

**Procedure  
4.5**

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE  
8-1-04**

**Eugene  
Police Department**



Reference to Policy 822 – Armed Barricaded Subjects added to 4.5.1 by authority of CD18-011.

## **Hostage or Barricaded Subjects**

### **4.5.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with *Policy 822 – Armed Barricaded Subjects*, *Procedure 4.6 – Large Scale Incidents* and other relevant department policies. In situations involving hostages and/or barricaded subjects, we will make every reasonable effort to provide encouragement and opportunity for the person(s) involved to exercise the choice to leave the barricaded area voluntarily, as well as to effect the safe release of any hostages.

#### **PART I - Responsibilities and Procedures for Sworn Personnel**

- a. Definitions
- b. Generally
- c. First responding officer(s)

#### **PART II - Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisors and Command Personnel**

- a. Incident Commander
- b. Watch Commander
- c. SWAT Commander

### **4.5.2 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SWORN PERSONNEL**

#### **a. Definitions**

**Hostage:** A person held by another against his/her will by force or threat of force, whether expressed or implied.

**Barricaded subject:** A person who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious physical injury or death to hostages, officers, or others in the community, who is in a stronghold position, and who is refusing or failing to surrender to police. Also included is a person threatening suicide who is armed with a deadly or dangerous weapon which could be a threat to others.

#### **b. Generally**

Certain types of calls are more likely to result in hostage incidents (e.g., armed robbery, mentally disturbed subject, barricaded subject, domestic violence.) Plans to handle these incidents should include, as a primary goal, preventing a hostage situation.

A SWAT/Crisis Negotiation Team response is typically justified during any incident involving a hostile subject, believed to be armed, that goes beyond the capabilities of Patrol or Investigations personnel, requiring the use of specialized resources.

**c. First responding officer(s)**

In addition to duties outlined in *Procedure 4.6 – Large Scale Incidents*:

1. Do not initiate tactical actions other than those necessary to protect the lives and safety of yourself and others, consistent with our use of force policies.
2. Isolate the incident scene by establishing an inner perimeter.
3. Confine the suspect(s) to the smallest area possible consistent with officer safety.
4. Inform dispatch and request command support.
5. Determine what crime, if any, has been committed.
6. If the situation involves a sniper, take the following steps:
  - Seek cover (protection) or concealment (a location out of sight.)
  - Warn others in the area to leave or to seek cover or concealment.
  - Attempt to verify that you actually heard gunshots, and not backfires, firecrackers, or similar sounds.
  - Attempt to locate the sniper.
  - Notify dispatch. Give precise location information, and suggest safe routes to the area.
  - You may only return fire (utilize deadly force) when you positively identify the sniper and have met all the requirements for employing deadly force, refer *Policy 800 – Use of Force*.
7. Obtain a phone number for the location as well as information as to where the phones are located within the structure.

8. Try to persuade anyone with information about the suspect (e. g., friends, and relatives) to remain available for possible contact as an information resource. However, do not allow such persons to enter the location or talk to the suspect(s).

### **4.2.3 RESPONSIBILITIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUPERVISORS AND COMMAND PERSONNEL**

#### **a. Incident Commander**

In addition to the procedures outlined in *Procedure 4.6 – Large Scale Incidents*:

1. Designate an arrest team, in case the suspect chooses to surrender.
2. Attempt to communicate with the suspect(s) via telephone, PA system, or other safe means and attempt to coordinate a surrender
3. If the situation remains unresolved, request SWAT and/or crisis negotiation personnel via the Watch Commander, who will contact the SWAT Commander.
4. Consider requesting that a medic unit be placed on stand-by at a nearby location.
5. Evacuate surrounding buildings, if this can be done safely (refer *Procedure 4.6 – Large Scale Incidents*).
6. Gather as much information about the incident and people involved as possible (including a floor plan, if available), and ensure it is provided to responding SWAT and Crisis Negotiation Team personnel.

#### **b. Watch Commander**

1. Advise the SWAT Commander of the situation, and request assistance needed.
2. If SWAT is activated, notify the Patrol Captain.
3. Provide logistical support to field and station personnel.

#### **c. SWAT Commander**

1. Assess the need for a SWAT and/or CNT response, and authorize activation if warranted.
2. Assume responsibility for tactical operations at the scene.

3. Coordinate with the Incident Commander regarding incident information and support needs, as well as release of initial responding officers from inner perimeter positions.