enforcement agencies and other resources, as necessary. These resources may include: (46.1.10 (b))
 - This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records.
■ [Redacted]
 - Apex Fire/Rescue Department, Apex or Wake County Emergency Medical Service (EMS), etc.
 - Appoint a representative to establish a safe media coverage area
 - Initiate departmental recall as needed
 - Coordinate any public notifications for awareness and safety to include but not limited to the Ready Wake Alert System, social media, Reverse 911 notifications for sheltering in place and updates, and develop a staging area for community notifications and/or family members of those involved who may respond (46.1.10 (a)(d))
 - Relinquish command when relieved by a competent authority
3. In the event of a multi-jurisdictional situation, Unified Command System will be utilized as a means to properly manage the incident.

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Sheltering and Evacuations (46.1.10 (c)(d))

1. It can be expected that an active shooter incident could produce widespread community concerns and individuals may attempt to flee from the area of the active shooter. Additionally, others not in immediate danger may elect to remain locked in safe areas within the building until directed by law enforcement officers to leave.
2. In school settings, students, staff, faculty, and visitors should be directed by their internal organizations' protocols to take cover within classrooms, offices and other safe areas that can be locked and secured thus preventing outside entry.

- Public and private schools may have specific instructions on the proper way to respond to an active shooter(s) on their campus. Established rapid deployment techniques should complement the suggested school response "lockdown" procedures.
- The Incident Commander or designee will, when available, retrieve "School Crisis Information" provided to the department, which is located either on the department's police network and/or authorized assigned personnel computers.
 - Communication and coordination should be established with school officials to assist in the response and/or gathering of any additional pertinent information that would aid the department in its response.
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3. This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records.

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5. If necessary, the Incident Commander will:

- Establish temporary public shelters (i.e. pre-determined shelters, schools, churches, etc.) which should be located away from the affected area to prevent a second evacuation
- Provide security and permit access only to authorized personnel
- Release evacuees when safe to do so

Additional Response (46.1.10 (c))

1. [Redacted]

Continued Law Enforcement for the Town of Apex

1. Adequate law enforcement personnel will be detailed to continue law enforcement operations for the Town of Apex as soon as reasonably possible.
 - The Incident Commander may have the Communications Center initiate a department recall for off-duty officers to assume law enforcement operations.
 - Pursuant to mutual aid agreements, personnel from other law enforcement agencies may be called in to assist.
 - Department personnel should be cleared from the active shooter incident as soon as possible to return to service.
 - [Redacted]

Conclusion of Active Shooting Incident

1. [Redacted]

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-  This information has been redacted pursuant to N.C. General Statute 132 - Public Records Act.

Action Reporting

1. The Incident Commander will designate an officer to file a report of the incident. All other responding personnel will file supplements to that case number pursuant to General Order 405 – *Field Reporting and Management* and other applicable written directives.
2. The Criminal Investigations Division will take responsibility for the ongoing criminal investigation pursuant to General Order 1101 – *Criminal Investigations* and other applicable written directives.
3. A debriefing should be held with all personnel and agencies involved at a reasonable time after the incident has concluded and operations has returned to normal.
4. A written after action report will be prepared by the Incident Commander or designee and will be forwarded to the Chief of Police pursuant to General Order 1401 – *All Hazard Plan* and other applicable written directives.

Media Release

1. All media releases will be coordinated by the department Public Information Officer (PIO) and handled in accordance with General Order 406 – *Public Information and Media Relations*.

Employee Assistance

1. Officers involved in a deadly force incident may be referred to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Critical Incident Stress debriefing(s), the department Chaplain, or other resources as soon as possible.
2. Personnel do not need to have used deadly force during an incident in order to be eligible for, and participate in, counseling and/or other critical incident stress support following an incident.

Training (46.1.10 (e))

1. All law enforcement personnel who completed Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) prior to January 1, 2006, will be trained in the methods of Rapid Deployment as outlined

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in the North Carolina Justice Academy (NCJA) lesson plan through departmental in-service training.

- Since 2006, all Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) programs are state mandated to include Rapid Deployment as part of their curriculum.
2. The department's Training Unit will ensure all newly hired officers receive a review of the current methods of Rapid Deployment in-service training as part of their orientation.
 3. Sworn officers and Telecommunicators will receive in-service training as determined by the department and/or mandated by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (NCCJETSC) and the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards Commission (NCSETSC).
 - Supervisors are responsible for continued training (i.e. roll call) for officers under their command and control once initial training has been completed.

Annual Review & Community Awareness

1. The Patrol Division Commander will conduct an annual review, which will include, at a minimum, the following: (46.1.10 (e))
 - A complete review of this and other applicable directives to determine if changes need to be made as a result of statutory or case law changes, accreditation standard changes, changes in best practices or any other factor that would indicate a policy modification is appropriate
 - A review of related training lesson plans and identification of any training needs
2. The review will be completed and submitted to the Chief of Police no later than January 31st of the year following the review, unless the date is extended by the Chief of Police.
3. The Patrol Division Commander will provide information to the Training Committee for consideration of additional or enhanced Rapid Deployment/Active Shooter training.
4. The Support Services Unit, Community Policing and Crime Prevention function will provide public awareness information regarding crisis situations, safety and the notification process in emergency situations as appropriate during community prevention and education activities.

Text in "Green" denotes a significant change in policy

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BY ORDER OF:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Letteney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

John W. Letteney
Chief of Police