

<b>WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE    POLICY AND PROCEDURES</b>	
SUBJECT: Barricade operations	CHAPTER/SECTION NO.:35.2.1
EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/22/09	REVIEW DATE:
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:33.15-17	APPROVED: _____ Sheriff
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### **35.2.1 Purpose**

To provide guidance on responding to barricaded subjects.

### **35.2.2 Rationale**

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that scenarios involving barricaded subjects have a very high threat potential to responding law enforcement and to the public. Because of this threat potential, these situations require a special response.

Furthermore, the use of well trained tactical team members and negotiators increases the likelihood of a positive outcome.

### **35.2.3 Definitions**

**Barricade operation:** An incident where an individual(s) is believed to be armed with a deadly weapon, is inside a structure or vehicle, is committing or has committed some criminal act and it is apparent that the individual(s) intends to unlawfully defend a fixed position against police entry. This does not require that the suspect be completely alone, but does require that anyone inside with them is there by choice and not being held against their will.

**Containment:** This concept describes our ability to control who enters or exits from a specific area, such as the inner perimeter.

**Incident Commander:** The officer in charge from the Law Enforcement agency which has primary jurisdiction over the area where the crisis is occurring. Has overall command of the incident and is responsible for the decision to use the SWAT Team or not, but not over what tactics are used and at what times.

The incident commander has the burden of managing the entire scene, including coordinating all of the available resources, handling all media inquiries, any

criminal investigations that occur, etc. The incident commander works closely with the tactical commander to achieve the best possible outcome for the incident.

The Incident Commander's direct control over the tactical commander is limited to the decision to use the SWAT team or not. All tactical decisions, including the use of negotiations, marksmen or entry into a structure rest solely with the tactical commander.

**Inner perimeter:** The area where deputies and/or civilians are vulnerable to direct fire or other harm from an assailant and/or police countermeasures.

**Negotiations Operations Center ( N.O.C. ) :** This will likely be the Mobile Command vehicle, but may simply be a specified area within the outer perimeter designated for use by members of the negotiations squad. In order to avoid disruptions to the negotiations process, this area must be restricted to use / entry by the negotiations squad and the tactical commanders.

**Outer perimeter:** The area where deputies and/or civilians are not vulnerable to direct fire or other harm from the assailant(s).

**Tactical Commander:** This person has all decision making authority and responsibility for the management of the tactical situation, including the use / continued use of negotiations, what tactics are used throughout the incident and if / when to end the incident through the use of a tactical option such as making entry into the location or through the use of a marksmen and an open air option.

The Tactical Commander will be the highest ranking SWAT tactical officer on scene.

**Tactical Operations Center ( T.O.C. ):** The location where the tactical command element is conducting the planning for and management of the situation. This command center is located within the outer perimeter. Entry to the T.O.C. must be restricted to the command staff and those requested to be there in order to assist with the tactical planning ( the incident commander for example ).

#### **35.2.4 Policy**

The Section Commander, Chief Deputy, Undersheriff and/or the Sheriff will be notified, as soon as feasible, by the on-duty Shift Supervisor in the event of a barricaded subject.

#### **35.2.5 Procedures**

A) Responsibilities of the first Deputies on scene

1. Take immediate steps to ensure the protection of innocent persons in the area, which may include:

a) Diverting Vehicular and pedestrian traffic away from the area

b) Establishing an inner perimeter

c) If possible to do so safely, evacuating those persons in immediate danger. If not possible or practical to evacuate them, provide instructions to have them shelter in place until they can be safely evacuated.

i. Sheriff's Office personnel are duty-bound to evacuate seriously injured persons when necessary, taking every reasonable precaution to prevent threats to their safety.

ii. If a Deputy believes that an evacuation of an injured person is unduly hazardous, they will communicate this to the incident commander so that responding SWAT members can plan for the evacuation of this individual upon their arrival.

iii. Injured persons will be turned over to emergency medical personnel as soon as possible for treatment and possible transport to a hospital.

iv. Bystanders / spectators will be removed from both the inner and outer perimeters.

v. If necessary, the occupants of buildings either adjacent to or in the line of sight of, the barricade building will be evacuated.

vi. Realizing that evacuations will likely be ongoing even once SWAT arrives, and in order to reduce confusion, it is important that no evacuees, witnesses, bystanders or injured persons be brought to the Command Post, the Tactical Operations Center or the Negotiations Operations Center.

