

**TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL**

<i>Effective Date</i> <b>February 1, 2008</b>		<i>Amended Date</i> <b>December 10, 2019</b>		<i>Directive</i> <b>8.07.1</b>	
<i>Subject</i> <b>Emergency Operations Plan</b>					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> <b>All Personnel City Manager City Attorney</b>		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> <b>8.07.1 Emergency Operations Plan</b>		<i>Review Date</i> <b>November 15, 2023</b>	
				<i>Pages</i> <b>4</b>	

**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 provide guidance to employees regarding civil disturbances, mass arrests, natural disasters, and man made disasters.

**SECTION 2 POLICY**

The manner in which we respond to natural disasters, man-made disasters, or civil disturbances has direct bearing on our ability to control the event, defuse incidents, and to provide a degree of protection for citizens in regards to property damage, injury or loss of life. Officers faced with such situations shall follow the procedures of containment, evacuation, communication, appropriate use of force and command and control as enumerated in this policy and as found in the City of Texarkana, Texas Emergency Management Plan.

**SECTION 3 PROCEDURES**

**A. LARGE SCALE DISASTERS OR UNUSUAL HAZARDOUS EVENTS**

For guidance related to natural disasters, man-made disasters, hazardous materials, biohazard incidents, etc. see City of Texarkana, Texas Emergency Management Plan and Annex A-V.

**B. CIVIL DISTURBANCES**

1. Officers responding to a civil disturbance must ensure persons, who are collectively engaged in illegal activity as defined by federal, state, or local ordinance, are removed from an affected area in a timely manner through compliance to a lawful dispersal order of a peace officer or through arrest after a willful disobedience to the lawful order is demonstrated. Supervisors will vigorously enforce officer compliance to the highest standards of professional conduct in the application of these procedures.
2. Officers responding to a situation involving a potentially violent crowd will immediately request the Patrol Shift Commander to respond to the scene. The Patrol Shift Commander will immediately notify all Department Command Staff. Immediate command of a civil disturbance will be assumed by the ranking supervisor on the scene until a higher-ranking officer arrives and assumes command.

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3. The Patrol Shift Commander will assess the situation and determine if additional officers are needed. These officers may be called directly to the scene or to a staging area where response to the scene will be immediate. Additional officers will report in uniform with assigned gear. Tactical vests/body armor will be worn. Officers will carry their assigned weapons. Responding units should not use emergency lights at the scene unless enforcement action is in progress.
4. Supervisors should, if at all possible, make contact with the individual responsible for the gathering or the individual who initiated the complaint. This contact should be made as far removed from the gathering as possible. If this contact is not possible, the Patrol Shift Commander will determine the safest possible method to establish contact with any person(s) who will assume responsibility for the gathering.
5. Once the Patrol Shift Commander has determined dispersal is necessary, the individual responsible for the gathering will be provided a reasonable time to disperse the crowd. If this individual refuses, fails to comply with the order, or cannot be located to carry out the order, the Patrol Shift Commander will use the vehicle public address system to make a dispersal announcement. This announcement will be made twice and will contain the following information:
  - a. Rank and name of the police officer making the announcement and the identification of the police agency;
  - b. State specific violation of the law or ordinance;
  - c. The name and title of the individual who requested dispersal, if applicable;
  - d. The dispersal order with a reasonable time to disperse; and
  - e. Those that refuse to comply with the order will be placed under arrest.
6. If the crowd DOES make an effort to disperse, then all officers should remain by their vehicles and not take any action other than to establish traffic control if necessary. Officers will not trail, follow, or otherwise stop selected individuals for minor infractions of traffic law.
7. If an acceptable number of officers have been assembled and the appropriate safety equipment is readily available to all personnel, then the Patrol Shift Commander will announce the time limit has expired and those individuals who do not leave immediately will be arrested for failure to comply with the order.
8. Emergency lights on all police vehicles will be activated.
9. Officers will use accepted Mobile Field Force tactics to arrest violators or control the movements of the crowd. The Patrol Shift Commander will designate a minimum of three (3) officers as an arrest team(s). Two officers will execute the arrest and the third will provide security for the arresting officers. Mobile Field Force equipment consisting of shields, riot batons and helmets should be deployed.
10. If a canine unit is available, it will substitute for the officer providing security. The canine will not be used to control the crowd and will only be used to protect the arresting officers.
11. The Patrol Shift Commander will assign necessary officers to transport prisoners to the jail.

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12. Persons who have not yet been placed under arrest and who are attempting to leave the scene will be permitted to do so. Officers will not attempt to stop them for identification, warrant checks, etc.
13. Patrol Shift Commanders will ensure only the amount of force necessary to arrest is used. Arrests will be discontinued when in the opinion of the Patrol Shift Commander; those remaining individuals have a legal right to assemble and the threat to the public peace is abated.
14. Shotguns or rifles will not be carried or displayed, as a matter of routine unless a like threat is imminent.
15. Chemical weapons may be used to disperse violent crowds or riots as per Directive 6.01.1 F-3-a. For riot control, officers may not fire impact munitions indiscriminately into a crowd but may use area target munitions to clear specific areas or disperse crowds (Directive 6.01.1 F-6-a-4).
16. If at any time during the crowd dispersal process, the Patrol Shift Commander believes enforcement actions will trigger a collective mass eruption and threaten the safety of the officers or the uninvolved general public, the supervisor should order a strategic withdrawal until such time as adequate resources are available to deal with the problem.
17. The Office of Professional Responsibility shall respond and collect sufficient reports and information to ensure that the incident is appropriately documented and complete an after-action report.
18. The Department Public Information Officer will be notified to respond to the scene in situations where representatives from the media arrive on scene or in any situation where the Patrol Shift Commander believes the particular event will result in media coverage.

**C. MASS ARRESTS**

1. Upon determination mass arrests will be required or when circumstances warrant the anticipation of mass arrests, the Chief of Police may direct activation of the EOC.
2. All command staff will immediately report to the BI-State Building for duty assignments as determined by the Chief of Police or his designee.
3. Additional law enforcement assistance may be obtained by requesting assistance from other allied regional law enforcement agencies.
4. Whenever possible, people who have been detained for Class C misdemeanor charges will be immediately cited and released.

**D. MASS ARRESTS PROCEDURES FOR DETENTION AND PROCESSING**

1. The Operations Services Division Commander will provide for the arrest and secure confinement of all persons taken into custody during the incident.
2. The Support Services Division Commander shall assist the Operations Services Division Commander in the detention of prisoners and will ensure evidence collection procedures are followed.

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3. If possible, prisoners will be transported to the Bi-State jail for processing. Any field containment area established for temporary holding must be secure, safe, and large enough to confine the anticipated number of arrestees and a suitable guard detail.
4. The Commander of the Support Services Division is responsible for providing additional personnel for establishment of a field processing station if needed in collaboration with the Bowie County Sheriff's Department and their contracted detention staff.

**E. TRANSPORTATION**

1. All prisoners will be transported in accordance with current Department directives.
2. During mass arrests where the amount of prisoners exceed the transportation limits of the Department, the Chief of Police or his designee will coordinate with the Texarkana, Texas Independent School District to acquire busses for transportation of prisoners.
3. A frisk or field search of prisoners and search of the seating area of the transport vehicle will be completed as required by Directive 10.01.1.

**F. 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.