



MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICY
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SUBJECT: **Active Shooter**

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MRR

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and direction to members of the Middleton Police Department should an active shooter situation be encountered.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Middleton Police Department to take immediate actions to protect life by any legal means necessary in situations wherein persons are actively involved in current, on-going activities which cause death or great bodily harm to others. First responding officers shall assess the situation and take such immediate action necessary to neutralize any threat which may cause death or great bodily harm.

DISCUSSION

Law enforcement response to an active shooter is dictated by the active shooter, the terrain and many other uncontrollable variables and is a fast moving and fluid situation and therefore will have many variables which cannot be forecasted into any training scenario or policy. Officers may be forced into extremely difficult situations and make decisions in a split second. Officers must respond to an active shooter scenario with the mindset that they may be forced into a use of deadly force situation, but must also be prepared to use lesser or no force as the situation develops.

First responding officers must push aside all emotions, personal desires to assist victims and focus on neutralizing the threat to others. The Department recognizes that officers will need to rely on their training, instinct and best judgment when responding to an active shooter scenario and also realizes that officers may be forced into normally unthinkable situations and act on the greater danger theory to protect others and themselves when neutralizing a threat(s).

DEFINITIONS

Active Shooter

Person(s) who are actively engaged in activity demonstrating an intent to continuously harm others with the overriding objective appearing to be that of mass murder. For purposes of the policy, the term “active shooter” will include anyone who uses a deadly weapon (firearm, club, knife, bow and arrow, explosives, etc.).

An active shooter incident is different than a hostage or barricaded subject situation. In an active shooter incident, the suspect(s) activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily harm. The activity is not contained, and there is immediate risk of death or serious injury to potential victims. A hostage or barricaded subject is a static situation; whereas, an active shooter incident is a dynamic situation requiring immediate tactical intervention from on-scene police personnel.

Field Command Post

A temporary base of operation for the field supervisor strategically located relative to the scene of the incident, in a safe position. It will be used for establishing communications, deployment of personnel, and generally managing the situation. Changing conditions or discovery of available facilities may cause a change of location. A protracted situation may require establishment of a more permanent command post with more complete facilities and amenities.

Target-Specific Directed Fire

Target-specific directed fire is an application of deadly force that may be appropriate in certain limited situations. It is purposeful, controlled, sustained fire directed at a perpetrator who has caused or imminently threatens to cause death or great bodily harm to you or others, but whom you may not be able to clearly observe. The purpose of target-specific directed fire is to stop the threat when no other reasonable course of action would allow officers to perform a rescue, escape from danger, or otherwise prevent death or great bodily harm.

POLICY INTENT

Officers responding to an active shooter incident shall immediately use any legal means at their disposal to make contact with an active shooter(s) and neutralize the threat made by the active shooter to cause loss of life or great bodily harm. This may include arrest, containment, or use of deadly force.

In those instances involving an active shooter and the potential for continued loss of life, rapid intervention by law enforcement is imperative.

This type of threat factor in the City of Middleton will not allow for a timely response by specially equipped tactical units such as Tactical Response Teams (TRT). Given the potential for loss of life, and the limited resources available, local police officers shall be called upon to employ tactics to enter a building, complex, or other facilities for the purpose of neutralizing the threat to innocent life by all lawful means to include the use of deadly force.

1. The prioritization of officers' activities in an active shooter incident is:
 - a. To neutralize the threat as rapidly as possible and prevent the loss of life. After neutralizing all threats and securing the threat, officers shall,
 - b. Provide and call for medical assistance while controlling and preserving the scene. Officers shall leave obviously deceased victims in place as they are found.
 - c. Identify and escort survivors from the scene in a systematic way that protects the survivors from further harm and maintains the integrity of the crime scene.
 - d. To protect the crime scene.

RESPONSE TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

- A. Upon notification of an active shooter situation at a given location, Middleton Police Officers will respond to the location of the active shooter situation immediately and without further dispatch, unless called off by Dispatch.
- B. In the event of any active shooter incident, all available on-duty enforcement personnel shall respond to a scene without further direction or request for mutual aid.
- C. The first available Middleton Police Officer shall notify dispatch of an **ACTIVE SHOOTER situation by advising "Active Shooter" and any other pertinent information (i.e. location, description etc.). The dispatcher will immediately restrict radio traffic and activate the radio marker. The dispatcher shall then notify the OIC and initiate a mutual aid request through the Dane County Communications Center.**
- D. First responding "at-scene" Officers.
 1. The objective is to make a contact as soon as possible to neutralize the threat caused by an active shooter.
 2. The first responding "at-scene" officers shall inform the Communications Center of the situation immediately upon their arrival and make an assessment of the scene. The

first responding officer shall direct responding officer response activities. Communication is KEY to an active shooter response to minimize confusion to responding officers and to deploy an effective response to neutralize the threat of further loss of life. These activities may include:

- i. First On-Scene Officer/s: The first responding officer will need to make an assessment of the situation and make a decision to respond alone to confront an active shooter/s or if he/she should and can wait for additional officers to arrive.