2. Make every reasonable effort to contain the situation and prevent

escape.

3. Establish and assume incident command over the scene until relieved by a Deputy of a higher rank.
4. Notify the on duty supervisor. Request that the supervisor respond to the scene and make recommendations as to the need for the SWAT team or not based on the existing circumstances.
5. Summon fire / medical personnel as necessary.
6. Isolate all evacuated persons and witnesses at a centralized location until interviewers can arrive for identification and debriefing.
7. Direct responding units into the scene in a manner to avoid placing those units in jeopardy.
8. Brief the first arriving supervisor and assist him / her as necessary.

B) In case of unavoidable verbal contact with suspects, first responders should:

1. Be aware the initial phase of most incidents is the most volatile but situational stress should decrease with time.
2. Remain in a protected or safe position.
3. Utilize all reasonable means to defuse the situation.
4. Expect the subject to want to verbally vent his/her frustration, anger, or concerns. **DO NOT** let the subject provoke you into a verbal argument.
5. When appropriate, engage the suspect in non-threatening conversation, and encourage him/her to tell you what the “problem” is.
6. Gather as much intelligence as possible, i.e. weapons, physical condition of subject, source of subjects problems, other persons involved etc., and brief other deputies/supervisors and SWAT/negotiators when they arrive.

C) Responsibilities of the shift supervisor / O.I.C.

1. Assume incident command of the scene until relieved by a Deputy of higher rank.

Note: The first arriving SWAT personnel ( Weber Metro or Ogden Metro SWAT ) will establish Tactical command pursuant to team S.O.P.'s. As squad leaders or the command element arrive, they WILL assume tactical command.

2. Ensure that the responsibilities listed above for the first Deputies on scene have been taken care of.
3. Establish an outer perimeter and assign deputies to secure it.
4. Ensure that proper notification of the incident has begun by notifying your immediate supervisor as soon as it is feasible to do so and request that they forward the information up the chain of command to include notification to the Sheriff.
5. Establish an incident command post in a safe location near the scene where the subject cannot observe or impact the activities taking place at the command post.
6. If necessary, arrange for Situation Maps to be brought to the incident command post,
7. Designate a staging area and assign a Deputy, as appropriate, to coordinate it so that other personnel providing support or assistance can stage and be briefed upon their arrival.
8. Determine the location(s) of family members or other persons with whom the barricaded person has a rapport.
- 9.. Brief command deputies and /or S.W.A.T. Team members upon their arrival.
10. Provide assistance as requested by the SWAT Commander
11. Ensure that no Sheriff's Office personnel become involved in any negotiations with the barricaded person once Hostage Negotiators have started to negotiate (unless requested to do so by the Hostage Negotiation Team Leader).
12. Request and coordinate the use of additional personnel and equipment

as needed:

- a) Fire / E.M.S
- b) Additional Law Enforcement Resources
  - i. Surveillance equipment
  - ii. Night vision
  - iii. Thermal cameras
  - iv. Helicopters

#### D) Activation of SWAT and Notification of Deployment

1. In situations involving an armed or violent barricaded person(s), deputies at the scene will notify the on-duty supervisor. The on-duty supervisor will contact the S.W.A.T. commander or appointed designee via WACDC and advise him/her of the type of call.
2. If it is deemed necessary for S.W.A.T. to deploy, the S.W.A.T. commander will notify the Undersheriff as outlined in Weber Metro SWAT policy 35.1.14 “ Activation of the Team “. .

