

TEXARKANA POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL

SUBJECT	Response to Civil Disturbances		
NUMBER	1102.21	EFFECTIVE DATE	February 15, 2011
Scheduled Review Date	July 30, 2018	ISSUE DATE	February 15, 2011
Date Reviewed	June 01, 2017	REVISION DATE	June 01, 2017
APPROVED BY		ALEAP Standards	8.05

I. Scope and Purpose

- A. The manner in which law enforcement agencies respond to unruly crowds and illegal gatherings places a direct bearing on the agency's ability to control such incidents, defuse the situation, contain property damage and prevent the loss of life. The purpose of this policy is to provide the guidelines necessary for members of the Texarkana Police Department to effectively respond to and mitigate situations involving large crowds who are either actively engaged in or poised to begin activity that poses significant threats of violence, property damage or substantial breaches of the peace.

II. Policy

- A. To better provide for a comprehensive and coordinated response to civil disturbances and large crowds which are illegally gathered, it shall be the policy of the Texarkana Police Department to develop and implement specific guidelines that govern the Department's response to such situations. All members of the Department shall recognize and adhere to the guidelines set forth within this policy.

III. Definitions

- A. **Civil Disturbance**—An unlawful assembly that constitutes a breach of the peace or any assembly of persons where there exists an imminent danger of collective violence, destruction of property or other unlawful acts.

IV. Procedures

A. Responsibilities and Guidelines ALEAP 8.05a

1. The initial responding officer to an incident that meets the definition of a civil disturbance is responsible for the following actions:
 - a. The initial responding officer should observe the disturbance at a safe distance and make an initial assessment of the group's size, the amount of violent / criminal behavior observed and the location of the disturbance. The officer should make a note of crowd leaders and those who are engaged in criminal activity.
 - b. The initial responding officer should notify the Communications Center of his/her assessment and request back-up units.

Page 1 of 5 Number 1102.21	Effective Date: February 15, 2011
Subject: Response to Civil Disturbances	Revision Date: June 1, 2017

- c. If the crowd can be addressed without undue risk—and after a sufficient number of back-up units have arrived on-scene—the officer should begin instructing the crowd to disperse.
2. The Squad Commander or squad supervisor responding to an incident that meets the definition of a civil disturbance is responsible for the following actions:
 - a. Respond to the scene of the disturbance and assume operational command. Assess the situation, and should the disturbance be minor and sufficient resources are available, attempt to disperse the crowd. The Squad Commander or squad supervisor shall maintain operational command until relieved by higher authority.
 - b. If the disturbance is sufficiently serious to require additional resources such as the Texarkana SWAT Team, the Special Operations Section and/or the PIO, instruct the Communications Center to begin notifications.
 - c. Establish a temporary Command Post. The location of the Command Post should be selected based upon the availability of an area that will allow for the staging of equipment and personnel as well as an area that will provide security from the crowd’s participants.
 - d. Establish an outer perimeter sufficient to contain the disturbance while denying entry into the affected area. Ensure appropriate resources are assigned to contain the outer perimeter.
 - e. To extent necessary, begin evacuating innocent civilians from the immediate area of the disturbance.
 - f. Assign a sufficient number of officers to points of surveillance to effectively identify agitators, crowd leaders and those individuals who are committing criminal acts. Officers assigned to a surveillance point(s) shall ensure they document and report on significant events as they occur. Photographic and video footage should be utilized wherever possible.
 - g. Continuously monitor the magnitude and scope of the disturbance, and should the situation increase to an intensity that would require implementing the Incident Command System, begin the process of activating those elements of the system deemed appropriate. For more information surrounding the Incident Command System, refer to [*General Order 1102.31---Incident Command System*](#).

B. Options for Resolving the Civil Disturbance

1. When adequate personnel and resources are in place, the Incident Commander shall establish communication with those who appear to be leaders of the disturbance. The Incident Commander should discuss actions necessary to disperse the crowd in the prescribed manner. The Incident Commander should be prepared to implement one of the following options:
 - a. **Containment and Dialogue**
 - (1) The objective of the containment and dialogue option is merely to disperse the crowd. In order for the containment and dialogue option to remain viable, the Incident Commander should ensure the following actions take place:
 - Establish contact with the crowd leaders to assess their intentions and motivations while working to develop a trusting relationship; and
 - Communicate to the participants of the disturbance their assembly is in violation of the law and will not be tolerated, the Department desires to resolve the incident in a peaceful manner and all acts of violence will be dealt with swiftly and decisively.

