

 <b>FIRE DEPARTMENT GUIDELINE</b>	<b>SFD GUIDELINE:</b> 200-D
	<b>RESPONSIBLE DIVISION:</b> Operations
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Active Shooter Incident Response	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> 4/20/2021
<b>RELATIONSHIPS TO ADOPTED POLICIES, ORDINANCES:</b> 200_B Ballistic Protective Ensemble	<b>CYCLE OF REVIEW:</b> Every two years
<b>APPROVALS:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Command Staff	<b>DATE REVISED/APPROVED:</b> 4/20/2021

## **PURPOSE**

An Active Shooter is an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area. It is imperative that Scottsdale Fire Department (SFD) and Scottsdale Police Department (SPD) have common tactics, common communications capabilities and common guidelines for seamless, effective operations. SFD and SPD will establish standard operating procedures to deal with these unusual, highly volatile, and extraordinarily dangerous scenarios.

## **GUIDELINE**

In order to preserve life and address the reality of an active shooter incident, these guidelines have been established to influence our response to this event to maximize survivability, wellbeing and safety of all parties involved which include victims, the members of SFD and SPD.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

During a response to an active shooter incident, the members of SFD personnel will provide essential emergency medical and rescue services, in coordination with law enforcement.

## **PROGRAM/PROCESS CONTROLS**

The following considerations are provided to give responding personnel direction and benchmarks to assist the Incident Commander in making the decision whether viable casualties are in the warm zone and need rescue. The initial Fire Department Incident Commander (**Captain on first arriving unit, which will transition to a BC or DC upon arrival**) will gather

information and, if appropriate, coordinate an extraction plan in conjunction with SPD through direct communication, within the Risk Benefit Analysis. Extraction Teams will make entry into warm zones to rescue and relocate viable casualties from the warm zone to a predetermined location in the cold zone for further treatment and transportation to medical facilities.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Dispatch Considerations:**

Dispatch should collect as much information as possible and rapidly communicate that information to responding units via radio and MDT's. Based upon the information provided by Phoenix Fire Department (PFD) Dispatch and Scottsdale Police Department (SPD) Radio Traffic, an initial decision must be made by the responding fire units to: 1) stage and continue to evaluate and size-up the situation, or 2) to proceed with caution, based on Information gathered directly into a more forward position, allowing evaluation and emergency rescue within Risk Benefit Profile, Utilizing Cover and Concealment.

PFD Dispatch and SFD Units should share updates during response which may include:

- Type of violence (stabbing, shooting-handgun, rifle, etc.)
- Status of weapons and suspects
- Number of known casualties
- Location of law enforcement officers, incident commander or command post
- Ideal direction of approach or best scene access
- Crews should monitor their 800 MHZ radio designated PD channels for additional information.
- What type of environment are you responding to Residence, School, Public area, Commercial building, if so, how large is the building or area?

Responding units based upon their experience and dispatch information should make an initial decision to either: 1) Stage and continue to evaluate and size-up the situation or 2) to proceed with caution, based on information gathered directly into a more forward position, allowing evaluation and emergency rescue within Risk Benefit Profile. Call additional resources as needed (i.e. Battalion Chiefs, Medic units, etc.) Request the location of Law Enforcement personnel in charge of the incident or location of command post if established.

### **On-Scene:**

When units are directed to stage or make the decision to stage, they shall:

- Stage out of sight of the incident and away from crowds if possible.
- Assume Fire Incident Command.
- Provide continuous scene size-up for dangerous activity or opportunities to move forward based on new information.
- Utilize 800 MHZ radio to communicate on designated PD channels for additional information.
- Stage out of any line of fire and behind cover.
- Have a minimum of two directions of egress without backing up.
- Turn off warning lights while staged.

