**SAMPLE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Active Shooter – Schools**

NOTE: This document is for internal use only. It does not establish a legal duty or standard of care for civil liability, or enlarge an employee’s civil or criminal liability in any way. A violation of this policy may only form the basis for internal discipline by this agency and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

1. **PURPOSE**

To provide SAMPLE Police Officers with guidance in the response and handling of active shooter situations.

1. **POLICY**
2. SAMPLE Police Department officers are permitted to use lethal force in self-defense or the defense of others. Lethal force is authorized when it is evident an officers or others will suffer death or extreme bodily injury because of a suspect's hostile actions.
3. Officers responding to an active shooter incident shall deploy any legal means necessary to immediately find the active shooter(s) and terminate their hostile actions. Legal means may include arrest, containment, and / or the use of lethal force. This policy recognizes the active shooter(s) must be stopped immediately to prevent loss of life.
4. There is the possibility in an active shooter incident for the suspect(s) to cease being an active shooter, take hostages, and/or barricade themselves. If this situation were to occur, standard hostage/barricaded gunman procedures should apply.
5. **DEFINITIONS**
6. Active Shooter: One or more shooter participating in a random or systematic shooting incident. The subjects are demonstrating specific intent to inflict extreme bodily injury or death with firearms, or with any other deadly weapon. The actions of the shooter(s) would lead a reasonable person to believe the shooter intends to commit murder as opposed to the taking of hostages or other felonies.
7. Active Shooter Situation: Where shooter(s) are actively causing extreme bodily injury or death to victims or there is the immediate risk of extreme bodily injury to persons.
8. Hot Zone: The area where there is a known hazard or threat to life that is direct and immediate. An uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage people.
9. Warm Zone: Areas where law enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat, and the risk is minimal or has been mitigated. This area may be considered clear but not secure.
10. Cold Zone: The area where there is little or no threat. It may include the outside of the building, or an area law enforcement has secured. It is safe to operate in this zone.
11. Dynamic Situation:The situation is evolving very rapidly along with the suspect’s action (active gun fire).
12. Static Situation:The situation is not evolving or in motion, the suspect actions appear to be contained.

**IV. PROCEDURE**

1. The basic procedure is to get the first two officers on scene as quickly as possible and immediately move against the shooter to stop the threat. These first two officers will NOT stop to set up a perimeter nor will they stop and wait for a supervisor or other back-up officers during an active shooter situation. Some situations may require a solo police officer to move against an active shooter should the second officer not arrive in a timely manner.
   1. **“One is better than None”**: If the officer who arrives on the scene first observes a second officer arriving at the same time, the officer may PAUSE long enough for the second officer to enter the scene together. If a backup or second officer is not visible, then the solo officer is the “Entry Team.”
2. During an active shooter situation when a lead agency is not following best practices in making an immediate entry to stop the threat and save lives, SAMPLE Police officers will make immediate entry.

1. Tactics: The officer(s) will use officer safety best practices and quickly move against the shooter(s) using the Tactical T formation, Diamond formation, or other techniques as trained based on the number of officers traveling together. The officers will use the minimum amount of force necessary, to include deadly force if needed, until the shooter is contained, and the situation turns from a dynamic situation to a static situation.
2. In an active shooter situation, the prioritizations of activities in order of importance are:
3. Stop, delay, or hinder the active shooter from further hostile actions.
4. Initiate command and control of the situation.
5. Contain and isolate the situation.
6. Rescue the victims.
7. Protect the crime scene.

NOTE: While it is important to provide aid to the wounded and/or dying, the first duty is the protection of lives by stopping the homicidal actions of the active shooter(s).

D. Command and Control

1. The first Supervisor to arrive on scene who is not part of the initial teams will be the incident commander (IC) following established guidelines in departmental response plan for Hostage/Barricade Situations.

2. As the situation changes the on-scene commander should determine if the area is at what “Zone.”

1. **Hot Zone** – The area where there is a known hazard or threat to life that is direct and immediate. An uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage people.
2. In the initial stage, an active shooter incident in a building makes the entire building the **Hot Zone**. Law enforcement personnel must immediately move toward the shooter to stop the attack and prevent more injuries or deaths.
3. **Warm Zone** – Areas where law enforcement has either cleared or isolated the threat, and the risk is minimal or has been mitigated. This area may be considered clear but not secure.
4. As officers move inside and begin to secure parts of the building, these areas become **Warm Zones** because there is some certainty that the shooter is not in the immediate vicinity. This is where EMS/Fire personnel will have an opportunity to join officers and make entry to locate and treat victims, even as other officers search for and neutralize the suspect. Keep in mind that incidents with multiple shooters make this more difficult for first responders.
5. **Cold Zone** – The area where there is little or no threat. It may include the outside of the building, or an area law enforcement has secured. It is safe to operate in this zone.
6. In a mass shooting situation officers will not wait for a **Cold Zone** to allow medical personnel to treat victims.
7. Training
8. Department personnel will train annually in each school (elementary, middle, and high school) in active shooter response tactics, including, when possible, with EMS and Fire personnel. Active shooter events are evolving, and training and techniques should evolve to ensure officers can appropriately respond.
9. When possible, SAMPLE officers will train with surrounding agencies that may either respond to SAMPLE schools or request assistance during an active shooter in their schools.
10. The following training areas should be covered:
11. Active shooter situation identification, approach, position, and entry.
12. Response using Mutual Aid channel with other public safety agencies.
13. Room/building entry techniques with handgun, rifle, and less-lethal shotgun.
14. Building/area clearing techniques with handgun, rifle, and less-lethal shotgun.
15. Victim rescue techniques
16. Improvised explosive and explosive recognition.
17. Use of breaching tools, which includes officers being trained by local Fire and Rescue personnel on the proper usage of all equipped breaching tools on various doors/gates. Officers should be familiar with and train on both exterior and interior doors at all schools within the police jurisdiction. Annual Active Shooter training will include training with breaching tools.

NOTE: If a first officer on the scene of an active shooter situation must make a rapid entry without breaching tools encounters a locked or barricaded door, he/she will alert other responding officers and the next officer to enter the school will have breaching tools.

1. Basic First Aid to include tourniquet usage and direct pressure.
2. Equipment
3. Patrol vehicles will be equipped with the following gear in the event officers must make an emergency entry to locked exterior or interior doors during an active shooter situation or provide emergency first aid. Victims can bleed to death within 5 minutes if tourniquets or direct pressure is not immediately administered.
   1. Bolt Cutters
   2. Active Shooter Hallagan Tool
   3. Master keys, key codes, or key cards to access all school doors if made available by school officials
   4. Combat Application Tourniquets (C-A-T)

APPROVED: CHIEF OF POLICE DATE

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS ORDER

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER DATE

***DISCLAIMER***

***NOTE****: This document is being provided to you by the AMIC/MWCF Loss Control Division and is not intended to be legal advice. It does not identify all the issues surrounding a particular topic. Laws and “Best Practices” change and policies must be continually reviewed and updated as needed. Public agencies are encouraged to review their procedures with an expert or an attorney who is knowledgeable about the topic. Reliance on this information is at the sole risk of the user.*