



Cambridge Police Department

Effective Date: April 15, 2002

NEW POLICY # 711
Policy and Procedures

2002-2

EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION

I. Purpose

This policy will:

- A.** Explain what actions to take for the first responding police officer during emergency mobilization for critical incidents.
- B.** Describe the stages of emergency mobilization.
- C.** Further describe the actions to take when a stage three or four emergency is declared.
- D.** Provide definitions for the emergency mobilization in critical incidents.

II. Implementation of Emergency Mobilization For Critical Incidents

- A.** The first police officer responding to the scene of an emergency, or a potential emergency, will make an evaluation of its extent and will take all necessary actions to prevent escalation. The officer should immediately notify ECC that a critical situation exists, giving the exact location and as many details as possible. The officer should remain in constant contact with ECC advising of all changes in the situation. The first responding officer will be deemed the Incident Commander until a higher-ranking officer assumes command and should designate a command post.
- B.** The first responding supervisor will assume incident command and assess the situation. The supervisor will notify the Shift Commander of the situation and request any further resources that are needed.
- C.** The Incident Commander may activate the Emergency Mobilization Plan, if appropriate, given the circumstances. Circumstances that may be considered when assessing the need to activate the Emergency Mobilization Plan include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1. Vehicle and pedestrian traffic in the area.
 - 2. The necessity of evacuation.
 - 3. Location and size of affected area.
 - 4. Weather conditions
 - 5. Number of injured persons.
 - 6. Need for other Emergency Equipment.
 - 7. Population density.
 - 8. Presence of persons who are vulnerable.
 - a. Schools, hospital, elderly housing, etc.

9. Potential affect of the incident to persons or property.

III. Stages of Emergency Mobilization

- A. Stage One:**
All on-duty uniformed personnel, including the Bicycle Unit, Traffic Unit, School Resource Officers, and officers assigned to Crime Analysis.
- B. Stage Two:**
All on-duty uniformed personnel including the following
 - a. Patrol platoons and groups
 - b. Bicycle Unit
 - c. Traffic Unit
 - d. Crime Analysis Unit
 - e. On-duty Investigations Section Officers
 - f. On-duty Special Investigations Unit Officers
 - g. Quality Control Unit Officers
 - h. Detail Officers may be deployed
- C. Stage Three:**
All personnel from Stage Two plus all uniformed and non-uniformed personnel on scheduled days off and all officers on paid details.
- D. Stage Four:**
All department personnel whether on or off duty. All leaves, days off, vacations, etc. may be cancelled at the discretion of the Commissioner.

Mutual Aid from another jurisdiction in Massachusetts may be deployed at any stage by the incident commander.

Tactical Patrol Force may be deployed at any stage by the incident commander.

Special Response Team may be deployed at any stage by the incident commander.

III. Execution of Stage Three or Four Emergency Mobilization

- A.** When a Stage Three or Four Mobilization is required and approved by the Superintendent or higher authority, a supervisor will be designated by the Shift Commander to perform the appropriate call-ins, keep a record of the officers called. These reports will be forwarded to the Commissioner after the incident.
- B.** An up-dated list of current telephone numbers of sworn personnel will be compiled and maintained by the Commissioner's Office.
- C.** The supervisor performing the call-ins will be responsible for maintaining an attendance log.

IV. Definitions

- A. After Action Report:** The formal report submitted by the Incident Commander analyzing the equipment, operation and management of the incident, and submitted to the Superintendent, Operations Division.
- B. Barricaded Suspect:** Any person who has the demonstrated capability and/or the stated intention to cause death or great bodily harm to himself (threatened suicide) and/or another person, has taken a hostage, and has achieved tactical superiority by the use of physical obstruction (including but not limited to buildings, open fields, vehicles, any other natural or man-made barrier). All barricaded suspects will be considered armed and dangerous until proven otherwise.
- C. Critical Incident:** Any man-made or natural disaster, major violent incident, or incident involving an act of violence or potential act of violence in which police and/or civilians are subject to extreme danger.
- D. Crowd Problem:** A civil disturbance or crowd control problem where the use of planned tactics for rescue/apprehension from the crowd are necessary.
- E. Debriefing**
- 1. Critical Incident Debriefing:** The after incident debriefings of personnel intensely involved in and/or affected by the incident, for the purpose of post-incident stress education and mediation. The debriefings will be conducted by trained peers not involved in the incident, from either the department and/or regional debriefing teams.
 - 2. Formal Debriefing:** Incident debriefing by the Command Staff and any other designated personnel for the purpose of learning, evaluation and commendation, conducted after the submission of all reports.
 - 3. Technical Debriefing:** After incident debriefing by the Incident Commander directly involved to critique actions and responses while events are fresh in the minds of the participants for the purpose of learning, evaluation and commendation, and to aid in preparation of the After Action Report.
 - 4. Dignitary Protection:** The protection of public figures when a potential for danger exists.
 - 5. Hostage:** Any person seized or kidnapped by another, where the suspect threatens the life of or great bodily injury to the hostage, with intent to evade arrest, escape, obtain the release of persons in custody, obtain monies or property or attain any other objective.
 - 6. Hostage Situation:** Any incident where available information indicates that the suspect is holding a hostage(s) or the possibility exists that a barricaded suspect may be holding a hostage(s).

7. **Incident Commander:** The highest-ranking officer who has assumed command and control of the Critical Incident. The Incident Commander has full responsibility and authority over all personnel, equipment and their utilization during the duration of the incident.
8. **Negotiator:** A sworn department member who is specially trained and designated to perform the negotiation function.
9. **Negotiation Team Coordinator:** A superior Officer who is an active member of the Negotiation Team, appointed by the Police Commissioner. The Coordinator is responsible for the selection, training, operational use, and administrative affairs of the Negotiation Team.
10. **Perimeter**
 - a. **Inner Perimeter:** Area of containment closest to the situation.
 - b. **Outer Perimeter:** Area of containment utilized for the assembly of response and support units. No unauthorized persons will be allowed inside the outer perimeter.
 - c. **Traffic Perimeter:** Area of containment farthest from the situation, that prevents outsiders from interfering with the situation.
11. **Special Response Team:** Officers specifically equipped and trained in containment, assault and firearm tactics for the purpose of apprehension of wanted persons who are probably armed and/or barricaded and/or the rescue of hostages or victims.
12. **Special Threat Situation:** Any situation involving a sniper, a barricaded suspect with or without hostages, or any terrorist activity.
13. **Staging Area:** A safe, accessible and securable area used to received and coordinate emergency support.
14. **Terrorist Activity:** Any criminal act in progress, such as political terrorism, that creates or is intended to create the fear of death or immediate bodily injury in the minds of others.
15. **Tactical Patrol Force:** Police Officers specifically trained and equipped in crowd control and containment.
16. **Unity of Command:** Assures that for the successful management and control of critical incident that the Incident Commander has complete responsibility and authority to initiate all activities essential to effective resolution of the situation.

Police Commissioner