

CONSIDERATIONS

Pre-Engagement:

Pre-Engagement considerations involve the process of gathering and assessing information prior to deploying the available personnel, tactics, equipment, and other appropriate and obtainable resources. Discretionary time, reactionary distance, communication, and barriers are key objectives to enhance the probability of a peaceful outcome. Self-regulation is a key component to the decision-making process.

Resources:

Consider appropriate, available or obtainable resources that may assist in de-escalation, and to establish control of an incident. Resource considerations may include, but are not limited to, additional personnel, specially trained resources, and specialized equipment which may assist in resolving the incident.

Disengagement (Tactical Withdraw):

Disengagement is a tactic designed to avoid potentially violent outcomes. Disengagement may be a viable option for individuals in crisis who pose no additional threats to others, or resistant offenders who may later be apprehended under safer conditions.

~ Anytime peace officers intend to disengage from an incident, they should attempt to advise involved individuals of the withdrawal from the incident. Peace officers should attempt to ensure those involved have had the opportunity to establish a position of relative safety with respect to the incident, and they are aware that officers will no longer be present to protect the safety of the involved persons.

***** Consider an ONS entry and/or BOLO for situational awareness and officer safety.*****

DEBRIEF

Following any significant incident, field supervisors are encouraged to debrief and evaluate the event within the context of this policy and its considerations. Debriefs should be informal in nature with an objective of individual and agency development. Each incident can serve to augment the capacities of peace officers with a focus/goal of protecting the lives and safety of all persons.

CONSIDERATIONS

DEFINE THE MISSION:

It is critical to identify and define the mission and the duty of the officers involved. Identify causes of risk, and who is at risk. Utilize discretionary pre-engagement time to develop a proper plan of action.

The primary goal in potentially violent situations is to protect the person who needs assistance, the community, and responding officers.

Nothing in this guideline shall preclude the use of reasonable force, deadly or otherwise, by law enforcement officials in protecting themselves or others from death or serious injury.

CRIME OR CRISIS?

Consider if the incident is criminal or crisis in nature and determine the appropriate response.

SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP:

A "special relationship" can create a legal duty to protect an individual. It is generally created between an individual and an agency when

- (1) An aspect of dependency exists, where one party relies to some degree on an officer for protection, and,
- (2) The officer has assumed control over the means of protection.

Whenever disengagement/tactical withdraw is determined to be the most appropriate course of action, accomplish the following:

- (1) Provide the individual notice of your plan to disengage/withdraw from the situation,
- (2) Provide a reasonable opportunity for the individual(s) to seek a safe location, and,
- (3) Advise them that police protection will cease.

Crisis Management Considerations

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Law enforcement is guided by the overarching principle of reverence for human life in all investigative, enforcement, and other contacts between law enforcement and members of the public. San Diego County Law Enforcement Agencies are committed to providing officers and deputies with the training, equipment and resources necessary to encourage peaceful resolutions.

CRISIS MANAGEMENT PHILOSOPHY

Every situation law enforcement responds to is unique. When law enforcement is called upon to respond to a crisis or criminal acts, they will if reasonable under the circumstances, use tactics and techniques to persuade the individual to voluntarily comply or mitigate the need to use increased physical tactics to resolve the situation safely. Some situations require an immediate response, while other situations may allow peace officers the opportunity to communicate with the individual, refine tactical plans, and, if necessary, call for additional resources. When reasonable opportunity exists, peace officers should consider the principles of Pre-Engagement, De-Escalation and Disengagement, consistent with the definitions provided in this policy.

DE-ESCALATION

De-escalation is the use of strategies and/or techniques to gain voluntary compliance from an individual in order to gain or maintain control of an incident while reducing the need for physical coercion. These strategies and/or techniques are used to increase time and distance from the individual while attempting to establish effective communication.

Pre-Engagement Considerations

COMMAND
Case Agent/Incident Commander
Defined and Briefed Mission
Containment/Perimeter
Evacuations
Intelligence
Contact/Apprehension/React Team
Rescue Task Force
Command Post/Vehicle
Staging Area
FD staged
Unified Command
Other
AUTHORITY
PROPER JURISDICTION
<i>Is This a Law Enforcement matter?</i>
CRIMINAL
Violence or Threats of Violence
Felony
Misdemeanor
Other
CRISIS
Violence or Threats of Violence
Danger or others
Danger to self
Other Mental Health
Medical
INFORMATION CREDIBILITY
Is the reporting party (RP) anonymous?
Is an officer in direct contact with RP?
Is an officer in contact by phone?
Are there multiple RPs?
Does the RP have direct knowledge?
Is the RP reporting for someone else?
Can details be otherwise corroborated?
Can ID or descriptions of the suspect(s) be confirmed by others?
Premise history/Nature of prior calls/Contacts?
Is there an anti-swatting registry to consult?
Is the resident a celebrity or a likely hoax victim?
Other
Other

RISK/THREAT DETERMINATION

Does the suspect have access to potential victims?
Can you safely evacuate potential victims?
Is the suspect armed?
Is the suspect threatening to harm others?
Is the suspect threatening to harm self?

Resource Considerations

RESOURCES

PERSONNEL
Additional Personnel
Mutual Aid needed
Containment/Perimeter
Evacuations/Reunification Area
Intelligence
React Team
Rescue Task Force
Staged FD
SWAT/Tactical Team
CNT
PERT Clinician
Red Cross/Support Services
Emergency Public Notification (SIG, Amber, etc.)
APS/CPS/PERT Referral
EQUIPMENT
Lighting
Public Address (PA) System/Bull Horn
Taser
K9
Pepper Ball
Beanbag Shotgun
.40 mm
Air Support
Drone
IFAK/Trauma Bags
Soft Ballistic Shield
Hobble - Spit Sock - Wrap
Helmets/Plate Carriers
Hard Ballistic Shield
Bearcat
Ballistic Shotgun/Patrol Rifle
Other
Other

Disengagement Considerations

EVALUATION
Is this a Police Matter?
Is the Mission Defined?
Has the Mission Changed?
CRIMINAL
Is this a CRIMINAL matter?
If yes, is there VIOLENCE?
Is it a FELONY?
Is it a MISDEMEANOR?
Is there a VICTIM(S)?
Is there a DANGER to OTHERS?
Is the suspect's identity known?
Is an arrest warrant an appropriate option?
Is walking away an appropriate option?
CRISIS
Is this a CRISIS?
Medical?
Mental Health?
Suicidal?
Substance Abuse?
Is this a POLICE Matter?
Is the Subject a DANGER to SELF?
Is the Subject a DANGER to OTHERS?
Is the Subject's IDENTITY KNOWN?
Is walking away an appropriate option?
SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
Did we promise to do something for an individual?
Did we guide the individual into a potentially harmful situation?
DISENGAGEMENT ACTION
When disengagement has been decided, (1) provide the individual(s) notice of your plan to disengage/withdraw from the situation, (2) provide a reasonable opportunity for the individual(s) to seek a safe location, and (3) advise them that police protection will cease.
FOLLOW UP
Agency NOTIFICATIONS made?
EPO/GVRO
Family/Neighbors notified?
Doctor/Psych notification?
ONS entry or BOL for officer safety

