



# CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



## Barricaded Person Incidents

Eff. Date 02/03/2025

### Purpose

Establish standard procedure for the Madison Police Department (MPD) response to incidents involving barricaded subjects or suspects.

### Policy

The objectives of this department in dealing with barricaded person, hostage, and active shooter incidents are:

1. Preservation of life.
2. Apprehension of perpetrator(s) using a reasonable amount of force.
3. Securing available evidence to assist in the appropriate disposition of the perpetrator(s).

Operational and tactical decisions will be based on the following safety priorities:

1. Hostages and community members
2. Law enforcement personnel
3. Suspects and subjects

If a barricaded subject/suspect situation involves dangerous or assaultive behavior directed towards community members or officers, involves a risk to public safety, or involves suspects wanted for serious felony crimes, officers—including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) personnel, if needed—will respond and resolve the situation. In other barricaded subject/suspect situations, the benefits of forcing the suspect/subject from the location will be weighed against the potential costs (resources, impact on neighboring community, risks involved with tactical interventions, etc.).



### 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 have an unknown weapons status.

**Barricaded Subject:** A person who is not suspected of committing a crime, but who 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 have an unknown weapons status.

**Resolution Techniques:** Time and situation permitting, police actions geared toward resolving a barricaded suspect or subject situation



**Resolution Tactics:** Police action geared toward resolving a barricaded suspect or subject situation

**Triggering Point:** Specific predetermined circumstances that will justify the initiation of direct action to prevent or terminate a particular course of suspect or subject behavior.

**Inner Perimeter:** A close proximity boundary

**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.

**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.

## Response Procedures

### INITIAL RESPONSE

Personnel initially responding to a barricaded subject/suspect incident will assess the situation and request the appropriate resources.

### STABILIZATION

Once the scene is stabilized, patrol personnel shall conduct a secondary assessment and consider what has occurred and whether there is legal standing to intercede. It is especially important to determine:

1. Whether a crime has been committed;
2. Whether the person inside is a suspect in the crime;
3. Whether there is probable cause for their arrest; and
4. 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.

In the absence of a crime or under circumstances where there is no legitimate risk of death or serious injury, the best course of action may be to stand down.

### RESOLVING THE SITUATION

If the decision is made to attempt to resolve the barricade situation, the scene supervisor shall ensure that the appropriate specialized resources have been requested (SWAT, Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT), paramedics, etc.). The scene supervisor shall ensure that a variety of tasks are addressed while awaiting the arrival of SWAT, including but not limited to the following:

1. 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.

2. Establish a command post [REDACTED]
3. Initiate an investigation to determine exactly what has occurred and locate, isolate, and debrief any witnesses.
4. [REDACTED]
5. Select a location for media response and designate a person to interact with them prior to the arrival of the agency public information officer.  
[REDACTED]
8. Establish and maintain a log that documents the activities that have occurred and the location and identification of the assigned personnel.
9. Ensure that the appropriate personnel have been notified and briefed (OIC, District Command, etc.).
10. Brief the SWAT and negotiations teams upon their arrival (if applicable).
11. Assist the SWAT team as it relieves the officers responsible for inner perimeter containment personnel (if applicable).
12. Ensure that all officers relieved report to the command post for reassignment.

## SWAT RESPONSE

SWAT shall be activated for barricaded person situations involving suspects/subjects believed to be armed. SWAT may also be activated when circumstances exist that may pose risks beyond the capacity of patrol to safely resolve. Initial requests for SWAT activation should be made to the SWAT tactical team lieutenant. A full-team SWAT activation should generally be approved by the SWAT Commander and designated Assistant Chief. However, SWAT use may be approved by any MPD supervisor if no SWAT commander/supervisor can be contacted, or in case of extraordinary emergency where command approval would be impractical. The SWAT commander will be notified as soon as possible of any SWAT usage that did not have prior authorization.

On-duty SWAT personnel may respond to assist with tactical situations as needed. Where possible, a SWAT supervisor will respond to the scene to oversee the utilization of SWAT personnel. If used for on-duty tactical situations, SWAT personnel will only be used in a manner that is consistent with the team's training and standard operating procedures.

The actions of SWAT will be consistent with MPD's Code of Conduct, standard operating procedures, and with standard professional practices in the area of police tactical response.

Once SWAT has arrived on scene and assumed responsibility for the incident, SWAT command will fill the role of the overall incident commander. Resolution efforts in most situations generally involve the following:

1. Ensure that all appropriate steps have been taken prior to SWAT arrival (inner perimeter, intelligence gathering, etc.).
  2. Patrol/district personnel will have responsibility for the outer perimeter, traffic control, media contacts, etc.
- [REDACTED]

17. Ensure that appropriate legal authority exists prior to using tactics to enter the dwelling. Judicial authority to enter (a search warrant for the target location, an arrest warrant or commitment order for the subject known to be inside, and so on) is preferred.
18. Use a combination of techniques and tactics, in a manner consistent with approved training, until the situation is brought to a successful conclusion.

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