

**VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAM  
(T.R.T.)**



**Standard Operating Procedures**



# Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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# Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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## 1. PURPOSE OF TRT

The use of specially trained teams of law enforcement units to assist in the amelioration of critical incidents has been demonstrated to substantially reduce the injuries and loss of life to deputies, citizens, and suspects.

The purpose of the Tactical Response Team (TRT) is to provide a team of deputies with special training to respond to unusual or critical incidents that by their nature and scope exceed the capabilities of other units within the department. The goals of this team are to reduce the danger to deputies and citizens, and to resolve each situation with the minimal amount of force necessary to safely manage the resolution of the situation.

It is the intent of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office to maintain the Tactical Response Team as a ready tactical resource. This document is intended to establish the unit mandate, structure, and general operating procedures for the TRT. This document is not intended to establish a higher duty or level of liability than that required by law.

The effect of this manual is limited to that of an administrative guide for decision making prior to an incident. It also serves as a standard for administrative judgment of the propriety of actions taken in incident response. It is not to be considered a standard for external judgment (civil or criminal litigation) of the propriety of the actions taken. That is a matter of established law and also a process for courts and juries reviewing specific facts of a given incident. It is not the intent of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office that this document is in any way to have the effect of replacing existing legal standards.



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### **2. TRT COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE**

Upon activation of the Tactical Response Team, the Watch Commander will make notification to the station or bureau commander of the affected geographical area. The Incident Commander shall be responsible for the overall command of the operation. The Tactical Response Team shall operate under the direction of the Incident Commander and within departmental guidelines.

The Tactical Response Team is commanded by a Sheriff's Captain with administrative oversight by a Sheriff's Commander. When the team is activated for an operation, the TRT Captain, or the TRT Commander in the absence of the Captain, will report directly to the Incident Commander, where one has been designated, or to the on-scene supervisor. Depending on the type and scope of the operation, and the availability of the TRT Commander or TRT Captain, the Commander or Captain may assign a TRT Sergeant to assume leadership of the team and report to the Incident Commander.

The Incident Commander shall have operational control, and shall assign the TRT Leader an operational mission. The TRT Leader shall select the appropriate tactics to be employed and direct the physical deployment and movement of the TRT, subject to the approval of the Incident Commander. The TRT Leader is responsible for the deployment of the TRT, tactical decision-making, and resolution of the operational mission/goal assigned to the team. The TRT Leader is subordinate to the Incident Commander in terms of when and if a tactical option will be initiated, but not as to how it will be employed or accomplished.

The TRT is comprised of an authorized strength of 35 personnel: One Captain; six Sergeants; twenty-eight Senior Deputies/Deputies; one Sheriff's Service Technician. There are several component groups within the team: Arrest / Contact Squad; Vehicle/ Equipment Squad; Extrication Squad; Less Lethal Squad and Technical Unit. Sergeants are assigned as leaders of the various squads, as are the personnel assigned to them, depending on their experience, qualifications, and ability to function within that squad. One Sergeant will be assigned as the Administrative/Safety Officer for the team.



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### 3. TRT ORGANIZATION

The Tactical Response Team is divided into several component groups for specific functions. As practicality and opportunity allow, team members are cross-trained in all team functions to insure response flexibility to situational changes and dynamic circumstances.

The Tactical Response Team is comprised of five operational squads. Each squad is led and supervised by a TRT Sergeant, and each squad has varying responsibilities, including but not limited to the following.

**ARREST / CONTACT SQUAD:** The function of this squad is to contact and control subjects who are physically resisting deputies or aggressing deputies/civilians. This squad receives training in arrest and control and ground fighting techniques. They are able to deploy in crowd management configurations or in tactical operations. They are responsible for the arrest of suspects who attempt to breach secure perimeters or leave an area of containment. As with all team members, they are also trained in downed officer rescues.

**VEHICLE/EQUIPMENT SQUAD:** This squad is responsible for the vehicles and trailers assigned to the Tactical Response Team. They are responsible for the storage, inventory, maintenance, and deployment of the vehicles to areas of operations for call outs and activations.

**EXTRICATION SQUAD:** These members are responsible for operations involving the extrication of subjects from a variety of devices used during protests, demonstrations, and other acts of civil disobedience. Members of this squad are also responsible for the care and maintenance of the team's extrication equipment.

