
S.O.P #: TACTICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL #29

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO HIGH RISK LAW ENFORCEMENT INCIDENTS

DIVISION: EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Objective: To clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and procedures of fire and EMS personnel operating on the scene of high-risk law enforcement incidents.

Scope: Application of these tactical guidelines allows the on-scene Incident Commander the latitude to **support law enforcement officers** and safely manage incidents of mass violence depending on the type of incident and relative degree of danger. It also provides for the strict accountability required to ensure that safety is maintained during high-risk law enforcement incidents in which fire and EMS personnel must be deployed into a known warm/indirect threat zone. Examples of these types of incidents include but are not limited to:

- Hostage situations
- Police stand-offs
- Warrant apprehension
- Police raids
- MCI or mass gathering events
- Civil unrest
- Acts of mass violence
- Active assailant/threat incidents

Section 1: Pre-Planned or Static LE Deployments

A. Notification procedures

1. Pre-scheduled STANDBY SWAT details
 - a. Notification will come directly from the Tactical Unit or law enforcement agency through the ADO to EMS 1 giving as much advanced notice as possible.
 1. Tactical Unit will provide “Initial Briefing Location and Briefing Time”
or
 2. The Tactical Unit will request EMS 1 to contact them for additional information
2. Once all pertinent information (location, any special information or request, and callback name/number of the requesting officer) is received by ADO from Tactical Team the following shall occur:

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- B. As soon as practical, notify the on-duty EMS-1 via landline to relay the information regardless of the shift the STANDBY will be occurring on
1. If the STANDBY will occur on another shift, it will be the responsibility of the notified EMS-1 Officer to pass on the information and make sure the appropriate shift personnel are notified
 2. The EMS-1 Officer who is working when the actual STANDBY will occur shall be the determining authority as to what specific units will be assigned to handle the incident
 3. It will also be the responsibility of the EMS-1 Officer to notify the appropriate EMS District Officer of the upcoming event, to provide pertinent details, and any other discussion deemed appropriate to accommodate the request
 4. Once units have been selected, EMS-1 will notify the ADO of the units that are to be utilized. This may occur at a later time
- C. The ADO will then contact the on-duty BC/DC via landline to apprise him/her of the situation and units to be assigned
- D. Approximately 30 minutes prior to the scheduled “briefing time”, the EMS Officer and Medic Unit are to be placed “out of service” on a detail code
1. This process will ensure that selected units for the STANDBY will not be available for assignment to another incident
 2. The Medic unit will not be contacted or told to respond at this time, just held out of service on a detail code
 3. Depending on call volume, the ADO will make any necessary transfer or standby details to ensure adequate cover for the area affected
 4. The EMS Officer will report to the briefing location and gather further pertinent details of the event
- E. After the briefing, the EMS Officer will re-contact the ADO via landline and provide the location where they want any other responding units that will be involved to standby in the event additional resources are needed. This shall be the closest intersection or landmark to the incident location
1. At this time, the ADO will draw up and enter the incident into the CAD using the determined “staging location” as the incident location
 2. In the “incident remarks field” the following information is to be entered:
 - a. “NOT FOR OVER AIR DISPATCH” No verbal or Tone Alert
 - b. The selected EMS Officer and Medic Unit shall be assigned
 3. The EMS Officer will then contact the affected Station Officer via land line and instruct him/her to have the Medic Unit report to the “Staging location” on the appropriate divisional talk group. The Medic unit shall wait at that location for the EMS Officer to give them further instructions

