

# FLORENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

<b>Subject:</b> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Active Threats</b></p>	<b>Procedure:</b> General 24.1.3 CALEA 46.1.10	<b>Total Pages:</b> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p>
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**I. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Florence Police Department to resolve active threats by tactically isolating, containing and removing the threat and protecting citizens that are effected by the threat.

**II. PURPOSE**

This written order establishes guidelines for the resolution of active threats that may occur within the area of operation of the Florence Police Department.

**III. SCOPE**

This written directive is applicable to all personnel.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

All sworn personnel are responsible for complying with this directive.

**V. DEFINITIONS**

A. **ACTIVE THREAT:** Any current/on-going actions of an individual that create an imminent threat to the lives and safety of citizens or officers. An active threat is any action, if allowed to continue, will very likely result in the death or serious physical injury to one or more persons.

B. **ACTIVE SHOOTER IN A STRUCTURE:** An individual inside a large structure who is currently firing a weapon at people inside the structure. The fact that no one has been injured does not negate the fact that the individual is an active shooter. An active shooter poses an imminent threat.

C. **BARRICADED ACTIVE SHOOTER:** An individual who:

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- a. has barricaded himself/herself inside a structure and refuses to surrender to law enforcement, and
- b. is currently firing a weapon at individuals outside the structure.

A barricaded active shooter poses an imminent threat.

D. **BARRICADED ARMED INDIVIDUAL:** An individual that is armed with a weapon and barricaded inside a structure and refuses to surrender to law enforcement. A barricaded armed individual is not currently firing a weapon at people.

E. **HOSTAGE TAKER:** An armed individual that is currently holding one or more persons against their will. The hostage taker can be holding the individual(s) in a structure, a vehicle, or in open-air. A hostage taker is  
Not currently firing a weapon at people.

**VI. PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS**

The department will utilize local media outlets, as well as social media to alert citizens of the active threat and instruct them to avoid the area. Alternate travel routes will be provided should the active threat effect traffic flow.

**VII. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The Incident Commander has the authority to request the assistance of law enforcement officers from other jurisdictions or other first responders. These include, but aren't limited to emergency medical technicians, fire fighters, utility employees (electricity, gas, etc.).

**VIII. RESPONSE TO ACTIVE THREATS**

- A. In the event of an active threat, the first officer on the scene shall:
  - 1. Assess the scene and inform dispatch, other officers and supervisors what type of active threat is present.
  - 2. Call for available assistance.
  - 3. Direct officers to an assembly area.

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4. If the active threat is an active shooter in a structure, the first responding officers shall:
  - a. Locate an area where a first response/entry team can be formed safely.
  - b. Once additional officers are on the scene, this group will make entry into the structure. The objective is to locate, isolate, and terminate the threat.
  - c. If entry locations are blocked, officers will use any safe method necessary to breach doors, windows, or any other access point to the structure.
  - d. A radio channel will be designated for this incident.
  - e. Entry teams will maintain radio contact with incident command if it has been established and other responding officers.
  - f. If the initial entry team deems it necessary for the formation of additional entry teams, additional officers will form entry teams as needed.
  - g. Those teams will contact the initial entry team via radio and coordinate a search of the structure until the threat ceases.
  - h. During the search for threats, any officer that encounters a device that appears to be an IED will notify incident command of the description and location of the device. Incident Command will direct EOD to respond and Coordinate any required assistance.
  - i. If an imminent threat exists, officers will move past injured individuals without providing first aid. If possible, officers will report the locations of injured individuals to incident command.
  - j. Teams that encounter a suspected device will move past the device and continue searching for threats.
  - k. Entry teams will not cease clearing the structure until the active threat has been resolved (in the event of a shooter, the shooting has stopped).

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1. Additional officers should contain the threat by getting into positions to ensure that the threat does not go mobile.

NOTE: Florence City Schools faculty and staff have been instructed to consider the following options when encountering an active threat:

- Run
- Hide
- Fight

5. If the active threat is a barricaded active shooter, the first responding officers shall:
  - a. Safely get into positions to observe and possibly engage the shooter.
  - b. Contain the threat by safely getting into positions to ensure the shooter does not go mobile.
  - c. Evacuate citizens that are in the danger area if it can be done safely.
6. If the active threat is a barricaded armed individual, the first responding officers shall:
  - a. Contain the threat by safely getting into positions to ensure the threat does not go mobile.
  - b. Be prepared to take the individual into custody should he/she surrender to police.
  - c. Evacuate citizens that are in the danger area if it can be done safely.
7. If the active threat is a hostage-taker, the first responding officers shall:
  - a. Contain the threat by safely getting into positions to ensure the threat does not go mobile.
  - b. Be prepared to make entry should the threat turn into an active shooter in a structure.
  - c. Be prepared to take the individual into custody should he/she surrender to police.

- d. Evacuate citizens that are in the danger area if it is safe to do so.

**IX. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE SCENE OF AN ACTIVE THREAT**

1. Assume the duties of the Incident Commander until relieved by a higher ranking supervisor.
2. Establish a command post and direct operations from a safe area, but still near the affected area.
3. Advise dispatch to make the following notifications:
  - a. Immediate Supervisor
  - b. SWAT Commander
  - c. Crisis Negotiation Unit
  - d. EMS to stage.
  - e. Other personnel if needed.
4. Establish a staging area for responding officers and resources.
5. Instruct dispatch to notify area hospitals with pertinent information if there are mass injuries.
6. Conduct an accountability of officers on scene and their locations.
7. Establish traffic control points for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This should include:
  - a. Preventing unauthorized access to the scene.
  - b. Promoting orderly evacuations.
  - c. Promoting the efficient flow of traffic around or away from the scene.
8. Establish a media staging area. This staging area must be a safe distance away from the incident.

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9. Document the sequence of events that occur during the incident.
10. Establish a temporary sheltering area for individuals displaced from their homes as a result of being evacuated by police.
11. Directing personnel to conduct post-incident investigations.
12. A complete debrief will be conducted with representatives from all entities involved in the incident.

### **X. TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION**

1. All sworn personnel will review this policy annually.
2. Annual scenario training will be conducted for all supervisory personnel, may be with 46.1.9.
3. All policy reviews and training will be documented.