



Cambridge Police Department

Effective Date: October 23, 2002

**NEW POLICY # 704**  
**Policy and Procedures**  
**Procedure 2002-8**

## **AGGRESSIVE DEADLY BEHAVIOR POLICY**

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### **I. Purpose**

This Policy and Procedure will:

- A.** State departmental policy regarding Aggressive Deadly Behavior.
- B.** Define behavior that constitutes Aggressive Deadly Behavior.
- C.** Describe the duties and responsibilities of the first responding officer (s) and the Incident Commander.
- D.** Provide procedures describing levels of response to include the responsibilities of the contact and rescue teams.
- E.** Describe the responsibilities of the Police Public Information Officer.
- F.** Set forth guidelines for the after action report and debriefing.

### **II. Policy**

- A.** It will be the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to consider the lives and safety of citizens and to protect life by any legal means possible. Officers responding to a location where there is/are person (s) engaged in aggressive deadly behavior will strive to save lives by immediately, using any legal means at their disposal to make contact with and engage the person(s) engaged in aggressive deadly behavior.

### **III. Definitions**

- A. Aggressive Deadly Behavior:** One or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. Their overriding objective appears to be that of mass murder rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery, hostage taking, etc. An active shooter, for the purposes of this policy, also includes a person engaged in an ongoing attack with an edged weapon or one who is actively placing and/or detonating explosive devices. An incident in which the suspect shoots multiple victims, but is no longer shooting when the police arrive on the scene is still considered **Aggressive Deadly Behavior** if:
  - 1. The suspect is located in a position with access to current or potential victims, or;
  - 2. Victims with life threatening injuries require medical attention, or;

3. Immediate tactical intervention is required to save lives.

**B. Direct Immediate Action:** The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to on-going life threatening situations where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or great bodily injury to innocent persons.

#### **IV. Responsibilities of First Responding Officer (s)**

The actions of the first responder are critical and certain guidelines should be followed:

- A.** Assess the situation to determine if direct immediate action is necessary.
- B.** Notify Emergency Communications of the situation.
- C.** If direct immediate action is required, the first responding officer will bear in mind that the Aggressive Deadly Behavior must be brought under control before further injury is inflicted. If tactical superiority lies with the suspect(s), the first responding officer should call for additional resources before engaging the suspect. The aggressive deadly behavior must be brought under control and the officer should prioritize his/her activities in the following order:
  1. Neutralize aggressive deadly behavior.
  2. Rescue victims.
  3. Provide medical assistance as needed.
  4. Preserve the area as a crime scene.

#### **V. Responsibilities of the Incident Commander**

- A.** The first responding officer will be deemed the Incident Commander until a higher-ranking officer assumes command.
- B.** When a higher-ranking officer arrives, the higher-ranking officer will announce arrival and assumption of command by radio.
- C.** Assign an officer to maintain a log of all responding units, assignments, events and radio traffic.
- D.** Evaluate the situation and brief all responding officers.
- E.** The Incident Commander will request a clear channel. The dispatcher will assign a channel for the incident and inform the Incident Commander. Officers should deactivate radios from the scan mode.
- F.** Establish an inner and outer perimeter and assess the level and type of response necessary. (I.e. Bomb Technicians, Crisis Negotiators, SRT)
- G.** Ensure injured and bystanders are evacuated, where appropriate.
- H.** Establish a Command Post.
- I.** Establish a Staging Area on or beyond the outer perimeter and ensure that additional resources report to that location. Assign an officer to act as staging area manager.

**Responsibilities of Staging Manager include:**

- a. Security for staging area.
  - b. Maintain a log of personnel as they arrive and depart and the assignment of each person.
  - c. Maintain a log of the status of resources (personnel and equipment).
- J.** Request standby ambulance and fire apparatus at the assembly point, if necessary.
- K.** Ensure continued containment and isolation of the area.

**VI. Responding to Aggressive Deadly Behavior**

Before entering a location where there is aggressive deadly behavior, the Incident Commander will notify Emergency Communications.

**A.** Levels of Response

- 1. Visible/Ongoing Threat
  - a. Immediate entry is needed to save lives
  - b. The Incident Commander will make entry decision.
- 2. Non-visible Ongoing Threat
  - a. Immediate entry is needed to save lives.
  - b. Incident Commander will make entry decision.
- 3. Situation that is no longer active but suspect is still active.
  - a. The SRT will be utilized if at all possible.
  - b. The incident commander will make the entry decision.
  - c. All other personnel will be used to form an inner and outer perimeter as the SRT Commander or Incident Commander deems appropriate.

**B.** Responsibilities of the Contact Team

- 1. If an SRT member is on scene, he/she will assume the responsibilities of the Contact Team leader.
- 2. Neutralize the threat.
- 3. Communicate a description and locations of the following:
  - a. Injured and medical needs.
  - b. Location of hazards (i.e. explosives, booby traps).
  - c. Suspect(s)' description and location and types of weapons, if known.
- 4. When the SRT arrives, the SRT will assume the responsibilities of the Contact Team.

**C.** Responsibilities of Rescue Team

1. Rescue and recovery of victims.
2. Direct uninjured victims out of area.
3. If a rescue team encounters aggressive deadly behavior, the rescue team will assume the responsibilities of a contact team.

## **VII. Responsibilities of the Police Public Information Officer**

- A.** The Police Public Information Officer will respond to the scene of an incident and designate a separate area set aside for news media that is not proximate to the Command Post or the Staging Area. The Police Public Information Officer will be the primary spokesperson at active crime scenes.
- B.** The Police Public Information Officer will consult with the Incident Commander before releasing information.
- C.** In addition to the above duties, the Police Public Information will comply with the News Media Relations Policy.

## **VIII. After – Action and Debriefing**

- A.** After the aggressive shooter is brought under control, the Incident Commander should consider calling for Cambridge City Hospital Emergency Outreach team to assist any involved persons with the stresses of a critical incident. All police personnel who are involved in an aggressive deadly behavior incident will be evaluated based upon the traumatic incident policy.
- B.** Once an incident is concluded, and at the direction of the Superintendent of Operations, a debriefing meeting will be conducted. This meeting will be held within seven days of the incident. A report will be prepared by the Incident Commander concerning the incident. All key personnel involved, and all participating police departments, will be required to attend. The purpose of this meeting is to review departmental procedure, to identify errors or weaknesses, and to make recommendations for necessary improvements.

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**Police Commissioner**

