JOPLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT	10-17 STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SUBJECT: Active Threats	**REVIEW DATE: Annually – October**
EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/23/14	**ACTION DATE:**
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES:	**AMEND DATE:**
ACCREDITATION INDEX: 46.1.10 a, b, c, d, e	**APPROVED:** Richard A. Pearson **Chief of Police**

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Joplin Police Department to respond to calls of active threats as quickly as possible. The priority of officers responding to an active threat situation will be to stop the active loss of life and to contain the incident as quickly as possible.

II. PURPOSE

To provide a plan, procedures, and guidelines to personnel in responding to active threat situations.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Active Threat
Suspect's activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily injury. The activity is not contained and there is immediate risk of death or serious injury to potential victims.

B. Immediate Deployment
The swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to on-going, life threatening situations where delayed deployment could otherwise result in death or great bodily injury to innocent persons.

C. Dynamic Situation
The situation is evolving very rapidly along with the suspect's action. Example, shooting and moving.

D. Static Situation
The situation is not evolving or in motion. The suspect's actions appear to be contained. Example, suspect is barricaded in a room.

E. Time-line of Violence
The period of time from the suspect's first violent action until his action is stopped or transitions to another activity.

F. Incident Transition
That point in the incident where the "active shooter" stops their violent actions and tries to escape or barricades themselves.

G. Barricade Suspect
1. Suspect is in a position of advantage, usually barricaded in a room or building.
2. Suspect is armed and has displayed violence.
3. May or may not be holding a hostage(s).
4. There is no indication that the suspect(s) activity is immediately causing death or serious bodily injury. The event is not dynamic but rather static.

H. Contact Team

A group of officers that is typically made up of anywhere from one to four officers. This number can be flexible depending upon the situation. The primary purpose of the contact team is to stop the deadly behavior and to limit the movement of the suspect. The contact team should move past victims and should communicate their progress to other responders. The contact team may transition into a Rescue Team depending upon the situation.

I. Rescue Team

A group of officers that is typically made up of anywhere from one to four officers. This number can be flexible depending upon the situation. The primary goal of the Rescue Team is rescue and recovery. The Rescue Team may transition into a Contact Team depending upon the situation.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Receiving the call of an active threat:

1. Communications Operators upon receiving a call of a potential or actual active threat situation shall communicate this information to officers as soon as practical. Communications operators will attempt to relay exact location of the incident, number of suspects involved, description of suspects involved, type of weapons involved, and any additional pertinent information.

2. Officers shall recognize that immediate action is necessary during an active threat situation because innocent people are in grave peril until the suspect or suspects voluntarily surrender or are forced to surrender. (46.1.10 c)

3. Departmental personnel shall respond to active threat situations following departmental standard operating guidelines and as outlined in related training courses. Further, Officers shall assist other responding units as outlined in policy and procedure in addition to jurisdictional and mutual aid agreements. (46.1.10 b)

B. Response

1. Active threat situations may be dispatched as shots fired, disturbance with weapons, and/or similar call. Such calls may or may not be active threat situations as defined in this policy. Supervisors and Officers shall utilize all information available to them at the time to determine appropriate response to the situation.

2. While officers are responding to the incident, the shift supervisor shall coordinate with the communications operator to ensure that appropriate notifications as outlined in SOG 5-01 Incident Notification Requirements are being completed. These notifications are done to ensure proper timely notification of the public and to request additional public safety departments and other resources. (46.1.10 a, b)

3. During any active threat situation, a shift supervisor or command-level officer may request through Emergency Communications or through the use of shared radio channels a "Mutual Aid Request" which is a term used to communicate a request that any and all available agencies and officers respond to the location of the active threat situation. (46.1.10 b)

4. During active threat situations, medical personnel should stage in a safe location away from the known incident and await further instructions. The communications operator shall relay the last known location of the suspect or suspects to joint communications so medical personnel can make appropriate decisions on where to stage for the incident.

5. The primary objective, of the first responding officers, is to stop the active threat situation by immediately responding to the threat and either accepting voluntary surrender or forcing involuntary surrender of all involved suspects.

6. Officers should attempt to enter a facility with a minimum of two other officers; however, officers may enter alone or with another officer if such action may help save lives and/or as outlined in related training.

7. Responding officers shall notify communications of their anticipated entry point if practicable and request this information be relayed to responding personnel.

8. Once in a facility, officers shall attempt to determine:

   a) The location of the suspect(s);
   b) A description of the suspect(s),
   c) The type(s) of weapons being used, and
   d) Any other information that may assist additional responding officers maintains their safety or locate suspects.

9. Officers shall relay available information to Communications when practical.

10. Until the threat of further harm has been eliminated, officers shall bypass injured victims, suspected explosive devises, and rooms with locked doors, unless the threat is perceived to be within such a room.

11. Upon encountering a suspect, officers shall either accept the suspect's voluntary surrender, or force the suspect's involuntary surrender as appropriate.

12. Once officers have achieved their primary objective they shall coordinate with the Incident Commander to get medical attention to any injured parties, secure any explosive or dangerous devices, and secure the crime scene.

13. If the suspect(s) become contained in an area where no additional victims can be generated, Officers shall establish a perimeter and ensure that the suspect is unable to escape or access any additional victims. Officers shall then follow departmental SOG 10-12 Hostage & Barricaded Persons. (46.1.10 d)

14. If the suspect(s) become contained in an area with access to additional victims or hostages, immediate action may be necessary to stop the suspects, despite the obvious increased risk to officers.

15. In active threats, it may be beneficial for members of the community to shelter in place, evacuate an area, stay away from certain areas, and similar actions to help contain a situation or provide for safety. The department will use the appropriate notification systems in place to relay that information to the community and those in the affected area. Additional information on notification systems is outlined in SOG 10-06 Unusual Occurrences. (46.1.10 d)

C. Incident Command and Incident Commander

1. The shift supervisor should, if practical, assume command of the operation as the Incident Commander and set up a field command post as outlined in SOG 10-06 Unusual Occurrences. As soon as practical the Incident Commander shall request additional resources and make appropriate notifications as outlined in SOG 10-06 Unusual Occurrences.

2. If additional Command Staff are available, they shall assume the role of Incident Commander and the shift supervisor shall assume the role of Operations Function unless directed otherwise by the Incident Commander.

D. Annual Review (46.1.10 e)

1. Annually, there shall be a documented review of this policy as well as training needs.

V. COMPLIANCE

Violations of this policy, or portions thereof, may result in disciplinary action as described in the City of Joplin's Personnel Rules or the Joplin Police Department's Rules and Regulations and General Orders. Members of the Joplin Police Department, while assigned to or assisting other agencies shall comply with this policy.

VI. APPLICATION

This document constitutes department policy, is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It shall not be construed as the creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims insofar as the employee's legal duty as imposed by law. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form a basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.