

**CITY OF OCONOMOWOC POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

DATE: January 27, 2021

HISTORY: June 2, 2006

SUBJECT: Active Assailant

POLICY NUMBER: 06-054

I. PURPOSE

This policy has been established to assist officers in the tactical decision-making process due to the special considerations and requirements of a police response to this most extreme of emergencies.

II. DEFINITION

An active assailant is defined as one or more subjects who participate in a random or systematic shooting spree that demonstrates their intent to continuously harm others. Their overriding objective appears to be that of mass injury and death rather than other criminal conduct, such as robbery or hostage taking. For the purpose of this policy, the term active assailant will also include anyone who uses any other deadly weapon (knife, club, bow and arrow, explosives, etc.) to inflict death or bodily harm on people.

III. POLICY

A. It is the policy of the City of Oconomowoc Police Department to protect life by any legal means possible. Officers responding to an active assailant incident shall accomplish this duty by immediately using any legal means at their disposal to contact the active assailant to stop him/her. This may include containment, arrest, or the use of force. An active assailant must be stopped before he/she can take innocent lives. The prioritization of activities, in their order of importance, is:

1. Stop the active assailant
2. Rescue victims
3. Provide medical assistance
4. Preserve the crime scene
5. Investigate the incident

B. While it is important to provide medical treatment to the wounded, it is our duty as law enforcement officers to first protect all innocent life by stopping the actions of the active assailant.

IV. FIREARMS CONTROL

Officers responding to an active assailant situation should:

1. Use target acquisition to identify subjects as threatening death or serious bodily harm.
2. Be sure of your target, what is between you and your target and what is beyond your target.

V. EQUIPMENT

Officers shall consider the appropriate firearm for such incidents. Only department authorized firearms that the officer has been trained in their use shall be used.

VI. TRAINING

The firearms instructors shall, with the approval of the Chief of Police, implement and maintain suitable tactical training for all sworn patrol personnel to effectively address an active assailant incident.

VII. PROCEDURE

All on-duty personnel who are not on an emergency call shall respond to the scene of an active assailant incident.

A. Contact Team

1. The first responding officer shall form a contact team and go in immediate pursuit of the active assailant. A contact team could be one or more officers.
2. The determination of the minimum officers in the contact team will be based on the level of training and/or officer discretion.
3. The team will be subject to 360-degree vulnerability and will not do a thorough clearing.
4. They will continue past victims or harmless distractions. The location of victims may be relayed to dispatch.
5. The objective of the contact team is to stop the threat.

B. If a firearms instructor is on a contact team, he/she will assume the role of team leader.

C. If a contact team encounters a suspected explosive device (IED), they should report its location to dispatch and the command center once adequate distance/safe zone has been achieved and then move on.

D. Contact teams should make entry at a location other than the main entrance, if possible.

1. These are normally the locations where a suspect(s) might set up barricades, explosives or an ambush.

E. One radio channel shall be dedicated to incident and radio traffic should be restricted to emergency traffic only.

VIII. INCIDENT COMMAND

A. The first officer on the scene, who is not part of a contact team, will:

1. Establish a command post and will be the incident commander until relieved by a ranking officer.
2. Designate and advise of a safe staging area for arriving emergency personnel.
3. Call for mutual aid from other agencies.

IX. SUSPECT CONTACT

A. If the contact team contains the suspect, the Waukesha County Tactical Enforcement Unit will relieve the contact team and negotiators will be used to affect a surrender.

B. Once the threat has been stopped, the thorough clearing of the facility should be conducted by other resources, i.e., tactical enforcement unit, canine, bomb squad. Officers on contact teams should assist EMS with removing injured subjects and provide first aid where needed.

X. INVESTIGATION

- A. If the suspect is arrested or incapacitated, regular department procedures will be followed regarding the investigation.

XI. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY MAY BE AUTHORIZED ONLY BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE

This policy is effective immediately
and will supersede any directives or understandings in conflict