



CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



Active Shooter/Killer Incidents

Eff. Date 01/31/2023

**Purpose**

Establish standard procedure for Madison Police Department (MPD) response to incidents involving active shooters/killers.

**Policy**

The objectives of this department in dealing with barricaded person, hostage, and active shooter/killer incidents are, in order of priority:

1. Preservation of life
2. Apprehension of perpetrator(s) using a reasonable amount of force
3. Securing available evidence to assist in the appropriate disposition of the perpetrator(s)

The fundamental philosophy driving our response is “Stop the Killing, Stop the Dying”.

**SAFETY PRIORITIES**

The basis for operational and tactical decisions will be based on the following safety priorities, in order of priority:

1. Hostages and citizens
2. Law enforcement personnel
3. Suspects and subjects

In situations where ongoing deadly force is reasonably likely to be employed by a suspect—and delay in taking police action could result in injury or death—rapid intervention of officers at the scene is authorized and expected when such actions are deemed reasonable to prevent further injuries or loss of life.

**Definitions**

**Active Shooting/Killing:** An incident, normally in a confined and populated area, in which one or more armed persons have used, or are reasonably likely to use, deadly force in an ongoing manner, and where persons have been injured, killed, or are under imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm by such persons. This includes all situations where there is an active, ongoing deadly threat, to include those from firearms, explosives, knives, and other weapons.

**Rapid Intervention:** Immediate response by one or more officers to an active shooting based on a reasonable belief that failure to take action pending the arrival of additional officers would result in death or serious bodily injury.

**Hot Zone:** Physical location(s) under direct threat by a person(s) or other mechanism (improvised explosive devices, etc.).

**Warm Zone:** Physical location not believed to be under direct threat but where there is potential for hazard. Cleared and occupied by law enforcement but not secured.

**Cold Zone:** Area outside the immediate warm zone.

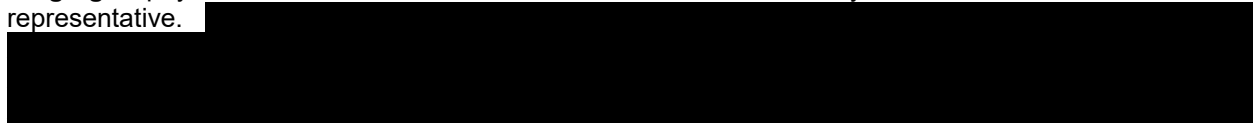
**Contact Team:**





**Rescue Team:** An organized team of officers who make entry after the contact team to provide first aid and evacuate persons from a hostile environment. May include a mixture of law enforcement and fire/emergency medical services (EMS) elements operating in a warm zone environment to triage patients, to provide medical care, and to coordinate casualty evacuation.

**Staging:** A physical location established in the cold zone and staffed by a law enforcement and fire/EMS representative.



## Response Procedures

### INITIAL RESPONSE

Personnel initially responding to an active shooter/killer incident will make an initial assessment to attempt to ascertain the following:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Upon completion of the initial assessment, [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

In some instances, an individual officer may be present within or nearby the active shooting location, such as a mall or school. [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

As soon as practical, officer(s) shall notify communications that an active shooter/killer situation exists. The officer should provide the following information and updates as available:

- The identity, location, manner of dress (if not in uniform), and proposed actions of the officer(s) at the scene;

- Information on the suspect to include a physical description, weapons, equipment such as body armor, and current location and actions; and
- Available information on persons injured or under threat, their locations, emergency resources required, and [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]

**INTERVENTION—CONTACT TEAM RESPONSE**

A contact team response to an active shooter/killer situation is preferred in nearly all active shooter/killer situations—irrespective of any initial actions that may have been taken. Even if the threat seemingly has been terminated, [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]

**RESCUE TEAM RESPONSE**

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

**STABILIZATION**

Once the contact and rescue teams have been deployed, the scene supervisor/incident commander will:

1. Establish an inner perimeter.
2. Establish a command post and unified command structure with other agencies (Madison Fire Department (MFD), etc.).
3. Establish a staging area for responding emergency personnel.
4. In conjunction with the MFD, identify a casualty collection point (CCP) for injured parties to be taken for triage, treatment, and transportation.
5. Determine a collection point/evacuation center for non-injured evacuees from the location.
6. Establish a staging area/contact point for friends and family members of potential victims.
7. Select a location for media response and designate a person to interact with them prior to the arrival of the agency public information officer.
8. Establish an outer perimeter and traffic plan.
9. Establish and maintain a log that documents the activities that have occurred and the location and identification of the assigned personnel.
10. Ensure that the appropriate personnel have been notified and briefed (Officer in Charge (OIC), District Command, etc.).
11. Coordinate with owners or officials of the target location for floor plans, site layout, and a roster (including emergency contact information as available) of employees, students, residents, visitors, or others believed to be on-site.



Officers assigned to the evacuation center shall maintain custody and control of all persons and document their identities until they can be reunited with family or others. Victims and witnesses suffering from emotional and/or physical trauma or shock should be kept under the observation of medical personnel until such time as they may be safely transported to a hospital or home in the care of family or friends.

**SWAT RESPONSE**

SWAT should be activated to assist with active shooter/killer incidents when appropriate. Initial requests for SWAT activation should be made to the SWAT tactical team lieutenant. A full-team SWAT activation should generally be approved by the SWAT Commander and Assistant Chief of Operations. However,

SWAT use may be approved by any MPD supervisor if no SWAT commander/supervisor can be contacted, or in case of extraordinary emergency where command approval would be impractical. The SWAT commander will be notified as soon as possible of any SWAT usage that did not have prior authorization.

On-duty SWAT personnel may respond to assist with tactical situations as needed. Where possible, a SWAT supervisor will respond to the scene to oversee the utilization of SWAT personnel. If used for on-duty tactical situations, SWAT personnel will only be used in a manner that is consistent with the SWAT Team's training and standard operating procedures.

The actions of SWAT will be consistent with MPD's Code of Conduct, standard operating procedures, and with standard professional practices in the area of police tactical response.

Original SOP: 08/18/2014  
(Reviewed Only: 02/17/2016, 12/26/2017, 12/28/2020, 02/04/2022)  
(Revised: 11/02/2016, 01/14/2019, 12/23/2019, 01/31/2023)