1. If the officer makes the decision to immediately respond into the building and attempt to neutralize the active shooter they shall:

- a. Notify the Dispatcher and responding units of the intent to enter the building and where entry is being made. It is suggested that the officer respond with a rifle, deploy their rifle plate carrier and helmet.
- b. Without jeopardizing the officer's safety, provide situational updates to Dispatch and other officers as often as possible, noting location in the building and pertinent observations.
- c. Move as quickly and safely to the sounds of gunfire or other indicators of the shooters location.

2. If the officer has additional officers (up to four) will form a "contact team" and go in immediate pursuit of the active shooter.

- a. The first responding officer shall assume the responsibility of team leader unless relieved by another officer or supervisor.
- b. The contact team shall inform the Communications Center and responding officers of their intent and location of entry. Entry should be made cautiously but expediently looking for anything that would indicate a booby trap, etc.
- c. Responding officers shall stay in a contact role unless and until the suspect(s) have become barricaded, neutralized or are no longer actively shooting.

3. The focus of the contact team is to make contact and neutralize the active shooter as soon as possible by arrest, containment, or use of deadly force. The team will be subject to 360 degree vulnerability and will not do a thorough clearing of the area(s). They will continue on past victims or harmless distractions.

RESCUE TEAM

The team will locate and remove injured victims and direct non-injured victims from the area.

- A. Rescue team members must be alert and prepared in the event that the dynamics of the incident should place them in contact with the shooter. They will be subject to 360 degree vulnerability. Due to the vulnerability to attack, the rescue team should consider removal of victims to a safe location as a priority over medical treatment in place. Rescue teams may be established once the suspect(s) are neutralized or barricaded. Those teams should clear areas and bring medical aid to and evacuate victims when possible.
 - 1. When practical, the contact team shall update the Communications Center and/or OIC as to the location of the subject, team, and any other critical information. Communications Center or OIC shall not request this information from the rescue team.
 - 2. Due to limitations in the number of personnel, rescue teams may consist of EMS and Fire personnel with a minimum of 2 police officers.
 - 3. Rescue teams should be prepared to use designated tourniquets, occlusive dressings, and be available to assist MEMS and MIFD with their medical needs.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The Communications Center shall initiate an “Active Shooter Response” using the centers Active Shooter Policy.
- B. The Communications Center shall clear the network and dedicate one frequency for use solely by the first responding Officers as the tactical frequency.
- C. Other responding and supporting units and agencies will be advised by Dispatch which frequency will be used. All non-event radio traffic will be pushed to another frequency with instructions to use the radio for emergency use, change of status or location only.
- D. The Communications Center may utilize Middleton Fire, Middleton Public Works Staff or other City Resources to close off all streets and accesses to the scene, establishing an outer perimeter and safe staging area. EMS shall be requested and advised to stage at a pre-established location and await further instruction. The Dane County Sheriff’s Department emergency response vehicle should be requested for use as a command post.
- E. Communications Center will relay pertinent information from “at-scene” unit to other responding units.
- F. Communication directed to the entry/contact team shall be limited to that which is critically pertinent to the team, (i.e. shooter location, etc.).

INCIDENT COMMAND

Coordination and control of the incident response is critical. The Incident Commander will coordinate response efforts in accordance with the National Incident Command Management System (NIMS) training; also refer to the Emergency Mobilization Plan.

- A. The Incident Commander shall identify him or herself to the Communications Center as such e.g. “5503 on scene and in command.” The information shall be relayed to responding units.
- B. The Incident Commander shall start to establish the incident command structure appointing section chiefs under a unified command structure. The first priority is establishing and controlling on scene communications and establishing an Operations Section to monitor and direct resources as needed to control the incident. Request CAPMAR (Capital Area Police Mutual Aid Response) activation through approved protocol. The Incident Commander shall appoint an Operations Officer to manage the Operations Section.
- C. The Operations Officer shall ensure that:
 - 1. A safe and secure staging area is established;
 - 2. A safe evacuation route is established and protected;
 - 3. That the inner and outer perimeters to the scene are secured;
 - 4. Injured persons are identified and evacuated to safe areas for treatment and evacuation;
 - 5. Identification made and evacuation of others involved in the event is made to a safe and secured location, that the urgent needs are met and that they are interviewed as appropriate prior to release.
 - 6. Identify the “hot zone” – locations that are highly likely to be hazardous to first responders (i.e. first responders could be shot or attacked).
 - 7. Identify safest route and staging location(s) for EMS and Fire and provide to dispatch. Dispatch shall notify EMS and Fire of staging location(s).
 - 8. Consider requesting dispatch to call in available supervisors, officers, and other personnel.
 - 9. Consider requesting Dane County Sheriff’s Office Tactical Response Team and/or Madison Police Emergency response Teams to be activated and respond to the staging area.
 - 10. Consider requesting Middleton/Sun Prairie/Fitchburg Joint SET to be activated and respond to the staging area.

