



VIA TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedures



Section 803 – Active Shooter Incidents / Hostage-Barricade Crisis

Office with Primary Responsibility:	COP	Effective Date: Prior Revision Date:	May 17, 2019 April 4, 2018
Office(s) with Secondary Responsibilities:		Number of Pages:	5
Forms Referenced in Procedure:	None	Related Procedures:	802,

01. INTRODUCTION

- A. This procedure establishes guidelines for responding to Active Shooter Incidents by assigning responsibilities to initial responders and identifying other critical functions.
- B. This procedure provides guidance for VIA Transit Police response during ongoing violent events which may be very chaotic, rapidly evolving, and unpredictable.
- C. Incidents of this nature require coordinated efforts of various first response agencies in order to insure the preservation of life and security of their missions. The use of Unified Command protocol enhances proper command, control, communication, cooperation, and organizational functions, allowing first responders and field supervisors to concentrate on the tactics required to stabilize the incident.
- D. The initial responding officers play a critical role in the intervention and ultimate resolution of these events, and may be forced to deviate from procedures due to the totality of the circumstances of the event.
- E. If an incident originally classified as an Active Shooter Incident changes into a Hostage Barricade Crisis, the incident should be reclassified as a Critical Incident and handled in accordance with SOP Section 802, *Unusual Occurrence*.

02. POLICY

- A. The primary goal of the VIA Transit Police Department in dealing with Active Shooter Incidents is the protection of human lives.
- B. Therefore, it is the policy of the Transit Police Department to resolve all Active Shooter Incidents in a manner that employs the training and experience of personnel using techniques designed to stop the loss of life by stopping the actions of the Active Shooter.
- C. Any officer involved in an Active Shooter Incident should wear their body armor and attempt to make use of specialized equipment (ballistic shields, shoulder weapons, etc.), if possible.

03. DEFINITIONS

- A. Active Shooter – Is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people. In most cases, active shooters use firearms and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims. An “Active Shooter” includes anyone who uses any deadly weapon (knife, club, explosives, etc.) to systematically or randomly inflict death or serious bodily injury.
- B. Active Shooter Incident – Incidents where “one or more subjects participate in a random or systematic shooting/killing spree, demonstrating their intent to continuously harm others. An Active Shooter’s overriding objective appears to be that of inflicting death or serious bodily injury on a mass scale, rather than criminal conduct such as robbery, kidnapping, etc.”
- C. Hostage Barricade Crisis – Develops when one or more terrorists or criminals hold people against their will and try to hold off the authorities by force, threatening to kill the hostages if provoked or attacked. In a hostage barricade crisis, the primary purpose is usually not inflicting death or serious bodily injury on a mass scale. Hostages are needed as bargaining tools.



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D. **Unified Command-** As a team effort, Unified Command allows all agencies with jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility for the incident to jointly provide management direction through a common set of objectives and strategies and a single Incident Action Plan (IAP).

.04 INCIDENT DISCUSSION

A. Every officer of the VIA Transit Police Department is committed to maintaining a safe environment for all to enjoy and to take necessary immediate action when the safety of innocent lives are at stake. With this objective in mind, and when a situation is determined to be an Active Shooter Incident, the **primary objective** of every responding officer is to locate, identify, and stop or contain any actors involved.

B. Response to Active Shooter Incidents should be rapid and in keeping with the following goals:

- Stop the threat
- Secure the immediate area
- Treat the injured/wounded
- Secure the crime scene
- Establish and maintain unobstructed ingress and egress routes for emergency response vehicles.
- Establish security details for all critical incident facilities including but not limited to command posts, staging areas, casualty collection points, triage, treatment, and transportation areas, and temporary shelters.

C. Officers must be aware that it is critical for the first arriving officers to distinguish the difference in circumstances between a Hostage Barricade Crisis and an Active Shooter Incident. The first arriving officers must recognize and prepare the appropriate response for a sudden and immediate transition from one type of incident to the other.

D. Incidents where the actor is no longer mobile, no longer actively shooting and is not yet under control are considered Hostage Barricade Crisis situations. Hostage Barricade Crisis situations are handled in compliance with .09 of this procedure.

05. INITIAL RESPONDERS TO AN ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT

■ [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

■ [Redacted]



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.09 HOSTAGE BARRICADE CRISIS

A. On-Scene Officers:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

B. On-Scene Supervisors:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

C. Dispatcher Responsibilities:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]



- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- D. Support to Assisting Agencies: All members of the Transit Police Department will work in any capacity to ensure the safest outcome of the situation. This includes remaining on a post, changing roles to adapt to the situation and assisting any other agency representatives as requested.
- E. Post Event Process:
1. All members of the Transit Police Department at the scene of this type of incident shall write a report documenting their actions prior to leaving the scene.
 2. On-scene supervisors will ensure all personnel on the scene, including themselves, have written a report and will provide any requested reports to the assisting agency.
 3. On-scene supervisors shall insure any evidentiary needs to include scene processing and documentation are provided for prior to releasing the scene.
 4. On-scene supervisors shall insure all equipment used is accounted for and returned to the proper agency representative at the conclusion of the incident prior to leaving the scene.
 5. The handling supervisor shall complete an after action report packet to be sent through the chain of command to the Chief of Transit Police within twenty-four (24) hours.