

Cobb County Police Department

Policy 4.01

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Effective Date: October 1, 2019	Issued By: Chief C.T. Cox
Rescinds: Policy 4.01 (November 1, 2017)	Page 1 of 4
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.	

The purpose of this order is to establish procedures for call-up of personnel and to outline the lines of communication, responsibility, and definitions for major critical incidents. The incident may range from a small confrontation to a major occurrence.

I. POLICY

In accordance with the Proclamation passed on October 25, 2005 by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners, the National Incident Management System (NIMS) will be the basis for all incident management in Cobb County.

II. UNIFORM RESPONSE AND RESPONSIBILITY

- A. When the first officer on the scene determines that he may have an incident requiring Special Teams personnel, he will notify his shift supervisor as soon as possible.
- B. The shift supervisor will evaluate the situation and notify Special Team(s) and/or the On-Scene Commander Team as necessary. This decision should be based on the following criteria, which may not be all inclusive.
 - 1. A dangerous felon or felons have fled to an area too large to be effectively sealed off by on-duty personnel. There must be an element of danger present which makes their immediate apprehension necessary.
 - 2. A suspect has barricaded himself in a position after having used force or threatened to use force on himself or others.
 - 3. A suspect has taken hostages.
 - 4. An active threat (e.g. – active shooter) has been reported.
 - 5. A large scale civil disturbance or disaster has happened or is impending.
 - 6. An escaped prisoner or prisoners are known to be in a specific area and constitutes a threat to public safety unless immediately apprehended.

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7. A subject is believed drowned and the Underwater Search and Recovery Team is needed.
 8. An explosive device has been found.
 9. A felon is located in a contained area large enough to need a Canine team.
 10. A natural or man-made disaster (tornado, dam breach, structural collapse, etc.) has occurred.
 11. Any other situation deemed essential to require additional support (example: a lost child).
- C. The supervisor shall act as the On-Scene Commander and remain in charge of the scene until relieved by a more senior officer in an on-duty status.

III. ON-SCENE COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

Upon arrival, the On-Scene Commander will assume command and:

- A. Conduct operations following the standard National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS) protocols, which include functional provisions for: command, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration. The On-Scene Commander may designate individuals to assist with those functional provisions as needed.
- B. Fire and EMS personnel should be notified if needed. In the event injuries have already been sustained, arrangements should be made to transport the injured to a safe area where treatment or transport arrangements can be made.
- C. Establish and maintain a secure command post (and separate staging area, if necessary). The command post will be located a safe distance from the critical incident.
- D. Ensure perimeter(s) are properly in place. Depending upon the type and severity of the incident, both an inner and outer perimeter may need to be established. Perimeters will help ensure the security and preservation of the scene, as well as the safety of all affected personnel.
- E. Collect, evaluate, and disseminate information and intelligence about the incident, the status of resources, and anticipated equipment and manpower needs. Information should be gathered for current and alternative strategies, needs for special resources should be identified, and periodic predictions on incident potential should be made.
- F. Identify any equipment, vehicles, or personnel required to assist with resolution of the incident; including support from other law enforcement agencies and other departments of the Cobb County Government.

- G.** Request the assistance of specialized units/teams as needed. The supervisor and/or commander of the team will report to the On-Scene Commander or his designee. Their operation on the incident will be dictated by the Standard Operating Procedures of the specific team(s).
- H.** Assign a radio frequency for all personnel involved in the critical incident. If needed, the On-Scene Commander will request that a Cobb County Communication Center dispatcher respond to the critical incident and act as a Communications Coordinator.

 - 1. For incidents involving only Department personnel, a police frequency may be used.
 - 2. For incidents involving multiple agencies, Disaster 3 should be used. Should Disaster 3 not be available to all assisting personnel, the On-Scene Commander should ensure that communication is maintained between the command post and all involved personnel.
- I.** Develop plans to cope with existing and predicted conditions. A documented Incident Action Plan should be created for large-scale events involving multiple jurisdictions/agencies where the Incident Command System will be utilized for an extended period of time.
- J.** Designate a location for the news media and ensure a Public Information Officer (PIO) has been requested or appointed to keep the media briefed during the operation. The On-Scene Commander will notify Communications as to who the PIO is and his location. All inquiries from the media will be directed to the PIO.
- K.** Conduct evacuations as necessary. The type and severity of the incident will dictate whether or not evacuations are needed, or whether evacuations will be small or large scale. Witnesses should be identified and kept at the scene, if possible.
- L.** Address traffic control. The responsibility for dealing with traffic control problems that arise during a critical incident will initially be given to uniformed personnel. On duty patrol personnel may be required to close necessary intersections and access routes and assist in setting up detours for motorists. If the situation is obviously going to last for an extended period of time, the county and state Department of Transportation offices should be contacted to assist with the re-routing of traffic. DOT may have to close some affected areas in order to release Departmental personnel from traffic duty in order to return to their assignments, or to help with the incident response in other ways.
- M.** Coordinate transportation needs. In addition to Department vehicles, the On-Scene Commander may request Sheriff's Department vehicles, adjacent police department vehicles, Community Transit buses, Parks and Recreation Department vehicles, Senior Services buses, Cobb School System buses, etc.

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- N.** Provide for detainee transportation, processing, and confinement. During a critical incident it may be necessary to establish a temporary detention area for holding a large group of in-custody persons. If such a detention area needs to be established, it will be done in accordance with the policy on Mass Arrests (Policy 4.08 “Civil Disorders,” Section III, D). It is not, however, necessary to establish a temporary detention area for a prisoner(s) who is under the immediate control of an officer(s) for the purpose of debriefing, interviewing, processing, etc. prior to transport to the jail.
- O.** Post personnel to secure Department facilities as necessary. Steps should be taken to ensure that all Department records are secure or removed to another location where they can be secured.
- P.** Make appropriate plans for relief if the operation appears to be long term.
- Q.** As needed, record personnel time and expenses. Injuries and liability issues should also be documented.

IV. POST INCIDENT DUTIES

The responsibility of ending the operation will be the decision of the On-Scene Commander after receiving input from whatever personnel he deems necessary.

- A.** Post incident duties will include the continuance of security in the affected areas, maintenance of traffic and security checkpoints, release of resources as appropriate, and investigation by the appropriate investigative unit(s) or other agencies.
- B.** The On-Scene Commander will conduct a critique/debriefing of the critical incident within a reasonable length of time and prepare a detailed written after-action report for the Chief of Police, forwarded through the chain of command of all affected Units.