Page 2 of 5 Number 1102.21	Effective Date: February 15, 2011
Subject: Response to Civil Disturbances	Revision Date: June 1, 2017

b. Physical Arrest

- (1) When appropriate, and after ensuring a sufficient number of personnel and resources are available, the Incident Commander will order the arrest of the crowd's leaders, agitators and others who are engaged in unlawful conduct.
- (2) When issuing the order to arrest, the Incident Commander will ensure the following elements are in place:
 - Ensure the appropriate tactical formations are utilized and all available protective equipment for the officers engaged in the arrest(s) has been deployed;
 - Ensure an appropriate level of transportation for the arrestees has been secured; and
 - Ensure that a back-up team of officers remains readily available to assist the arrest team should such assistance be required.

c. Less-Lethal Force (Less than Lethal Devices)

- (1) When the physical arrest of the identified leaders and/or agitators has failed to disperse the crowd, or should the physical arrest of these individuals not be an available option due to undue risks of injury or the escalation of the disturbance, the Incident Commander may authorize the deployment of selected less-lethal force implements to accomplish the crowd's dispersal. In doing so, the Incident Commander must ensure the following elements have been met before authorizing the deployment of such force:
 - The formulation of a clear path of escape for those who wish to flee the scene; and
 - The deployment of OC/CS, smoke, diversionary devices or other less-lethal devices are coordinated, controlled and deployed by those officers having the knowledge and training to deploy such force options.
- (2) Any use of force must always remain compliant and in accordance with the Department's Use of Force policy. For more information regarding this policy, refer to [General Order 1102.03---Use of Force](#).
- (3) **The use of deadly force**
 - The use of deadly force is governed by the Department's Use of Force policy. Officers are reminded that the Department permits the use of deadly force to protect the individual officer(s) or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury.
 - Particular caution should be taken when deploying firearms during civil disturbances. The arbitrary use of return fire in the direction of crowds is prohibited.

d. Mass Arrest ALEAP 8.05b

- (1) During the course of civil disturbance, it may become necessary to make a large number of arrests over a relatively short period of time. To ensure this process is handled efficiently, safely and legally, the Incident Commander shall ensure the following:
 - An arrest team is designated to process all prisoners for purposes of transportation;
 - An adequate number of vehicles are available to remove the prisoners to the Texarkana Jail;

Page 3 of 5 Number 1102.21	Effective Date: February 15, 2011
Subject: Response to Civil Disturbances	Revision Date: June 1, 2017

- An adequate secure area has been designated in the field for holding the prisoners before they are transported to the jail;
- All arrested persons have been adequately searched and properly identified prior to their transport to the jail for formal booking and processing;
- All injured prisoners are provided with medical attention prior to being booked and processed into the jail, with minor injuries referred to the jail nurse or physician and serious injuries treated at hospital or other medical facility;
- All arrested juveniles are managed in accordance with the Department's procedure for the arrest, transport and detention of juveniles; and
- All evidence and weapons taken from the prisoners are processed in accordance with the Department's policy on the preservation and custody of evidence and weapons.

C. Stand Down Phase and Deactivation

1. Once the disturbance has been brought under control, the Incident Commander shall ensure the following actions have been completed:
 - a. All law enforcement officers who were engaged in the incident shall be accounted for and an assessment of personal injuries will be conducted;
 - b. All personnel will be debriefed as necessary;
 - c. The Incident Commander should coordinate with the Commander of the Criminal Investigation Division, or his/her designee, to ensure all of the witnesses, suspects and any others deemed essential have been interviewed and/or interrogated; and
 - d. All written reports shall be completed as soon as possible following the incident. The Incident Commander should complete an After Action Report that contains a comprehensive report of the incident's origin, the nature and cause of the incident and the Agency's response to the incident.

D. Mobile Field Force

1. Mobile Field Force is a concept that allows an entire squad or the Incident Commander to respond to large unruly crowds and other situations deemed appropriate with a well organized, pre-planned and coordinated team of trained officers.
2. **Command Structure**
 - a. For unanticipated responses, the Squad Commander or the squad supervisor shall serve as the Field Force Commander and maintain command of the incident until relieved by higher authority.
 - b. On those occasions where a Mobile Field Force is deployed in response to an anticipated event, the Uniform Patrol Division Commander shall designate the Field Force Commander.
3. **Organization**
 - a. On-duty personnel will be utilized during the initial implementation of field force tactics. The Field Force Commander is authorized to request assistance from adjoining agencies and/or recall a sufficient number of personnel needed to control the situation.

Page 4 of 5 Number 1102.21	Effective Date: February 15, 2011
Subject: Response to Civil Disturbances	Revision Date: June 1, 2017

- b. On-duty SWAT Team personnel may be utilized in field force operations; however, the recall of the Texarkana SWAT Team, as an entity, takes precedence over field force operations.

4. **Equipment**

- a. Unless otherwise instructed, officers will report in their issued Class D Uniform with all assigned personal gear to include their helmet, baton and patrol duty gear. For more information regarding the Class D Uniform, refer to [General Order 1101.03---Uniforms, Equipment and Appearance.](#)
- b. Equipment used during the deployment of a field force is stored within the Special Operations Building. The Field Force Commander will ensure this gear is obtained. Should additional equipment be required, the Special Operations Supervisor or his/her designee will be contacted.

Page 5 of 5 Number 1102.21	Effective Date: February 15, 2011
Subject: Response to Civil Disturbances	Revision Date: June 1, 2017