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- F. Time sensitive STANDBY SWAT incidents
1. The call will come into the Fire ADO via the Tactical Unit
 1. The Tact Team will provide the “initial briefing area and briefing time”
 2. Once all pertinent information (location, any special information or request, and callback name/number of the requesting officer) is received by ADO from Tactical Unit the following shall occur:
 - a. As soon as practical, notify the on-duty EMS-1 Officer via landline to provide instructions
 - b. EMS-1 will be the determining authority as to what specific units will be assigned to handle the incident
 - c. It will be the responsibility of EMS-1 to notify the appropriate District Officer of the upcoming event, to provide pertinent details, and any other discussion deemed appropriate to accommodate the request
 - d. Once units have been selected, EMS-1 will notify the ADO of the units that are to be utilized
 - e. In the event EMS-1 cannot be contacted due to being committed to a previous incident then:
 - i. The on-duty District Officer for the event is to be contacted via landline
 - ii. If EMS-1 and EMS District Officer are unavailable, the ADO shall assign an EMS Supervisor and Medic unit and ensure notification to EMS-1 and the affected EMS District Officer are notified as soon as possible
 - iii. The ADO will contact the on-duty BC/DC via landline and apprise him/her of the situation and units being assigned
- G. As soon as possible, and prior to the scheduled “briefing time”, the EMS Officer and Medic Unit shall be placed “out of service” on a detail code
1. This process will ensure that selected units for the STANDBY will not be available for assignment to another incident
 2. The EMS Officer will contact the Medic unit Station Officer via landline and instruct them to have the medic respond to the pre-determined briefing location
 3. The EMS Officer will report to the “briefing” to gather information and details of the event
- H. The EMS Officer will then re-contact the ADO via land line and provide the location where they want other units to standby in the event additional resources are needed. This shall be the closest intersection or landmark to the incident location
1. At this time, the ADO will draw up and enter the incident into the CAD using the determined “staging point” as the incident location
 2. In the “incident remarks field” the following information is to be entered:

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- a. "NOT FOR OVER AIR DISPATCH" No verbal or Tone Alert
 - b. The selected EMS Officer and Medic Unit shall be assigned

I. Time Critical STANDBY SWAT Details

1. The ADO will receive these calls via landline from the Tactical Unit or due to the nature of the event, this call may be received directly from on-scene police units via CAD request
2. The ADO will attempt to make all notifications to EMS-1 and appropriate BC/DC
3. The ADO is to use his/her best judgment due to location and assign the first due recommended Medic Unit and EMS Officer
 - a. At this time the ADO is to draw up and enter the incident into the CAD using the determined "staging point" as the incident location
 - b. In the "incident remarks field" the following information is to be entered
 - i. The selected EMS Officer and Medic unit will be dispatched to respond to the staging point identified by the requesting police unit

J. On-Scene Operations

1. STANDBY Details

- a. Once on the scene, the EMS Officer will maintain *operational security* and only share information that is necessary with other fire department resources upon arriving on-scene
- b. All portable radios in use by fire and EMS personnel will remain on the appropriate divisional talk-group for quick communication between fire department resources and dispatch if needed
- c. Once on the scene, the EMS Officer will brief on-scene medic and/or engine crews face-to-face; cell phone contact is permitted if necessary, however radio transmissions should not be used to convey intelligence
- d. The EMS Officer will deploy to safe forward position at the direction of Tactical Unit Supervisor and prepare for activation if needed
- e. In the event of a reported injury, the EMS Officer will coordinate the fire department resources and assist in patient care if needed.
- f. Limited/Life Saving care will be provided at the casualty collection point. Further advanced care will be provided in medic unit during transport
- g. De-escalate and demobilize the scene immediately after the SWAT operation is completed

K. Hostage Situations and Barricades

1. Notification will come through 911, or police field units requesting an EMS stand-by
2. The closest available EMS Officer should be dispatched to respond
3. Upon arrival, the EMS Officer shall report to the police IC and maintain a presence until the incident is concluded

4. The EMS Officer shall gather incident related intelligence to determine the level of threat, resources needed, and request the same through the divisional talk-group operator
5. The ADO should make notification of the event to the Battalion or Division Chief assigned to that district
6. The EMS Officer shall remain on location, act as the fire department liaison to police, request any additional units needed, and de-escalate as soon as practical