

CROWD CONTROL

This order establishes general policies and procedures regarding the Department's response to demonstrations and other First Amendment activities, and specifies acceptable crowd control techniques and levels of force.

I. POLICY

A. PROTECTION OF RIGHTS. It is the policy of the San Francisco Police Department to ensure that rights guaranteed by the constitutions of the United States and the State of California are protected for all individuals. A primary mission of police at events involving free speech activity is to protect and respect First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and assembly.

B. RESTRICTIONS

1. LIMITS. The San Francisco Police Department will not attempt to limit the size, location, time or activity at any demonstration, march, protest or picket unless there are articulable facts or circumstances causing reasonable concern for public safety, public health or the safe movement of persons in the area.

2. RESTRICTIONS/CONTROL. The San Francisco Police Department will not seek to restrict or control the content of opinions being expressed, nor shall members let their own personal, political or religious views affect their actions.

C. CROWD CONTROL TACTICS. Crowd control tactics shall not be affected by the content of opinions alone being expressed, nor by the race, sex, sexual orientation, physical disabilities, appearance or affiliations of the participants.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS. To ensure that the participants can hear and understand the order to disperse, equipment appropriate to the size and noise of the crowd shall be used. The order to disperse shall be given repeatedly over a period of time and, if necessary, from a variety of locations.

- E. **DISPERSAL.** Crowds shall not be dispersed or ordered to move unless there are reasonable and articulable factors justifying the order in accordance with law. Before giving the order to disperse, the event commander must consider whether a dispersal endangers the public or participants in the crowd. If the event commander directs a crowd be moved by any means, including the use of force, time to disperse and a safe and clear route for individuals must be provided and announced in the same manner as the order to disperse.
- F. **ARRESTS.** A proper response to criminal conduct during a free speech activity is to cite or book those individuals engaged in criminal conduct (see DGO 5.06, Citation Release).

G. USE OF FORCE

- 1. **REASONABLE FORCE.** When the use of force is justified, the minimum degree of force necessary to accomplish an arrest or dispersal shall be employed. Officers are permitted to use reasonable and necessary force to protect themselves or others from bodily harm, but no more (see DGO 5.01, Use of Force).
- 2. **HORSES, MOTORCYCLES, MOTOR BIKES.** Horses shall not be used to move or disperse passive individuals who are sitting or lying down. Motor bikes or motorcycles shall not be driven into a crowd or used to make physical contact with persons.

H. USE OF NON-UNIFORMED OFFICERS. See DGO 5.08, Non-Uniformed Officers.

II. PROCEDURES

For detailed policies and procedures concerning crowd control and event planning, see SFPD "Crowd Control Manual" and "Event Management Manual."

References

DGO 8.10, Guidelines for First Amendment Activities
Event Management Manual, SFPD
Crowd Control Manual, SFPD