

# Hamden Police Department General Orders

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**Policy Number:** 031-001

**Effective Date:** August 01, 2005

**Section:** Emergency Operation  
Plan.

**Rescinds:**

**Title:** Civil Disorders.

**Approved By:**

**Approval Date:**

## PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for responding to civil disorders and demonstrations of any kind that threatens public peace.

## POLICY

The Hamden Police Department will respond to all civil disorders or demonstrations in order to ensure public safety .

### General

Civil Disorders may mean any form of large disturbance ranging from a bar fight or neighborhood disturbance to organized and coordinated demonstrations of various types. The primary responsibility of the Hamden Police Department shall be the preservation of life and to prevent destruction of property.

This will be accomplished by responding to an incident, assessing the situation and escalating the response in accordance with known standards of confrontation management. The Chief of Police, or his designee, will ensure that all personnel are familiar with the Emergency Operations Plan.

### Procedures

#### A. Response to the scene.

1. Upon receipt of any disturbance or demonstration call, police officers will be assigned to investigate.
2. If it is a large disturbance, backup units will be sent and a supervisor assigned, or notified.

#### B. Supervisory Response.

1. Assess the situation and determine what assistance may be required.

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2. Assign patrol units as needed to:
  - a. Disperse the disturbance, if possible.
  - b. If not, set up traffic and crowd control, and seal off the area.
3. If the disturbance is large enough, assign all but one unit. Have that unit remain central and advise dispatch to have the unit respond to only emergency calls until the situation is stabilized
4. If the disturbance requires immediate assistance, help may be obtained from the following agencies by phone or hotline:
  - a. Connecticut State Police - 789-7725.
  - b. New Haven Police - 946-7607.
  - c. North Haven Police - 239-5321.
  - d. Cheshire Police - 272-5500.
  - e. Wallingford Police - 294-2800

### **C. Notification of Command Personnel.**

1. In the event the case appears serious and additional police assistance is going to be required, notification is to me made to the Patrol Deputy Chief and Chief.

### **D. Mobile Command Post.**

1. The Mobile Command Vehicle will be the primary command post during civil disorders.
2. A police cruiser or a nearby building may be used as field command post dependent upon the circumstances, and the recommendation of the Commanding Officer of the operation. Access to any command post will be restricted.

### **E. Communications.**

1. Standard operating procedures and equipment will be utilized and will be augmented, as necessary, by emergency equipment requested through the State Police and/or National Guard.

### **F. Command and Control.**

1. Police officers from other jurisdictions, responding to assist, will be under the command and control of the Chief of Police or his designate.

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2. Upon arrival at the designated area, officers will report to the Officer in Charge of the scene for assignment.
3. Whenever possible, unit integrity of the different agencies will be maintained by assigning them, as a group, to specific assignments.

### G. Call In Procedures.

1. If the disturbance continues and the department needs additional manpower for sustained operations, it may be obtained in the following manner:
  - a. Call in some or all of the oncoming shift.
  - b. Call in off duty personnel.
  - c. Call in all department personnel.
    - i. All officers ordered in will:
      1. Report for duty in full uniform unless otherwise instructed.
      2. Report to Police H.Q.
      3. Report to secondary location as instructed.

### H. Reporting Procedures.

1. Reporting procedures for a civil disturbance or demonstration will follow the format set up in the Unusual Occurrence, General Order 31-3 .

### I. Operations Order.

1. The Command Post Supervisor shall designate an officer to record information on a Operations Log.

### J. Transportation.

1. In cases where large numbers of people are involved, school buses may be requested from area business.

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### **K. Equipment**

1. The following equipment will be required in support of civil disturbance operations:
  - a. Riot Helmets.
  - b. Riot Batons.
  - c. Gas Masks.
  - d. Portable loud speakers.
  - e. Photographic and video equipment.

### **L. Uniforms.**

1. Standard police uniforms will be worn, unless otherwise directed and provided.

### **M. Military Assistance.**

1. The Mayor may request military assistance from the Office of the Governor to:
  - a. Augment local police.
  - b. Provide emergency communications.
  - c. Provide added security as needed.
  - d. Provide transportation.
  - e. Any other assistance that may be needed.

### **N. Legal Assistance.**

1. Persons involved in civil disorders of any kind are subject to arrest on a variety of state or local laws or ordinances.
2. In any case, if legal assistance is required, the State's Attorney's Office will be notified.

### **O. Escalation of Force.**

1. In order to respond to and disperse disturbances, an escalation of force provides increasing levels of response to meet the demands and isolate the situation.
2. The specific situation will dictate which level of response is used first and increase the response thereafter.

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### **P. Phase 1- Show of Force.**

1. Assembling a number of uniformed police officers at the scene of the disturbance is the show of force. The control force should, if possible, be assembled out of sight of the disturbance. When they appear, a uniformed, disciplined group of officers, confronting a crowd, may cause the crowd to disperse.
2. If they do not, an order to disperse and leave the area should be given. If they fail to disperse after an order to do so, the use of riot control formations is the next phase.

### **Q. Phase 2 - Crowd Control Formations.**

1. The next step in the evaluation of force concept is the use of crowd control formations to control, direct and split up the crowd in an effort to disperse them.
2. The following is a list of basic formations that are easy to use:
  - a. Line formation.
  - b. Wedge formation.
  - c. Diamond formation.
  - d. Circle formation.
3. In using the formations, the crowd should never be forced into an area from which there is no escape, especially if there are chemical agents used.

### **R. Phase 3 Use of Chemical Agents.**

1. Chemical agents may only be used after authorization by the Chief of Police or his designee.
2. Only officers trained in the use of chemical agents shall throw or launch such devices.
3. Chemical agents may be delivered in the following order:
  - a. Hand Thrown - Rolled along the ground, or thrown to land in front of the crowd. They should not be thrown overhead.
  - b. Launched - Chemical agent canisters may be launched off the shotgun. If possible, they should be launched to land in front of or to the rear of the crowd.

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- c. Muzzle Dispersion - The 37 mm gas gun has the ability to disperse large amounts of gas directly into the crowd.

### S. Phase 4 - Selected Sniper Fire.

1. Activated only on orders from the Chief of Police or his designee, selected sniper fire is the last phase in the escalation of force.
2. Only officers certified in the use of department shotguns or rifles will use such weapons, and only at targets specifically designated.
3. This does not preclude the use of deadly force by any officer engaged in a confrontation, in accordance with the department's Deadly Force Policy.

### T. Public Facility Security.

1. During large disturbances, it may be necessary to assign an officer to protect public buildings or facilities. This may include any public building or an emergency facility set up as a shelter or aid station.

### U. De-Escalation Procedures.

1. The supervisor in charge shall determine when personnel may be relieved of duties according to the status of the present condition.
2. Those officers being relieved of their duties shall meet with their supervisor to be debriefed. The supervisor may direct the officers to submit a written report of the duties which they performed.
3. The supervisor in charge may direct an officer to compile information concerning the identity of those subjects that were injured during the civil disturbance or disaster.
4. The supervisor in charge may assign officers to assist with post occurrence duties dependent upon the nature of the occurrence.