Units called into a secured scene or moving forward from staging into a secured scene shall:

- Contact SPD by radio for additional information, if applicable.
- Proceed with caution while conducting a windshield survey.
- Utilize 800 MHZ radio to monitor designated PD channels for additional information.
- Turn off warning lights when approaching the scene if practical.
- Don personal ballistics
- Be aware that bystanders and/or crowd may be a hazard.
- Have someone specifically assigned to be a lookout. All personnel should have a heightened sense of awareness of their surroundings.
- If treating casualties in cold zone ensure that casualties have been searched prior to patient care and/or transport, this includes unconscious patients.
- If units find themselves in a potentially violent situation they should immediately retreat to a safe location. Emergency traffic and/or EMER buttons should be used if necessary.

## **Command and Control**

**SFD BC or DC has the final say as to the deployment of any SFD personnel or resources. All coordination will be done by BC/DC on scene with SPD command.**

- Initial Police and Fire Unified Command shall be in place with good communications and jointly located.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified Command must agree that there are viable casualties.
- The immediate threat must be neutralized or contained under these or similar situations: suspect(s) are dead, in custody, fled the scene, reasonably contained or barricaded.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified Command shall designate and agree to a specific ingress and egress path for PD Extraction Teams or joint PD/FD Extraction Teams.
- The boundaries of the specific 'Indirect Threat' area for entry shall be defined and communicated to the extraction team to ensure this area is a "Indirect Threat" area and appropriate for Rescue Task Force deployment and ensure personnel do not enter "Direct Threat" areas.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified Command must jointly develop or, at a minimum jointly approve, an extraction plan based on available information and considering the Risk Management Plan.
- The Fire IC will consider the Risk Management Profile and all information available and has the final say as to deployment of fire resources into the warm zone.
- Accountability shall be in place and tracked throughout incident.

## **Communication**

- Rescue Task Force team members shall be in constant communication with Fire IC or designee.
- Members of joint PD/FD Extraction teams shall do a face to face briefing with their Law Enforcement security detail to ensure all members are familiar with their assignment.

## **Equipment/PPE**

All Equipment/PPE that will be used by an Extraction Rescue Teams will be deployed using individually assigned ballistic vests.

- Equipment will consist of tactical helmets, goggles, and tactical vest.
- Additional EMS gear such as tourniquets, Quick Clot, etc. will be integrated in the tactical vest.

## **Rescue Task Force Team Operations**

**It is imperative that all fire personnel understand in any active shooter event that any entry team will be under the direction of SPD.**

- Rescue task force will be made up of a six-person team comprised of four SPD members and two SFD members in a diamond pattern.
- No SFD personnel will proceed without the accompaniment of SPD.
- Rescue Task Force team briefings shall include brief face to face communication on the following:
  - Route into the designated area.
  - Team formations.
  - Identify security and EMS leads.
  - Cover / concealment.
  - How to respond if an IED is located.

## **Casualty care issues**

- Primary and secondary egress routes.
- Occupants to be extracted must be cleared by PD prior to treatment and extraction.
- Only immediate lifesaving EMS care should be delivered in the warm zone unless a casualty collection point is established and secured.
- Keep in mind it is important to minimize exposure time in the warm zone.
- Casualty collection areas will be identified in the IAP for the Rescue Task Force teams to handoff casualties once extractions are made.
- Rescue Task Force teams should only take appropriate equipment into the warm zone and keep in mind mobility is paramount.
- Rescue Task Force team shall enter as a team, leave as a team and shall not become separated.
- If the Rescue Task Force team is threatened or comes under fire, follow the Law Enforcement leads direction.

## **Critical Tactical Benchmarks**

Specific items have been identified for consideration in this guideline as part of the progression in dealing with an active shooter incident. These considerations are important for the initial company officer acting as the initial incident commander to consider in the development of an incident action plan.

