

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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## History

- Prior law enforcement response was to meet **force with force.**
- There are other **techniques/options** that can be deployed.
- Law enforcement officers rely on strategy, tactics and procedures to handle high-risk incidents.
- A well-trained and prepared officer considers use of force as the final option.

## Type of Calls

- Hostage situations.
- Barricaded-armed subjects.
- Sniper or person with a gun.
- Shots fired.
- Person down.
- Officer needs priority back-up.
- Bomb threats / explosions.
- Hazardous material spills.
- Clandestine laboratories.
- Active Shooter.

## Initial Response and Approach

- You will respond either in a **high or low** profile mode.
- Your primary concern is the **preservation of lives.** The priorities, in most cases, are officers first, citizens next and then suspects.
- Consider using **silent and invisible deployment.**
- What do you know about the area?
- Gain control and then **contain and negotiate.**

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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## Considerations

- **Wait for back-up, unless lives are in immediate danger.**
- *Failure to wait for back-up is the number one reason that officers are killed (the seven fatal tendencies).*
- The first officer on scene scans the area for potential threats and gathers information.
- Notify dispatch and responding officers of what you have and what to expect when they arrive.
- Direct responding officers safely to the scene or containment positions.
- Consider resources you might need:
  - SWAT, clandestine laboratory team, bomb squad, K-9, detectives, supervisor negotiators, air support, etc.
- Request them BEFORE they become necessary, not after it's too late.
- Initiate incident command and designate a command post or temporary staging area.
- **Remember the command post can be moved at any time if it becomes necessary.**
- Consider contingencies.

## Inner Perimeter

- **The inner perimeter encompasses the area known as the kill-zone.** Within this area, it is presumed that any suspects could potentially harm you or others.
- This is considered the 'high-risk' area. Anyone or anything in this area is at risk from:
  - Gunfire.
  - 'Friendly' fire.
  - Hazardous chemicals.
  - Explosions.
  - Dangerous persons still at large.
- Remember cover vs. concealment when taking perimeter positions.

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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## Outer Perimeter

- The **outer perimeter** becomes increasingly difficult to maintain and may require a vast amount of resources.
- This area is considered 'lower-risk'.
- All non-tactical personnel, the command post and all other resources (Fire Department, Negotiators, Chaplain, Administrators, etc.) should be directed to stage in this area. SWAT commonly 'gears-up' or stages in this area

## Information and Assessment

- Once the scene is secured and containment is established, **Communicate, Coordinate, Command and Control** to affect a resolution. Notify first responders:
  - **Who you are.**
  - **Your exact location.**
  - **Nature of incident.**
  - **Weapons involved.**
  - **Number of people involved.**
  - **Location and number of suspects.**
  - **Are their hostages? How many?**
  - **Fire and medical aid needed.**
  - **Direct any other resources and officers.**
  - **Set up the command post.**
  - **Control the crime scene.**
  - **Preserve Evidence.**

## Command Post

- This is the base of operation for command and control. Considered a 'safe-area'.
- After containment is positioned all other essential personnel will be directed to the command post:
  - SWAT and Negotiators (staging area).

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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- Fire Department/Medical Aid.
- Administrators.
- Public Relations.
- Red Cross.
- Media.
- **The command post can be moved** so the location should be flexible. Considerations when selecting a command post:
  - A safe and secure area.
  - Telephones.
  - Power supply.
  - Restrooms.
  - A quiet area for negotiators.
  - A changing area.
  - Televisions.
  - Shelter from the elements.
  - Parking for responding officers, administration, media, etc.

## Take Control

- Patrol officers are almost always the first on the scene of a high-risk incident.
- Your actions early in the incident could determine the final outcome.
- You are the incident commander until relieved.
- Your priority is to contain the situation and establish rapport with suspects, victims and witnesses.
- You are pivotal for a successful and safe conclusion.

## Priorities

- **Officer safety is always the number one priority.**
- Act to protect people in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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- Contain the dangers and hazards of the situation and direct innocent civilians to safety or containment units.
- Don't rush into any situation without a plan; time is generally on your side. Use it wisely.
- If you get killed or injured, you become part of the problem, not part of the solution.

## Negotiating

- Your primary objective in most cases is to **contain and negotiate** until appropriate resources arrive.
- It is your job to negotiate with hostile suspects until a trained negotiator arrives.
- Most barricaded subjects and hostage situations are solved by patrol officers before negotiators arrive.
- Build a rapport with the suspect.
- Empathize, don't criticize.
- Tell them their options.
- Try to determine their motivation.
- Give them a way out.
- Don't threaten or make any false promises.
- Tell them you don't make the final decisions.
- Do not remind them of what they have done.
- Don't assume that you have all the facts; there could be facts that you are unaware.
- Ask if they have family or someone they care about.
- Listen carefully to them.
- What if the unthinkable has already been committed?

## Surrender

- Urge the suspect to surrender.
- In the event a suspect wants to give-up formulate their surrender plan.
- Have the suspect(s) come out with their hands in plain view with no weapons.

# HIGH-RISK INCIDENT RESOURCE SHEET

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- Where possible, have them remove any bulky or concealing clothing.
- You should orchestrate their surrender down to the last detail:  
YOU WANT NO SURPRISES!
- Tell them exactly where go.
- Tell them exactly what they should do.
- Tell them what to expect when they come out.
- Tell them who will contact them.
- Be aware of suicide-by-cop tactics.
- Less-lethal munitions should be available to the arrest team: Bean-bags, Exact-Impact munitions, Taser, OC and Chemical Munitions

## Contingencies

- The suspect tries to escape the perimeter?
- The suspect is holding a hostage? If so, how many?
- The suspect tries to leave with the hostage.
- The suspect tries to access a vehicle.
- The suspect starts injuring/killing hostages.
- A police officer has already been killed or injured?
- The suspect is holding an officer hostage?
- The suspect gets the drop on you?
- Action vs. Reaction... OODA loop.
- Never give up your weapon (98% chance of death).
- What happens when you use deadly force?