

# Louisville Metro Police Department

Standard Operating Procedures	SOP Number: 12.22
	Effective Date: 04/08/13 Prv. Rev. Date: 10/25/19 Revised Date: 12/19/22
	Accreditation Standards: KACP: 19.2
Chapter: Special Response	
Subject: Active Aggressor Incidents	

## 12.22 ACTIVE AGGRESSOR INCIDENTS

### 12.22.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) with guidelines and procedures for responding to active aggressor incidents in an effective and efficient manner **in order to limit** the loss of life or serious injury. Active aggressor incidents may include all situations where the assailant(s) pose an ongoing deadly threat. These may include, but are not limited to, incidents involving firearms, explosives, knives or edged weapons, and/or vehicles used for an attack.

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be utilized for all active aggressor incidents (refer to SOP 12.13).

### 12.22.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the LMPD to respond to, and intervene in, an active aggressor incident in order to neutralize the threat(s) in a manner intended to protect and rescue victims and to apprehend the suspect(s). The department recognizes that the active aggressor(s) needs to be stopped immediately to prevent any loss of life. Officers are permitted to use lethal force in self-defense or in the defense of others, in accordance with Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRSs) and the Use of Force policy (refer to SOP 9.1).

All LMPD officers will be trained in tactical active aggressor response. Active aggressor training will be provided for all civilian members.

### 12.22.3 DEFINITIONS

**Active Aggressor:** An armed perpetrator who intends to use, or has used, deadly physical force on other persons while having unrestricted access to additional victims.

**Cold Zone:** The area(s) away from the threat (i.e. safe area) where first responders can operate with minimal threat to personal safety or health.

**Contact Team:** **Additional** team(s) of officers, with ballistic vests and helmets, with a designated team leader, whose sole purpose is to enter the hot zone and stop the aggression. They are responsible for reporting areas that are clear, but not secure, to the Incident Commander (IC).

**Hot Zone:** The area of greatest threat, consisting of the immediate incident location, with a direct and immediate threat to personal safety or health. All active aggressor incidents are considered "hot" until law enforcement determines otherwise. Only sworn law enforcement officers should operate within the hot zone.

**Rescue Task Force (RTF):** A team or teams, comprised of the LMPD, Louisville Fire Department (LFD), Jefferson County Suburban Fire (depending on the authority having jurisdiction), Emergency Medical Services (EMS), or any combination thereof, deployed by the IC, or his/her designee, to provide point of wound care to victims during an ongoing active aggressor incident. These personnel will treat, stabilize, and remove the injured while under the protection of their LMPD counterparts.

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## 12.22.3 DEFINITIONS (CONTINUED)

**Warm Zone:** The area with a reduced threat level (i.e. area that has been cleared, but is not secure).

## 12.22.4 INITIAL RESPONSE

The LMPD's strategy for active aggressors is to initiate, and manage, an immediate tactical response to stabilize, or neutralize, an imminent threat of death or bodily harm. Initial responding officers have the authority to take immediate action to eliminate the threat, either through containment, isolation, arrest, or deadly force.

MetroSafe will advise all LMPD radio channels of the active aggressor. All officers from adjoining divisions are authorized to respond to the active aggressor call. MetroSafe will be contacted to page the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team in the event that the location is to be searched, if more than one (1) report of shots fired is taken and/or an active shooter/aggressor incident is confirmed. A rapid assessment will be made, upon arrival, and communicated to MetroSafe. Officers should gather information from individuals who are already outside of the affected location. Pertinent information includes:

- The number of suspect(s), including descriptions and names, if known.
- The location of suspect(s).
- The type and number of weapons.
- Any sniper activity.
- Any explosive devices.
- Any injured or deceased persons (KACP 19.2z).
- The number and locations of people in possible jeopardy.

The first responding officer, regardless of rank, must make an immediate evaluation of the threat to life and available resources. The officer must take intervening actions, as soon as reasonably possible, in order to protect human life, to rescue victim(s), and to apprehend the suspect(s).