**LESS LETHAL SQUAD:** Each member of this squad is assigned a less lethal shotgun that is kept with their respective gear and they are responsible to have it ready to deploy. This squad is trained to deploy Less Lethal systems in both crowd management and tactical situations. This includes hand delivered and weapon delivered munitions.

**TECHNICAL UNIT:** These members are responsible for operations involving the team's technology that includes, but not limited to: UAV operations and Survey123. This unit also coordinates the teaching arm of the team and maintains current versions of teaching materials.



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**OTHER DUTIES:** In addition to the team duties above, members are also assigned responsibility for rural patrol supplies and equipment, entry tools, portable base radios, wildfire equipment and supplies, and any other equipment as deemed necessary.

### TRT STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

The TRT staff consists of one Captain in command of the team and six Sergeants who supervise the individual team members.

#### Captain

The TRT Captain is responsible and accountable for the overall operation of the Tactical Response Team. The Captain is the direct supervisor of the TRT Sergeants and commands all personnel assigned to the TRT. At the scene of a TRT operation, the Captain is responsible for the overall team activity and the accomplishment of the mission as assigned by the Incident Commander. Should the Captain not be available, a TRT Sergeant will act in this capacity. The **TRT Captain is responsible for a yearly review of the policies and procedures that regulate the team in order to insure they remain contemporary with industry standards and any developments within the arena of legal decisions.** The TRT Captain will complete a written report to the Administrative Commander reflecting the findings of his review.

#### Sergeants

**TRT Sergeants are assigned as Squad Leaders**, one each to Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta, and Echo Squads. -One TRT Sergeant is assigned as the Administrative/Training Sergeant. The sergeants are the team leaders of the various operational components of the Tactical Response Team. The sergeants are responsible for the formulation and implementation of tactics and procedures regarding operations, subject to review and approval of the TRT Captain.

**Administrative/Training Sergeant:** This Sergeant is responsible for the team administrative duties and training exercises. This includes but is not limited to the coordination and maintenance of training exercises, training sites, documents, team records, activations and after-action reports, etc. The Administrative/Training Sergeant will also provide direct supervision of the TRT Sheriff's Service Technician (SST).

**Equipment Sergeant:** One Sergeant will be assigned as the Equipment Sergeant. This Sergeant will be responsible for the storage, issuance, and tracking of all team equipment and materials. This Sergeant will also be responsible for collecting all issued equipment from members who leave the service of the Tactical Response Team.

#### Senior Deputies and Deputies



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In addition to the Captain and the Team Sergeants, the Tactical Response Team is comprised of Senior Deputies and Deputies who are selected based on their overall qualifications and experience. Each team member will be trained in the use of team weapons, tactics, and equipment. Each team member is responsible to demonstrate and maintain proficiency in all expected skill areas. Each member is responsible for the maintenance of all individually assigned weapons and equipment. All team members are responsible for complying with departmental directives, orders, and policies as well as the provisions of this team standard operating manual.

Team members may be assigned with additional responsibilities for equipment or operations above and beyond the responsibilities described in the previous paragraph. Senior Deputies and Deputies on the Tactical Response Team are expected to be able to organize and lead operations. Leadership development of all team members is a foundational objective of this team. To accomplish this goal, training situations and scenarios will include elements and assignments designed to develop all team members to organize, plan and lead.

Team members are duly compensated for mandatory training and authorized TRT activations and operations. Team members are responsible for notifying their respective team supervisor if they will be unavailable for a training session, team activation, or any planned operations. (This includes unavailability for any reason including but not limited to illness, court appearances, vacations, attendance at schools or other trainings, etc.)





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### 4. TRT TRAINING STANDARDS

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team will conduct a minimum of nine (9) 12-hour training sessions per calendar year. The TRT will train on subject matter appropriate to the TRT mission. All training will be documented and training records will be maintained in accordance with the Ventura County Records Retention Schedule.

All training will be performance oriented and specific to team operations. The team will maintain current standards of performance at the individual and the team level. Individual members will be re-certified a minimum of once per training cycle on required individual skills, and the team will be re-certified on all team level skill areas. Failure to maintain certification at either individual or team level, will require immediate focus on remediation to attain the basic skills. Continued failure to meet standards after remediation will be addressed as a failure to maintain standards of performance.

Team training sessions are mandatory, with overtime authorized for all active TRT members. Any team member who is not available to attend training for any reason, must notify his or her respective team Sergeant and request to be excused from the training. Any member who fails to attend training and was not excused will be suspended from the team until such time as staff can review the circumstances of the matter and determine the appropriate action to be taken.

