

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
PROCEDURE**

**DATE:** MAY 11, 2017

**NUMBER:** 8.01 – CRITICAL INCIDENTS

**SUBJECT:** CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND GLOSSARY

**RELATED POLICY:** N/A

**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

**NEW PROCEDURE:**

**PROCEDURAL CHANGE:**

**SUPERSEDES:** DP 8.01 – 04/25/2014

---

**I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for terminology to be utilized during critical incidents.

**II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

**III. BACKGROUND**

- A. Whenever a critical incident occurs, Department resources will be immediately applied to effectively fulfill the Police Department's responsibility. The Department will coordinate closely with all other departments/agencies involved in operations to ensure the situation is managed quickly and efficiently.
  
- B. The Department's Critical Incident Management Unit (CIMU) is tasked with coordination of critical incident planning, training, response, and exercises. CIMU is also responsible for assisting the incident commander and support personnel during emergencies.

#### **IV. STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM / ICS**

As required by section 8607(a) of the California Government Code, the Department will utilize the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) in its response to, and management of, critical incidents. SEMS is utilized by all local, county, and State agencies to ensure a standardized response to incidents regardless of where they occur in the State. The Incident Command System (ICS), a component of SEMS, provides incident commanders with a system for managing critical incidents in an organized and effective manner. Department Procedure 8.02, Incident Command System (ICS), provides additional information about the Incident Command System.

#### **V. DEFINITIONS**

This section provides definitions for terminology utilized in Department Procedures and within the SEMS/ICS systems. Additional terms are defined in other Department Procedures in the Critical Incidents section (8.0 sections).

- A. Critical Incident - an event involving potential or actual injury, death, or property damage requiring an exceptional emergency response. This includes natural disasters (floods, earthquakes, major fires, etc.) and human-caused emergencies (plane crash, riot, terrorist acts, SWAT situations, etc.), which require extensive response and commitment of resources to control or resolve.
- B. Department Operations Center (DOC) - the centralized point for Police Department coordination during multiple, complex, or lengthy operations. Upon activation, the DOC coordinates logistical support to incident commanders, serves as the point of contact for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and department chiefs, and serves as the channel for distribution of Department policy issues to the incident commander(s). The DOC is under the direction of a commanding officer.
- C. Emergency Negotiation Team (ENT) - negotiators trained to negotiate with hostage takers, barricaded suspects, and suicidal subjects; interview hostages; and provide non-tactical alternatives to the incident commander.
- D. Emergency Negotiation Team Commander - liaison to the incident commander regarding ENT responsibilities.
- E. Emergency Operations Center (EOC) - a location for multi-department management personnel to monitor an incident, develop management level strategies, and to serve as a central information center. The EOC is under the direction of the Deputy Chief of Public Safety and Homeland Security for the City of San Diego.

- F. Incident Action Plan (IAP) - a plan containing general objectives reflecting the overall strategy and specific action plans for the use of responding forces. The IAP may have a number of attachments, which support the operational strategy and tactics. (Refer to Department Procedure 8.02, Incident Command System (ICS), and Department Procedure 8.04, Contingency and Incident Action Planning).
- G. Incident Commander (IC) - the individual responsible for the command of all functions at the field response level.
- H. Incident Command Post (ICP) - the field location at which the primary incident command functions are performed. Only one ICP is established per incident. The ICP should be kept apart from the SWAT Tactical Operations Center (TOC) and staging areas.
- I. Incident Command System (ICS) - the nationally-used standardized on-scene emergency management concept specifically designed to allow its user to adopt an integrated organizational structure. This concept provides a structure equal to the complexity and demands of single or multiple incidents without being hindered by jurisdictional boundaries.
- J. Officer-In-Charge (OIC) - the individual in charge of an ICS law enforcement section, branch, group, field force, squad, unit, or team.
- K. Perimeters/Containment
  - 1. Outer Perimeter - boundary established at a safe distance from the inner perimeter to control traffic and onlookers.
  - 2. Inner Perimeter - closed boundary, which controls all entry and exits into a hazardous area.
  - 3. Containment - a secure status that has been established controlling entry and exit routes and limiting the hazard to a designated area.
- L. Staging Area - location where responding units check in and are given tactical assignments or wait until assignments are made. Personnel also check out from the staging area when no longer needed at the scene. Staging areas should be kept apart from the ICP to reduce noise and interference with the ICP. The staging area should be large enough to accommodate personnel, resources, and growth.
- M. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
  - 1. Primary Response Team (PRT) - consists of a SWAT sergeant, one sniper and at least five SWAT officers who are equipped with specialized weapons and equipment necessary to assist in the containment and

isolation of a hazardous situation or victim rescue, pending a full SWAT response.

2. Special Equipment Vehicle (SEV) - the vehicle that contains weapons, ordnance, and special equipment necessary to execute a SWAT mission. The SEV responds with the Primary Response Team (PRT) on Code 11s and Code 12s. It will be parked at the SWAT staging area, which is near the Incident Command Post.
  3. Special Response Team (SRT) - a full-time SWAT component which remains in a state of mobilization readiness in order to manage emergency responses. The SRT is specially trained in the area of hostage rescue and critical incident resolution. It reports directly to the SWAT Commanding Officer and may be used by the SWAT mission leader to assist in the implementation of mission plans that have been approved by the incident commander.
  4. SWAT Commanding Officer - liaison to the incident commander regarding SWAT responsibilities and missions.
  5. SWAT Mission Leader - a SWAT sergeant in charge of formulating and executing the tactical plan to accomplish the mission of the incident commander.
  6. Tactical Operations Center (TOC) - the primary location for SWAT personnel to meet, plan, and organize their mission. It is usually led by the SWAT Executive Officer who coordinates incoming intelligence (gathers, analyzes, disseminates) and the mission leader who is responsible for executing the mission. The TOC is generally located alongside the SWAT Special Equipment Vehicle (SEV).
- N. Unified Command - a unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. The designated incident commander maintains responsibility for the incident.
- O. Volunteer Control Center - in order to provide a central location for the management, tracking, and control of volunteer personnel, a Volunteer Control Center (VCC) will be established. This center will coordinate with the Department Operations Center's Logistics Section to determine where volunteer personnel are most needed.