#### E) Responsibilities of SWAT

1. The SWAT Team tactical component will:
  - a) Assume tactical command of the situation pursuant to Weber Metro SWAT Team Policy 35.1.9 “ Operational Authority and Decision Making “. .
  - b) Relieve patrol deputies as soon as it is practical to do so and maintain the inner perimeter during the course of the event.
  - c) Develop and implement tactical plans.
  - d) Assist with the Evacuation of civilians as necessary.
  - e) At the conclusion of the situation, relinquish control of the inner perimeter and location of occurrence to Sheriff’s Office investigative personnel or other agency personnel as appropriate.

2. Negotiator Responsibilities will include:

- a) Debrief the patrol deputies who were initially on the scene in order to learn as much as possible about the situation,
- b) Obtain background information concerning the barricaded person, including, but not limited to:
  - i) Location of family members,
  - ii) Medical history (mental health issue, drug user, history of violence, etc.)
  - iii) Contact information for any medical or mental health professionals who may be treating the subject
  - iv) If the barricaded person has a phone and what the phone number is.
  - v) If the barricaded person has made any demands and the nature of them.
  - vi) What weapons were used or are present
- c) Once Tactical Command is prepared to deal with both anticipated and unanticipated actions by the subject the Negotiators may be given permission to attempt to contact the barricaded person by telephone.
  - i. If the individual has no phone, negotiators can provide a "drop phone."
- d) If telephone contact cannot be established, negotiators may attempt communications through the use of a bullhorn, face-to-face contact, or by passing notes.
- e) If negotiators can establish communications with the barricaded person, the negotiators will begin a dialogue with the individual to attempt to resolve the situation.
- f) Negotiators, generally, should not negotiate for weapons, drugs, alcohol, or vehicles.
- g) The negotiations squad leader, or highest ranking negotiator on scene, will provide periodic situation reports to the tactical commander regarding the suspect and the status of negotiations.

h) The use / continued use of negotiations will be determined by the tactical commander as outlined in Weber Metro SWAT policy 35.1.9 “ Operational Authority and Decision Making “.

3. When the situation is over, either as a result of the capture or by the surrender of the barricaded person, the SWAT commander will relinquish the scene and follow-up investigation to the Sheriff’s Office Investigators or other agency investigators as appropriate.

F) Communication with other agencies

1. Communications with other agencies will be coordinated through WACDC by the incident commander.

2. All police agencies involved in a situation within Weber County should have access to the same radio frequencies.

3. The Weber Metro S.W.A.T. team will generally NOT deploy into another agency’s jurisdiction unless requested by that agency. Should it become necessary for the S.W.A.T. team to be deployed within the boundaries of another agency’s jurisdiction, notification to that jurisdiction should be made in a timely manner prior to the commencement of the operation.

a) The Deputy making contact with the outside agency will document the name of the person(s) he/she contacted about the operation.

**35.2.6 Media Relations**

A) News media access to the scene shall be limited to areas where members of the news media will not be exposed to danger.

B) Under no circumstances shall members of the news media be permitted within the inner perimeter.

C) Upon notification, a PIO will respond to the command post, report to the incident commander, and will clear all press releases with the incident commander prior to release to the media.

D) So as not to compromise the operation, under no circumstances shall any member of this Sheriff’s Office release specific details of the situation or the law enforcement response to the media.



- E) If representatives from the news media arrive prior to the inner and outer perimeters being established, Sheriff's Office personnel will courteously direct said representatives to a safe location and inform them that a PIO is en route to coordinate the release of details and information.
- F) After the arrival of the incident commander, he/she will designate areas to which the media may have access.
- G) Deputies (whether involved in the incident or not) will refer all media inquiries to the on-scene PIO.

#### **35.2.7 Annual Review of Plan**

- A. The Sheriff's Office barricade operations plan will be reviewed at least annually by the bureau commanders, the SWAT Commander, the Chief Deputy, the Undersheriff and the Sheriff.