



THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

THE JUSTICE CENTER 1215 West 3rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

CUYAHOGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DIVISION OF PROTECTIVE SERVICES ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT

201

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POLICY

An active shooter is an individual actively engaged in targeting and attempting to kill humans. An active shooter incident (ASI) is an inherently dangerous and dynamic situation, varying greatly from one attack to another. Time is of the essence with ASIs, as past studies have shown that the suspect's intent is to harm or kill as many victims as possible. For this reason, the immediate deployment of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department ("CCSD") Protective Services Officers ("PSOs"), unless at the scene of another high risk situation, must do everything in their power to stop the shooter and mitigate harm.

ASIs require the initial responders to have the authority and the capability to take whatever action is reasonably necessary¹ to protect the lives of others in these situations, including the use of deadly force, without waiting for command staff or for the arrival of specialty units such as SWAT or crisis negotiators.

PURPOSE

These guidelines will establish operating procedures for PSOs to follow in case of an ASI. As with all critical incidents, ASIs are situational and PSOs should always base their decisions on reason and common sense.

It is the goal of the CCSD to effectively manage and resolve ASIs by:

- capturing or neutralizing the shooter(s);
- protecting the lives in proximity to the active shooter(s); and

¹ As with all policies, PSO actions will be judged by what an ordinary, reasonable, PSO, when faced with a similar situation, would do.

- containing and isolating the scene.

TACTICAL PROCEDURES

All enforcement personnel who are not on a high priority call shall respond to the scene of an ASI and notify communications. First responding PSOs and deputies, if practical, will notify dispatch. Given the unique nature of ASIs, PSOs possess the authority and responsibility to take immediate action to contain and neutralize ASIs. For this reason, PSOs, when arriving to the scene, shall first find and stop the shooter, not aid the victims.

INCIDENT COMMAND

- Once the ASI has been neutralized, PSOs and/or deputies can formulate a structured and deliberate plan. The incident command Officer (ICO) will establish a command post. In doing so, the ICO shall immediately:
 - choose a safe staging area for arriving personnel;
 - order the dispatcher to initiate the notification of command;
 - form rescue teams, if necessary;
 - arrange a safe staging area for medical units and treatment of the injured; and
 - notify the public information officer to stage the media in a safe location outside the inner perimeter

If the suspect is arrested or incapacitated, regular procedures will be followed regarding the investigation and evidence preservation. If the suspect barricades himself/herself so that the dynamics of the situation change to that of a barricaded suspect, CCSD policy regarding a barricaded suspect would apply.

MAJOR INCIDENT DEBRIEFING

Within three (3) days following an ASI, the ICO shall ensure an incident review has been completed. The CCSD command staff, the incident commander, and other necessary individuals shall participate in a debriefing of the incident. The debriefing shall:

- include a synopsis of the incident reviewing the CCSD's response and investigation;
- identify any major issues that arose during the incident; and
- determine if the supervision, investigation, and evidence processing were being properly conducted and documented.



Clifford Pinkney
Sheriff