

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Index as:**

Barricaded Subjects  
Hostage Situations  
St Louis County TACT

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**HOSTAGE / BARRICADE SUBJECT SITUATIONS  
CALLING ST. LOUIS COUNTY TACT**

**431.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for police response to hostage and barricaded subject situations.

**431.01 POLICY**

The primary objective in all hostage or barricaded subject situations is to preserve life and to ensure the situation does not escalate. In addition, effort should be made to confine the situation to a specific location.

**431.02 PROCEDURE**

- A. The first officer on the scene, when he is aware that he has a hostage or barricaded subject situation, will immediately notify his supervisor and the on-duty Watch Commander.
- B. The officer will attempt to make verbal contact with the hostage or barricaded subject in order to ascertain if in fact a hostage is being held, or the subject is to be considered as a barricade subject who may cause harm to himself or others. Officers may start the initial negotiation with the subject / barricaded subject, however, they should never exchange places with the hostages, nor should they surrender their weapons. If possible, the officer will:
  1. Attempt to avoid confrontation yet contain the suspect/hostage or barricaded subject at the initial site until the arrival of trained tactical and/or hostage negotiation personnel.
  2. Evacuate bystanders and non-involved citizens from the area. The evacuation of any injured person(s) will be done as soon as possible based on the safety of all other involved parties.
- C. The initial officer should obtain as much information as possible including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Who called, who is involved and time of occurrence.
2. History, including all facts on the suspect(s) and hostage(s).
3. Weapons, injuries, deaths, type and number.
4. Location of observation points and persons involved.
5. Floor plan of location.
6. What has occurred so far: deadline, interviews, releases or captures, etc?

D. The supervisor will respond to the scene. The supervisor shall:

1. Establish both an "inner" and "outer" perimeter.
2. Notify the Chief of Police.
3. Notify the Bureau of Investigation Commander for the call out of a trained negotiator.
4. Notify the Fire Department and request an ambulance to stand-by in the area.
5. Maintain control of the scene until the arrival of the watch Commander and the above notified personnel.
6. The supervisor must evaluate the need for pursuit/surveillance vehicles and evaluate possible travel routes in the event that the situation cannot be contained to the initial site.

E. The on-duty Watch Commander has the authority to:

1. Contact other agencies and request additional manpower if needed.
2. Decide whether the St. Louis County Police Department TACT Unit should be requested to respond to the scene.
3. Authorize the use of force.
4. Establish a central command post for safety and observation.
5. Determine if the need exists for a media staging area.

GENERAL ORDER 431.00

April 2, 2013

If the St. Louis County Police TACT Unit is requested and responds to the scene, the watch Commander will establish contact with the TACT Commander to determine communication issues as well as the deployment of manpower. The St. Louis County TACT officers will replace FPD officers on the inner perimeter and when the TACT personnel are in place, the St. Louis County TACT Commander will assume control of the scene within the inner perimeter, which also includes negotiation. FPD officers will continue to be responsible for everything outside the inner perimeter.

The FPD Commander or his designate will remain at the Command Post in communication with the TACT Commander. When the incident has been resolved and the scene secure, control of the inner perimeter will return to the FPD. The St Louis County TACT Unit will prepare an after action report detailing their actions at the scene, however, the original police report remains the responsibility of the FPD.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colonel Thomas Jackson".

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel