

Hamden Police Department

General Orders

Policy Number: 028-018

Effective Date: December 10, 2015

Section: General Operating
Procedures

Rescinds: No previous version

Approved By: Police Commission

Title: Duress Alarm Procedure

Approval Date: December 9, 2015

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for officers responding to Duress Alarms within the Town of Hamden. To reduce the police response time to the report of an active violent person(s) at a board of education or town facility.

POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Signal "91": Priority call, all unrelated radio communication ceases.

PROCEDURES

A. The Duties of the Communications Division:

1. Upon receipt of a duress alarm from a school or town facility, the Communications dispatcher will:
 - a. Initiate a signal "91" to all units.
 - b. Broadcast the duress location on channel one.
 - c. Dispatch at least two patrol cars and a patrol supervisor to the location.
 - d. Notify the headquarters supervisor.
2. After the above has been completed, the Communications Division will:
 - a. Monitor the Hamden Public School emergency channel for updates.
 - b. Notify responding units as information becomes available.
 - c. If no contact is made from the school/town facility then communications will attempt to make contact to the school/town

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facility to obtain the following info:

- Determine if the duress activation was accidental.
 - Determine the identification of the duress button/location that was activated.
 - Determine the number violent subject(s), description of violent subject(s), and weapons involved.
- d. If no initial contact is made, the Communications Division will advise responding units of this fact and will continue to attempt to make contact with the school/ town facility.
3. If it is determined that the duress alarm is false, Communications Division will do the following:
- a. Notify the responding units that the duress alarm is false.
 - b. Identify the school/town personnel in which communications is speaking to. Confirm that they are on the approved list of school/town personnel.
 - c. The Communications Division will obtain a description of those personnel (clothing, hair color, etc.). Broadcast that description to the responding units. Then instruct that school/town personnel meet the responding units at their location.
4. Responsibilities of the Patrol Supervisor.
- a. Proceed to the scene as quickly as possible.
 - b. Coordinate area vehicles responding to the duress alarm and/or request additional units .
 - c. Keep the Communications Division updated on the situation.
 - d. Make appropriate notifications based on the circumstances of the situation. (ie...ESU, Detective Division, Hostage Negotiation Team Etc.)
5. Responsibilities of the Sector Vehicles/First Arriving Officer(s) on scene

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- a. Proceed to the location as quickly as possible.
- b. The first arriving officer(s) based on all information available, the officer's training/experience, and observations on scene will determine his/her actions.
- c. Officers will keep the Central Communications Division advised of the situation.