



# MIDDLETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE  
February 11, 2011

POLICY  
13.1.1.03

SUBJECT: **Barricaded Subjects**

REVIEWED  
October 15, 2018

MRR

History: 2003: Updated 2/11; 03/15  
[WILEAG \(5th Ed.\) Standards: 13.1.1.4](#)

## Contents

Definitions.....	1
Barricaded Suspect.....	1
Barricaded Subject .....	1
Safety Priorities.....	1
Inner Perimeter.....	2
Outer Perimeter.....	2
Policy .....	2
Procedure .....	2
Initial Response.....	2
Stabilization .....	3
Resolving the Situation.....	3

## Definitions

***Barricaded Suspect:*** A criminal suspect who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded suspect may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

***Barricaded Subject:*** A person who is not suspected of committing a crime but is the focus of a legitimate police intervention effort—most often involving threats of suicide or mental illness—who has taken a position in a physical location, most often a structure or vehicle, that does not allow immediate police access—whether fortified or not—and who is refusing police orders to exit. A barricaded subject may be known to be armed, thought to be armed, have access to weapons in the location, or be in an unknown weapons status.

***Safety Priorities:*** The basis for the agency’s operational and tactical decisions and comprising the following:

- Hostages
- Innocent involved civilians

- Police officers
- Suspects and subjects

***Inner Perimeter:*** A close proximity boundary maintained initially by first responding officers, later transferred to the special weapons and tactics team and designed to contain the situation to the smallest possible area and prevent access to the target location by persons from the outside.

***Outer Perimeter:*** A boundary outside the inner perimeter maintained by patrol officers and designed to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the area of the critical incident.

## **Policy**

This agency shall use properly trained, equipped, and supervised field officers to respond and contain a potential barricaded suspect or subject incident.

Should the situation involve immediate overtly dangerous or assaultive behavior directed toward officers or involved citizens (i.e. “active shooter”) police shall take immediate action to defend themselves or citizens involved from death or great bodily harm.

In all other cases, after the situation has stabilized, this agency shall closely examine the situation and weigh the benefits of forcing the suspect or subject from the location against the potential costs. This agency shall give special consideration to such things as the commitment of agency personnel and resources and the impact this might have on response capability to other critical incidents in the community, the impact on the community surrounding the police operation, the severity of the crime or situation involved, and the agency safety priorities and the recognition of the risks involved when tactics are used to resolve a barricade.

If a decision is made to continue with the resolution effort, minimally intrusive techniques shall be employed until the suspect or subject exits, the agency decides to discontinue the effort and leave the scene, or the agency decides that the minimally intrusive resolution techniques have failed and the need to take the suspect or subject into custody justifies the transition to tactics.

This agency shall generally not use tactics to resolve a barricade situation unless it has lawful justification to arrest the suspect or subject or take him or her into physical custody.

Positive progress in a barricade resolution effort shall be defined as developments that increase the probability that the suspect or subject will be safely taken into custody, as opposed to the mere passage of time.

## **Procedure**

### ***Initial Response***

1. Upon receipt and evaluation of the initial call, dispatch shall send patrol officers and, if requested by the Incident Commander, notify tactical and negotiation teams.

2. The first responding officer shall assume the role of incident commander (IC) and be responsible for:
  - a. conducting an initial situation and response analysis,
  - b. determining what resources will likely be required based on the available information
  - c. and providing this information to communications.
3. The officer shall also be aware that police presence can be a catalyst for suspect or subject response and that he or she must be prepared to take appropriate action should the situation demand it, regardless of the status of additional personnel responding.
4. The officer shall direct arriving resources to specific positions or the staging area that he or she designates.
5. The officer shall continue functioning as the IC until relieved by a superior officer or an officer with specialized training or expertise in fulfilling this role.
6. Communications shall be continuously updated on officer positions and status and informed if the incident command responsibilities are transferred to another officer.
7. The IC shall confirm that the staging area maximizes the safety of the responding units and ensure that one officer is assigned at all times to brief arriving personnel.
8. The IC shall establish communications and appropriate radio channel(s).
9. The IC shall notify the Operations Commander, Chief of Police and other appropriate personnel as needed.
10. The IC shall notify appropriate ambulance(s), rescue, fire or other needed equipment.
11. The IC shall consider the previously listed safety priorities and establish an inner perimeter to contain the problem. During this process, all non-police personnel shall be taken from the inner perimeter to an appropriate location for intelligence debriefing.
12. The IC shall assess the suspect's or subject's options and related triggering points and set a contingency plan in motion to counter such options, based on the totality of the circumstances presented.

### ***Stabilization***

1. Upon stabilization, the IC shall conduct a secondary assessment and consider what has occurred and the legal standing of the agency to intercede. It is especially important to determine
  - a. whether a crime has been committed,
  - b. whether the person inside is a suspect in the crime,
  - c. whether there is probable cause for his arrest, and
  - d. whether the need to apprehend the suspect at that moment outweighs the challenges associated with compelling the suspect or subject to submit to police authority.
2. In the absence of a crime or under circumstances where the IC cannot articulate the legitimate risk of death or serious injury, the agency's best course of action may be to stand down.

### ***Resolving the Situation***

1. Upon determining that the agency shall attempt to resolve the barricade situation, the IC shall ensure that the appropriate specialized resources have been requested

- (the TRT team, hostage negotiations and psychological services, the fire department, and so on) and ask that communications keep him or her apprised of the specialized unit response status.
2. The IC shall ensure that a variety of tasks are addressed while awaiting the arrival of TRT and negotiations, including but not limited to the following:
    - a. Establish an outer perimeter and initiate the evacuation and handling process for those inside. Special consideration must be given to the handling of those who refuse to be evacuated.
    - b. Establish a command post location outside the suspect's potential line of fire and sight, and ensure that responding officers are directed to this location for assignment before they move to the staging area.
    - c. Initiate an investigation to determine exactly what has occurred and locate, isolate, and debrief any witnesses. This should include obtaining information about the suspect where relevant and available, including the following:
      - 1) Name
      - 2) Physical description
      - 3) Clothing description
      - 4) Military background
      - 5) Criminal history
      - 6) Weapons
      - 7) Mental state and condition, and names of treating clinicians
      - 8) Circumstances leading up to the immediate problem.
  3. Obtain the telephone number and physical location of the telephone (if hardwire) in the barricade structure. Consider whether it is logical, necessary, and appropriate based on the facts presented to use the telephone in advance of TRT and negotiations to establish communications and attempt to convince the suspect or subject to surrender.
  4. Select a location for media response and designate a person to interact with them prior to the arrival of the agency public information officer.
  5. Select a location for those responding on behalf of the barricaded suspect or subject and designate an officer to interact with them. Make outer-perimeter personnel aware of the presence of those responders and consider that they may attempt to enter the barricade location.
  6. Make contact with the person most knowledgeable concerning the floor plan of the barricade location, including specifics related to keys, doors, locks, fortification, windows, alarms, weapons, and any other information that might help the resolution efforts.
  7. Establish and maintain a log that documents the activities that have occurred and the location and identification of the assigned personnel.
  8. Brief the TRT and negotiations teams upon their arrival.
  9. Assist the TRT team as it relieves the officers responsible for inner perimeter containment personnel.
  10. Ensure that all officers relieved report to the command post for reassignment.