



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

20-164
11/24/20

Requesting the Tactical Unit / SWAT and Call-Out Procedures

The purpose of this bulletin is to establish procedures and guidelines for requesting the Tactical Unit/SWAT Team (TAC).

The primary mission of the Tactical Unit is to be prepared to respond as soon as possible to "tactical" critical incidents and high risk search/arrest warrant operations. The Tactical Unit is a lifesaving group that attempts to resolve these incidents through the use of diligent planning, specialized training and equipment. The Tactical Unit considers the following situations critical incidents; however, this list is not all inclusive. TAC shall be utilized, when feasible to do so, during the following:

- Hostage Taking (Confirmed or Unconfirmed)
- Barricaded Suspects
- Sniper/Active Attacker Situations (Patrol officers are still encouraged to immediately respond towards the attacker, as a coordinated team, and to engage the attacker as soon as there is sufficient staffing, and to not wait for tactical units to arrive on scene).

The three criteria for a critical incident are:

1. Must involve a life threatening situation.
2. Have a defined terrain objective (within a structure, vehicle, or "open air"/not within a building, i.e., armed hostage taker with a hostage on the street).
3. Require a tactical, coordinated response.


Field Operations Bureau personnel should seriously consider the use of the Tactical Unit, when feasible to do so, in possible dangerous encounters with violent subjects.

Once the determination has been made to utilize TAC as a resource, requests for TAC personnel can be made by the following:

- Via radio/dispatch. Request TAC via department radio directly. If there is no immediate response, requests may be made through dispatch on an "All" radio broadcast.
- If there is still no response by on-duty TAC members, the on-scene incident commander, or designee, shall contact the Department Operations Center (DOC). DOC will adhere to their protocols in contacting TAC.

Related Policies:

Department General Order 8.01 - Critical Incident Evaluation and Notification
Department General Order 8.02 - Hostage and Barricaded Suspect Incidents


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DN 20-150, all Sworn & non-sworn Members shall electronically acknowledge this Department Document in PowerDMS. Members whose duties are relevant to this Document shall be held responsible for compliance. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional information.