**Items listed below are considered critical benchmarks and shall be completed prior to entry of fire department personnel into warm zones as part of a joint PD/FD Extraction Team.**

### **These Critical Tactical Benchmarks are:**

- Initial Police and Fire Unified command shall be in place with good communications and jointly located.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified command must agree that there are viable casualties.
- The immediate threat must be neutralized or contained.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified command shall designate and agree to a specific ingress and egress path for PD Extraction Teams or joint PD/FD Extraction Teams.
- Designate a location for the Casualty Collection Point (CCP).
- The boundaries of the specific warm zone area for entry shall be defined and communicated to the extraction team to assure this area is a “warm zone” and appropriate for Extraction Team deployment and assure personnel do not enter hot zones.
- Initial Police and Fire Unified command must consider the Risk Management Plan and available information and jointly develop or at a minimum jointly approve an extraction plan.
- The Fire IC will consider the Risk Management Profile and all information available and has the final say as to deployment of fire resources into the warm zone.
- Accountability shall be in place and tracked throughout the incident.
- Extraction team members shall be in constant communication with Fire IC or designee.

### **Extraction Rescue Teams**

Following triage and treatment, the decision to extract patients to a predetermined location will be made by the forward deployed Rescue Task Force members. Additional Rescue Task Force members designated “Extraction” may be required to transport patients to the cold zone for treatment.

## **DEFINITIONS/GLOSSARY**

**Active Shooter** - is defined as an individual and/or individuals actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area; in most cases, active shooters use firearm(s) and there is no pattern or method to their selection of victims, but we must be vigilant for any possible secondary devices such as improvised explosive devices (IED) that is meant to cause harm, injury or death to first responders.

**Barricaded/Hostage incident** – a static situation involving an armed suspect, with or without hostages, who has demonstrated or voiced violence, and has fortified a position of advantage, in a room or building. No indication of immediate harm to any hostages.

**Casualty Collection Point (CCP)** – a specific, designated area located in the cold zone where extraction teams hand casualties over to treatment personnel.

**Rescue Task Force-** Team of SFD and SPD members that make entry into the warm zone of an incident in attempt to treat, rescue, and relocate viable casualties from the warm zone to a predetermined location in the cold zone for further treatment and transportation to medical facilities.

**Rescue Team-** to treat and rescue viable casualties in the warm zone to a predetermined location in the cold zone for further treatment and transportation to medical facilities. This will be made up of 4 SPD and 2 SFD members to enter the warm zone for rescue of victims to the treatment sector or to an extraction team.

**Extraction Teams-** an extraction team may be assigned and chosen by the IC made up of a four-person team. This will be made up of two SFD and SPD members to enter the warm zone for rescue of victims to the treatment sector or to another extraction team.

**Risk Management Profile** – a preamble in which response personnel operate under that ensures the visibility, assessment and mitigation of risk and loss of life in an emergency.

We may Risk our lives a lot to protect **savable** lives  
We may Risk our lives a little to protect **savable** property  
We will not Risk our lives at all to save what is already lost  
All of the above are under a structured plan

**Shooting Incident Warm Zone** – an area of an incident that the Law Enforcement Crisis Team has been through without engaging the subject(s) and communicated the location of all viable victims.

**Stage for Law Enforcement** – units should stage far enough away as to not become part of the incident, out of line of sight, out of line of fire and behind cover and with two directions of egress without turning around. Companies should turn off warning lights and be aware of any crowds that may pose a hazard.

**Static Situation** – the suspect(s) have stopped moving and appear to be contained. An uncontained static suspect(s) can become dynamic without notice.

**Tactical Benchmark** – specific items, information or tasks that have been identified for consideration in as part of the progression in dealing with an active shooting incident.

**Transportation Sector** – coordinates ambulance/rescue usage with Treatment Sector and, notifies and coordinates the number of patients sent to hospitals.

**Treatment Sector** – set in the “Cold Zone” and allocates resources to treat casualties with an emphasis on rapid treatment and transportation.

**Triage Sector** – receives casualties from extraction team and performs triage