
	<b>MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT</b>
	<b>248.00 ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE</b>
	<b>Effective Date: JUNE, 2017</b>
	<b>Approved:</b> _____  <b>Chief of Police</b>

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide protocols for assessing the threat and performing rapid intervention tactics to limit serious injury or loss of life during active shooter situations. While the term “active shooter” is used throughout, this policy applies to all situations where there is an active, ongoing deadly threat, to include those from firearms, explosives, knives, and so forth.

**II. POLICY**

It is the policy of this department in situations where deadly force is being used or is reasonably likely to be employed by a suspect, and the delay in taking police action could result in injury or death, that rapid intervention of officers at the scene is authorized when such actions are deemed reasonable to prevent further injuries or loss of life.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

*Active Shooting:* One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others.

*Rapid Intervention:* Immediate response by one or more officers to an active shooting based on a reasonable belief that failure to take action pending the arrival of additional officers would result in death or serious bodily injury.

*Contact Team:* The first officer(s) at the scene of an active shooting tasked with locating the suspect(s) and neutralizing the threat.

*Rescue Task Force:* An organized team of officers who make entry after the contact team to provide protection to medical personnel in the hostile environment.

*Incident Commander (IC):* The Tactical Team Commander or the highest-ranking officer at the scene.

**IV. PROCEDURES**

**A. Situational Assessment**

1. Based on available information, the first officers at the incident scene should verify that an active shooter situation exists through information provided by dispatch, from persons confined within or exiting the target location, witnesses, reports of, or sounds of gunfire, or related means.
2. Where available and as time permits, witnesses, or others should be asked about the location and number of suspects, the suspects’ weapons, persons injured, the number and location of persons in possible jeopardy, and the use or location of improvised explosive devices (IEDs).
3. Upon completion of the initial assessment, the first officers at the scene should:
  1. Advise communications and request resources as deemed necessary, and
  2. Determine whether to take immediate action alone or with another officer, or wait until additional resources are available.

**B. Rationale for Rapid Intervention**

The first responding officers shall determine whether rapid intervention is legally justified and reasonable. This decision may be based on such considerations as to whether or not:

1. Deadly weapons are available to or have been used by the suspect;
2. Victims are under the suspect’s control, are readily accessible, or both; and
3. The suspect poses an ongoing threat of deadly force.

**C. Intervention: Contact Team Response**

1. A contact team response to an active shooter situation is preferred in nearly all active shooter situations irrespective of any initial actions that may have been taken. Even if the threat seemingly has been terminated, contact teams are required to render the location safe, assist in screening and orderly evacuation of persons to a designated area, and locate any other persons still in hiding.
2. Normally, only one contact team should be deployed at any given time but additional teams may be deployed at the direction of the IC to provide a tactical advantage. The IC shall ensure that each team is aware of the other team's locations and actions. The mission of the contact team is to locate and stop the threat.
3. An inner perimeter shall be established to control access to and egress from the target location. Civilians should be directed out of the inner perimeter to a designated secure location for identification and debriefing.
4. The contact team shall be given access to a clear communications channel to provide updated information.
5. The contact team shall locate the suspect(s) in the most expeditious manner possible in order to stop the threat. In doing so, officers should not stop to render aid or assistance to victims but may, where reasonably possible, inform them that the Rescue Task Force members are forthcoming and direct them to a safe point of egress or hiding if they are ambulatory and it is deemed safe for them to do so.
6. The team should employ tactical advantages such as avoiding use of the main entrance to provide an element of surprise and to avoid potential booby traps or ambush.
7. The contact team should not attempt to conduct a thorough clearing of the location but should follow sounds (such as gunfire, yelling, and screaming); observations of victims and bystanders; and related information to help locate the suspects as soon as possible.
8. Once the suspects have been located and the threat eliminated, the contact team should proceed to clear all portions of the location in the event that more suspects are in hiding.
9. Render first aid as necessary when the primary mission is completed.

D. Rescue Task Force

1. Once the contact team is deployed, and as officers and resources arrive at the incident scene, the IC should ensure that the Rescue Task Force is formed to provide first aid and to help evacuate victims. The Rescue Task Force generally consists of four to six officers but must have at least two officers to protect medical personnel.
2. The Rescue Task Force shall be organized under a team leader, deploy in tactical formations consistent with departmental training, and be prepared to respond to hostile action as rapidly changing circumstances may place them in contact with suspects.
3. The Rescue Task Force shall be deployed only after the contact team has made entrance and the emergency medical personnel have arrived.
4. Rescue Task Force members should search uninjured persons in the hostile environment before moving them to the evacuation site.
5. Rescue and recovery operations shall continue until the IC has declared the scene clear and safe.

EFFECTIVE: June, 2017.