

**POLICY  
318**

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE  
09-22-21**

**Eugene  
Police Department**



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## **Field Force**

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with other relevant policies, including Policies 316 - Public Assemblies and Demonstrations, 317 – Civil Disturbances, 803 - Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol, 808 – Handcuffing, Control holds, and Impact Weapons, 1202 – Audio and Video Recordings and 1203 – Body Worn Video.

### **318.1 Responsibilities and Procedures for All Personnel**

1. A field force is a group of police officers working as an organized unit, under one or more supervisors, to resolve an incident involving a significant group of individuals engaged in unlawful behavior, such as civil disturbances or unlawful demonstrations. Any combination of sworn personnel can make up a field force team, with the exception of a K9. Assembly of a field force constitutes a large-scale incident for purposes of 316 - Public Assemblies and Demonstrations.
2. Some factors to consider, but not limited to, in determining whether to assemble and/or use a field force include crowd size and demeanor, likelihood of conflict and/or violence based on available information, level of available resources, and past experience with similar events.
3. A field force will normally be activated by a Watch Commander.
4. Helmets and protective equipment worn by officers involved will have identifying information visible (i.e., name or badge number.) Supervisors should ensure any officer wearing equipment without identifying information have it added when feasible.

### **318.2 Officer Responsibilities**

1. Officers need to function with other members of the field force as a unit and take no independent action unless there is an immediate need to prevent death or serious physical injury to the officer or others.

2. Officers may be assigned to be on the line, a member of the arrest/rescue team, the gas team, or any other related assignment.
3. Unless otherwise instructed, you must be equipped with:
  - helmet with face shield
  - gas mask
  - PR-24 or straight stick
4. It is advisable to wear gloves and a long-sleeve shirt or jacket.

### **318.3 Formations**

1. *Column of twos:* This formation is two columns of officers formed with the supervisor off to the side. It is an efficient way to move officers into and out of a given event.
2. *Line formation:* This formation is a single line of officers formed with the supervisor positioned behind the line. This is typically used for containment of a specific area or in moving crowds from a problem area.
3. *Wedge formation:* This drill formation is a wedge of officers with even or odd numbers on both left and right sides. The supervisor and other assets are positioned within the center of the formed wedge.
  - a. A variation of this formation uses a vehicle as the "point", allowing some line positions to be taken up by the vehicle.
  - b. The vehicle can be utilized as cover, to carry additional equipment, as a place for downed officers, to provide additional lighting, to communicate with the crowd through the loudspeaker and to record the event via the in-car video camera.
4. *Diagonal formation:* This can be formed from a line or a wedge, and can be used to direct the crowd in a specific direction.
5. *Diamond formation:* This formation can be used to protect the flank or to retreat from a location.

### **318.4 Communication**

1. Due to the noise of the crowd and hearing being limited by helmets and gas masks, communication will be difficult.
2. Five standard hand signals will be used:

- Stop: one hand, fist clenched, held overhead
- Go: one hand, fist clenched, pumped up and down several times
- Column of twos form here: Two arms held up overhead
- Line formation here: Two arms outstretched horizontally at shoulder height
- Wedge formation here: Two arms held up overhead, with the hands forming a point.

### **318.5 Chemical agents/OC**

1. In choosing which type of chemical agent to use, remember what you are trying to accomplish.
  - a. Oleoresin Capsicum, (OC) may cause a person to cover up, or to not be able to leave the area.
  - b. 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile (CS gas) may allow the person the opportunity to leave, but they may recover quickly from the effects of the gas.
2. Officers should use chemical agents in a field force situation only when directed by a command officer. Officers must document any chemical agent/OC they deploy.
3. Gas should be deployed in such a manner as to encourage the crowd to move in the desired direction.
4. In deciding whether and how to deploy chemical agents, supervisors should:
  - a. Consider factors such as the size of the crowd, environment (e.g., houses, hospitals), wind, and weather;
  - b. CS gas should not be used on vulnerable persons or near hospitals unless absolutely necessary.
  - c. Consider moving the line forward upon deploying gas, moving quickly but in an organized manner, to help disperse the crowd
5. When appropriate, summon a medic unit for after-care of individuals exposed to chemical agents or OC.

### **318.6 Arrest/reserve and rescue team**

1. This team, generally stationed near the gas team and near the line supervisor, is tasked with making arrests, rescuing downed officers and filling in as needed in the line formation.
2. Officers assigned to the team must be able to drag a downed officer to a safe area.
3. The line formation should move up to cover the team as it performs its arrest/rescue.

## **318.7 Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisors and Command Personnel**

### 318.7.1 Supervisory Roles

1. Incident Commander
2. Field Force Commander
3. Team Leader/Line supervisor/Assistant Team Leader

### 318.7.2 Supervisory Duties

1. Determine objectives, plan, tactics, and contingency plans, and communicate them to all involved personnel.
2. Ensure needed actions relative to a large-scale incident are taken (refer *Policy 316 - Public Assemblies and demonstrations* and *317 – Civil Disturbances*).
3. Assign personnel to necessary tasks.
4. Make decisions about the use of chemical agents and direct their use (refer I.E above). Track which officers are issued special equipment (e.g., gas, OC foggers, PepperBall and 40mm launchers.) Ensure that any needed clean-up is accomplished after the incident.
5. Ensure that police actions are properly documented.
  - a. Ensure video documentation of crowd actions and officers' actions, (refer also to Policy(s): *1202 – Audio and Video Recordings*, *1203 – Body Worn Video and Procedure 3.17 Video Recording and Monitoring of Events*).
  - b. Ensure that officers document any use of force and custodial arrests in police reports.
6. Assign officers as needed to ensure that problems do not recur after the field force is withdrawn (e.g., saturation patrols.)

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**Chief of Police**