

ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT - RAPID RESPONSE

Directive: 6.87

A. Purpose:

The purpose of this Directive is to establish guidelines and assign responsibility for the rapid response to an active shooting incident. This policy will:

1. Define an Active Shooting Incident.
2. Define the role of police officers in dealing with an active shooting incident.
3. Define the system used to establish Command and Control over first responders.
4. Define police response after the active shooter stops or has been stopped.

B. Policy:

It is the policy of the Wilmington Police Department to protect lives by:

1. Expeditiously taking action to stop active shooters using all lawful and necessary means.
2. Evacuating all living persons from the scene of the active shooting incident.
3. Conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the active shooting incident.

C. Definitions:

1. **Active Shooting** -- Any incident in which a person or persons armed with a deadly weapon is systematically, actively, and presently employing the weapons against innocent victims upon the arrival of the police. Their objective appears to be that of mass murder, rather than other criminal contact. The conclusion that an active shooting incident is occurring may be based on information or circumstances that would lead a reasonable peace officer to that conclusion. It need not be based on personal observation.

An active shooting incident is not to be confused with a hostage/barricade incident in which harm is being

threatened, but no killing is taking place. The response to hostage/barricade incidents will be handled according to Directive 6.65, entitled "Crisis Management Team."

2. [REDACTED] -- The [REDACTED] law enforcement officers to arrive at the scene of an active shooting incident. The [REDACTED] shall form as soon as the incident is identified as an active shooting and [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED] Leader -- The senior officer present, who is a member of the Crisis Management Tactical Team (CMTT). If no CMTT member is present, then the ranking officer will assume this role. If all [REDACTED] members are the same rank, then the senior police officer present will be the [REDACTED] leader.
4. [REDACTED] -- Teams of [REDACTED] law enforcement officers who enter the scene after the [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]
5. Hostile Environment -- Any environment in which an active shooting incident has taken place until declared safe by the Incident Commander at the scene following evacuation of all living persons.

D. Operational Strategies:

It is a Wilmington Police Department officer's first mission and duty to protect life. If human life is being systematically, actively and presently taken, it is a police officer's sworn duty to act to end the killing. In a hostage/barricade incident, this responsibility usually falls to the Crisis Management Team. In an active shooting incident, it falls to the [REDACTED].

E. Initial Response - [REDACTED]:

1. It is the responsibility of the [REDACTED] officers to arrive on the scene to form a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] members will [REDACTED] they are qualified to deploy.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

a. If the [REDACTED] is successful in containing the active shooter(s) and no innocent victims are in imminent danger, than the procedures for a [REDACTED] will be initiated.

6. Later responding officers are not to [REDACTED]

a. In instances when the first [REDACTED] has been rendered ineffective, [REDACTED]

b. The Incident Commander, at his discretion, may form additional [REDACTED] as needed, regardless of the status of the first [REDACTED]. In this case, coordination between [REDACTED] is vital.

c. The [redacted] shall maintain [redacted]

7. Later responding officers shall [redacted]

[redacted]

F. Second Response - [redacted]:

1. [redacted]

2. [redacted] will accomplish this task.

3. The Incident Commander at the scene shall call in all necessary resources to form [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

c. The Incident Commander may admit [redacted] by the medical contingent into the hostile area.

4. Uninjured civilians in the hostile environment shall be [redacted] by [redacted] members prior to [redacted]

a. One [REDACTED] member is to serve as a [REDACTED] while other team members [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] shall continue to search the hostile environment until all living persons have been evacuated.

6. Only the Incident Commander present at the scene shall declare a hostile environment safe. This will normally be declared after [REDACTED] by the Crisis Management Tactical Team. The Crisis Management Team will be immediately activated for all active shooting incidents.

a. At this point, the hostile environment becomes a crime scene.

G. Command and Control:

1. The Incident Command System will be utilized to establish command and control over all first responders.
2. The first supervisor on the scene, who is not part of the [REDACTED], will automatically assume command and perform the functions of command until command is transferred as outlined in Directive 6.61, entitled "Incident Command System."

H. Third Response - Investigation:

1. The Incident Commander shall establish an Investigative Group to conduct an investigation of the incident. The Investigative Group supervisor will normally be the Criminal Investigations Captain, or his/her designee.
2. If the number of evacuees is manageable, the Investigative Group supervisor may have them [REDACTED]
3. If the number of evacuees is unmanageable, the evacuees may be [REDACTED]
4. If a member of this Department discharges their weapon during the active shooting incident, the procedures for the Departmental Shooting Investigation Process, Directive 6.7, entitled "Use of Force" will be followed.