

TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i> January 22, 2018		<i>Directive</i> 8.01.1	
<i>Subject</i> Barricaded Suspects and /or Hostage Situations					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 8.01.1 Barricaded Suspects and /or Hostage Situations		<i>Review Date</i> November 14, 2023	
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This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish procedures for response to barricaded persons or hostage situations.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that when responding to high risk situations such as in a hostage or barricaded subject situation, to consider the lives of civilian and officers involved to be of the utmost importance; and, whenever possible, to enhance the prospects of peacefully resolving the incident through communication with the suspect. It is also the policy of the Department that personnel should develop and maintain the ability to use alternative approaches to resolve these types of incidents in the event that dialogue fails.

SECTION 3 DEFINITIONS

1. Barricaded Subject - Any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, officers or others in the community and who is in a stronghold position.
2. Hostage - Any person held by another against his or her will by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.

SECTION 4 PROCEDURES

A. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Once a barricaded person or hostage situation has been verified, the on-duty supervisor will notify the Operations Services Division Commander and the SWAT Operations Commander.
2. The on-duty supervisor shall be responsible for controlling the outer perimeter.
3. Officers assigned to the outer perimeter shall utilize cover and concealment to maintain visual contact with their assigned area.

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4. The first officer on the scene shall be responsible for the evacuation of the injured if they can be safely reached to a safe location for medical treatment. Patrol officers involved in the evacuation process shall make reasonable efforts to obtain intelligence information pertaining to the situation and forward that information to the on-scene Incident Commander.
5. The patrol supervisor shall be responsible for the evacuation of bystanders from the operations area.
6. The patrol supervisor shall establish and man a centralized command post in a safe location out of sight of the barricaded person. The command post should have access to telephone communication, electricity and be shielded from the natural elements. The command post may be a structure or a site for the Mobile Command Post.
7. The SWAT Operations Commander and/or the Assistant SWAT Operations Commander shall be responsible for the inner perimeter upon their arrival. The inner perimeter may be manned by Patrol personnel or SWAT team members.
8. No movement shall be made past the inner perimeter without the approval of the SWAT Operations Commander.
9. During any SWAT call-out, the ranking officer at the scene will be designated as the On-Scene Incident Commander. He shall be the Incident Commander for the situation and shall exercise authority for the scene and the incident unless or until relieved by the SWAT Administrative Commander or his designee.
10. Once a specific action or plan has been approved by the on-scene Incident Commander, the SWAT Commander shall have exclusive authority for all tactical decisions, unless the situation changes to the point that reevaluation or termination of a current course of action is indicated by the on-scene Incident Commander.
11. It is the responsibility of the SWAT Commander and the negotiator to supply the On-Scene Incident Commander with information and suggestions on how to best resolve a situation.

B. RESPONSIBILITY

1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.