11. Consider activating or putting on stand-by the Dane County Bomb Squad.
 12. Consider requesting Public Works to deploy barricades and road signs at key intersections.
- D. Other Incident Command positions shall be staffed as required by the situation and as the situation develops and mission changes.
- E. Considerations of the Incident Commander:
- Identify tasks for next arriving squads (mutual aid or other responding units):
1. First priority - Assemble additional entry team(s) to locate and neutralize shooter(s), if needed. If not, move to second priority.
 2. Second priority – Create perimeter to provide a level of security for victims, first responders, rescue teams and bystanders. Once entry has been made, establish a basic perimeter with secondary arriving squads to provide a level of security for victims, bystanders, and first responders in and / or around location. Move to remaining priorities after shooter(s) have been neutralized and / or contained.
 3. Third Priority – Establish warm zones (exterior and interior) with available entry teams and other law enforcement officers.
 - a. Exterior Warm Zone
 1. Should have access to EMS exterior treatment and transportation areas.
 2. Ideally near the most victims and / or internal casualty collection point.
 3. Must be an area that can be secured and held.
 4. Must have the exterior of the entry / exit side covered by an officer(s) with a rifle.
 - b. Interior Warm Zone
 1. Establish an Interior Division Supervisor to coordinate the establishment and oversight of an interior warm zone and identify that person to the Incident Commander.
 2. Identify and stay with Assistant Interior Division Supervisor from EMS or Fire.

3. Station an officer at the entry / exit point.
 4. Clear and secure hallway and hold.
 5. As resources allow, clear and secure additional hallways and territory and hold.
 6. Coordinate with EMS personnel the location of the casualty collection point(s).
4. Fourth Priority - Assemble Rescue Teams
- a. Rescue Teams typically consist of 2 – 4 officers, 4 – 6 Fire personnel, and EMS personnel, if possible.
 - b. Used in areas that have been swept by an initial entry team to bring victims to the casualty collection point.
 - c. Officers provide cover / escort while EMS / Fire triage and move injured.

Refer to the established Communications Plan and / or dispatch to determine available radio system talkgroups for various incident response functions for short, intermediate, and long-term operational periods.

EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

If teams encounter a suspected explosive device, they must use their own judgment regarding whether to post an officer nearby, reporting it, marking it or bypassing it.

SECURITY ISSUES

After the initial responding officers have formed the contact and rescue teams and the initial perimeter is secured, the OIC will ensure that the next responding officers verify that any associated facilities are safe and unaffected. The intent is to contain the event and to ensure that there is no movement by any active shooter(s) into other potential target areas.

- A. In a school setting this would mean to verify that any other schools in the district, bus transportation and parking areas remain uncompromised. In a business setting this would mean securing other facilities, buildings and parking lots in the area.
- B. Officers should be assigned to the security of evacuation routes as available and to the evacuation centers to maintain security, control and accountability of victims, witnesses. Officers assigned to the evacuation routes and evacuation centers need to be alert to the possibility that one or more suspects may have infiltrated into the crowd.

- C. Everyone evacuated from the event needs to be identified. Officers should consider the need to search evacuees for weapons, if appropriate.
- D. Emergency Medical Personnel shall be called to respond to the evacuation center to evaluate those evacuated and provide medical assistance as needed with the assistance of responding EMS units.
- E. In the case of a school event, school personnel should be sent to the evacuation center for accountability of students and to verify students are properly re-united with family members. If available, Emergency Medical Personnel should be present at the reunification site.

APPREHENSION OF ACTIVE SHOOTER(S)

If the contact team contains the suspect(s) and s/he is no longer an active shooter, and the suspect(s) are placed in proper restraints, the contact team shall immediately notify the OIC or Communications Center. A second team should be assigned to enter and take charge of the suspect(s) and evacuate the suspect(s) out of the area.

NOTE: Any potential suspects should, if possible, be kept from the victims and others directly or indirectly involved as the situation enables. Suspect(s) shall be immediately transported to a secure facility away from the scene.

EQUIPMENT ASSIGNED TO SQUAD CARS

The Department shall provide and keep an inventory of equipment in each squad car. Officers shall have available to them in a tactical response:

- 1. 1 each - AR-15 rifle.
- 2. 1 each – personal body armor with plate containing extra rifle magazines.
- 3. 1 each – Ballistic Helmet.

TRAINING

Sworn officers of the Middleton Police Department shall train for active shooter events.