If circumstances dictate, immediate initial entry **will** be made by the first responding officer **or** with any number of officers. A pursuit of the active aggressor should be made as expeditiously as possible (KACP 19.2a). Responsibilities of **the first responding officer(s)** include:

- Notifying MetroSafe of the number of officers **and their** car/code numbers
- Utilizing equipment such as body armor, handgun, radio, flashlight, and clearly visible identification for plainclothes officers or responding off-duty officers (e.g. POLICE shirt or jacket, wristband). Additional recommended equipment may include ballistic helmet (if available) and rifle or shotgun (if qualified).
- Determining if any personnel are between the active aggressor and the **officers** (e.g. facility security officers).
- Making contact with the active aggressor as soon as possible and stopping the active aggressor by arrest, containment, or use of deadly force, in accordance with KRS and LMPD policy (refer to SOP 9.1). The target identification is essential.
- Relaying pertinent information to MetroSafe or the IC, if feasible. Pertinent information may include:
  - The location of the **officers**.
  - The location of the threat.

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## 12.22.4 INITIAL RESPONSE (CONTINUED)

- Any contact with the threat.
- The number and type of weapons involved, if known.
- The location of suspected explosive devices.
- The locations of any known injured (KACP 19.2z).
- Which areas can be locked down and possibly evacuated.

It should be noted that assistance to victims may not be immediately possible if the suspect has not been contained. Preventing the active aggressor from committing further acts of harm to human life is the primary concern of the initial entry **officers**.

More contact teams may be formed if there are multiple active aggressors, multiple floors in a large building, or attached buildings with interior access.

## 12.22.5 INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)

The first **commanding** officer on the scene, who is not **needed for initial entry**, will be the IC until relieved by a higher authority. The IC will coordinate the following:

- Establishing a command post in a safe location (cold zone) (KACP 19.2m).
- Determining the need for additional **resources**.
- Deploying the RTF teams into the warm zone to treat the injured and minimize the loss of life. This will be accomplished by:
  - Sending a supervisor to meet with the appropriate fire department at their command post in order to begin coordinating the RTF teams.
  - Sending later-arriving officers to the fire command post to be on the RTF teams.
  - Deploying three (3) officers with each RTF team.
  - Verifying that one (1) officer always stays with the RTF team in case another threat arises in the warm zone.
- Identifying a safe area in the cold zone where the Incident Command Post (ICP) and other equipment can be staged.
- Verifying that the Active Aggressor Notification List has been activated by MetroSafe (KACP 19.2h).
- Establishing an evacuation area for non-injured victims, with the assistance of the location officials, and assigning a security group supervisor.
- Identifying and securing any persons who can supply pertinent information concerning the incident.

## 12.22.5 INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC) (CONTINUED)

- Establishing a Joint Information Center (JIC) to control the release of information to the public (refer to SOP 3.3) (KACP 19.2w).

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- Assisting the business, school, or other entity with establishing a Family Assistance Center in order to provide a place for family members of victims to gather away from the incident, the media, and the public.

## 12.22.6 BARRICADED AGGRESSOR

At any point, if the active aggressor becomes contained, isolated, barricaded, or ceases aggressive behavior, the situation will transition into a traditional tactical response. The SWAT Team will relieve the **responding officers**. The Hostage Negotiating Team (HNT) will be utilized to attempt to affect the surrender of the suspect. Members will refer to the Hostage/Barricaded Subject policy (SOP 12.3).

## 12.22.7 AFTER-ACTION REPORT (KACP 19.2cc)

The IC will prepare an After-Action Report (LMPD #08-0005) following the guidelines in the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) Incident Levels chapter; subsection V, After-Action Reports. Any post-incident debriefing will include the officials of the facility.

## 12.22.8 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Refer to the ERP Active Aggressor Response chapter for more detailed information and instructions.

The ERP, in its entirety, can be found on the LMPD Intranet. Click on the "Research and Development" button, click on the "Other Information" link, and double click on the "Emergency Response Plan" folder.

Members should refer to their respective building's Facility Emergency Plan (FEP) for emergency procedures in the event that they are the victim of an active aggressor in their facility. The FEPs can be found on the LMPD Intranet. Members should click on the "Research and Development" button, click on the "Other Information" link, double click on the "Evacuation Plans-LMPD" folder, and find the plan for their respective building (refer to SOP 4.18).