

EAST RANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Barricaded Suspect Response

POLICY
212

REV 03/10/2025

I. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Hostage situations and barricaded persons present unique problems for agencies. The protection of the public and law enforcement personnel is of the utmost importance. Proper planning and training will tend to reduce the risks involved with these incidents.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Hostage-** A person held by one party in a conflict as security so that specified terms will be met by the opposing party.
- B. **Barricaded Suspect-** A person who takes a position of cover or concealment or maintains a position in a structure, and who resists capture by law enforcement personnel. A barricaded suspect may be armed or suspected of being armed.

III. HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS

Promises of immunity or leniency and payment of ransom demands are rarely effective and will generally not be offered to barricaded persons. Trained hostage negotiators, however, will be permitted to exercise flexibility in each situation based upon the circumstances presented and consistent with their training.

Personnel involved in barricaded/hostage situations are urged to exercise patience and extreme caution. The use of deadly force against any armed suspect will be governed by the Use of Force Policy with due regard directed toward the safety of hostages.

IV. FIRST RESPONDING OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Upon determining a hostage/barricaded person situation exists, the first responding officer shall immediately request a supervisor respond and provide the supervisor with an overview of the situation. If a supervisor is unavailable, the first responder shall assume the duties of the supervisor.
- B. Until the supervisor arrives, the first officer on the scene of an actual or potential hostage/barricade situation shall consider the following:
 - 1. Attempt to avoid confrontation in favor of controlling and containing the situation until the arrival of trained personnel and/or trained hostage negotiation personnel.
 - 2. Evacuation of bystanders and injured persons.
 - 3. Provide responding officers with a safe arrival route to the location.

V. SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- A.** Upon being notified that a hostage/barricaded person situation exists, the supervisor shall immediately respond to the scene. Upon arrival and as time and situation permit, the supervisor shall:
 - 1. Rapidly evaluate and assess the situation, including a briefing from the initial responding officer.
 - 2. Assume the role of Incident Commander and retain this role until relieved.
 - 3. Establish and initial command post location and consider requesting the response of a Mobile Command Post.
 - 4. Notify tactical and hostage negotiation personnel.
 - 5. Notify appropriate persons within and outside the agency, such as command officers, dog handlers or helicopter pilots.
 - 6. Establish inner and outer perimeters.
 - 7. Request medical services to be on standby if appropriate.
 - 8. Coordinate pursuit/surveillance vehicles and control of travel routes.
- B.** The supervisor should advise the ERT Commander with as much of the following information as is available at the time:
 - 1. The number of persons, known weapons and resources.
 - 2. If the person is in control of hostages.
 - 3. If the person is barricaded.
 - 4. The type of crime involved.
 - 5. If the person has threatened or attempted suicide.
 - 6. The location of the command post and a safe approach to it.
 - 7. The extent of any perimeter and the number of officers involved.
 - 8. Any other important facts critical to the immediate situation and whether the person has refused an order to surrender.

VI. ON-SCENE COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival of the Emergency Response Team at the scene, the supervisor on scene shall brief the ERT Commander and team supervisors about the situation. The ERT Commander will be responsible for the tactical portion of the operation.

VII. TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS

In an emergency where it is believed that an armed and barricaded person or a person holding a hostage is committing a crime, the supervisor may order a designated telephone company security official to cut or otherwise control telephone lines to prevent telephone communication by the armed person or the hostage holder with a person other than a peace officer or a person authorized by law enforcement (Minn. Stat. 609.774 Subd. 2).

VIII. REPORTING

Unless otherwise relieved by a supervisor, the initial officer at the scene is responsible for completion of reports or coordination of reports for the hostage/barricade incident.

IX. REFERENCES AND REVISIONS

a. REFERENCES

i. X

b. REVISIONS

i. 04/19/2016 – Initial Policy

ii. 03/10/2025 – ERPSB Approval Date