Any member who has two excused absences during the course of a twelve-month period shall be evaluated by the TRT staff to determine whether a conflict exists, which will be detrimental to the member's team performance. Should it be determined that a conflict exists, the TRT staff will determine the appropriate course of action to be taken.





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### 5. TRT UNIFORM STANDARDS

Members of the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team will be issued and utilize appropriate utility type uniforms. Uniforms will utilize clearly visible and identifiable badges, patches, placards, and lettering that identifies the wearer of the uniform as a law enforcement officer. Hats, unless noted, will comply with the Sheriff's Uniform Policy. All other items of personal wear or equipment must be approved by the TRT Captain. The uniform for any given call out/training, including whether or not a drop-leg holster will be worn, will be determined by the sergeant(s).

Uniforms shall conform to the following:

#### **Class C Uniform**

The Class C uniform is worn for operations requiring the standard tan/green uniform configuration, searches, and warrant services, etc.

- Class "C" long sleeve shirt with shoulder patches, rank insignias, sewn down badge, nametape above right breast pocket, and "VCSO TRT" tape above left breast pocket.
- Black under shirt
- Military BDU style trousers with cargo pockets (OD green in color)
- Black Boots

#### **Crowd Control Uniform**

The Crowd Control Uniform is worn for crowd management/control operations.

- Fire resistant uniform shirt with department id nametape OR Class "C" tan long sleeve shirt with shoulder patches, rank insignias, sewn down badge, nametape above right breast pocket, and "VCSO TRT" tape above left breast pocket
- Black under shirt
- Nomex BDU style trousers with cargo pockets
- Black Boots
- Patrol Sam Brown

#### **Wildland Fire Uniform**

The Wildland Fire Nomex uniform shall be worn for all wildland fire activations and any other team activations that require operations in an environment susceptible to flash fires or flames.

- Nomex BDU style trousers with cargo pockets
- Solid black shirt; or black cotton TRT logo t-shirt
- Nomex tactical shirt with subdued shoulder patches, rank insignias, badge,



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nametape above right breast pocket.

- Black Boots

### Training/Rural Uniform

The training/utility uniform shall be worn for tactical operations and training days, when a more rugged yet identifiable uniform is required.

- Military **BDU** shirt with subdued shoulder patches, rank insignias, sewn on badge, nametape above right breast pocket, and "VCSO TRT" tape above left breast pocket, "Sheriff" placard across back of the shoulders.
- Solid black or black TRT logo T shirt
  - Green TRT logo shirts may be authorized for specified rural operations.
- Military BDU style trousers with cargo pockets (OD green in color)
- Black boots
  - Hiking boots (natural colors) may be used during rural operations when authorized.
- Hats
  - TRT Logo hats are only authorized during trainings
  - Green boonie style hats are authorized for specified rural operations and trainings.

### Tactical Gun Belts

Members may purchase tactical gun belts for use on specified TRT operations. The gun belt and items are to be black in color, with no shiny or bright colored snaps or fixtures. Tactical ballistic nylon equipment and drop leg type holsters are approved, pending review and approval by team staff. Tactical belts must be equipped to carry the duty sidearm, magazines, OC, Taser, radio, handcuffs, baton ring, and Rescue Utility Tool.

### Member Responsibility

Equipment issued by the department remains the property of the department, except those items noted at the time of issue. Members to whom uniform and equipment items are issued are responsible for the care and maintenance of these items. Failure to maintain uniforms in serviceable condition can be grounds for removal from the team.



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### 6. TRT PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS

Due to the physical demands placed on TRT members during the performance of their operational duties, it is recognized that an increased level of fitness must be maintained. The level of fitness is based upon job specific requirements of team members.

Failure to meet this requirement will result in the team member being placed on a 90-day probationary status. The team member will be re-tested within that 90-day period. Failure to pass upon re-test is grounds for removal from the team.

Each team member must successfully complete the following described physical readiness test. Each portion of the test will be timed. The time for each event will be transferred to a numerical score. Each member is required to complete each event in the required time and accumulating the required points:

- (1) minute maximum push-ups
- (1) minute maximum sit-ups
- Maximum pull-ups
- Solid wall climb and sprint
- Chain link fence climb and sprint
- Drag a dummy 33 feet
- 300-meter sprint
- 1.5-mile run

Each member must pass the annual department gas mask fit test. To remain on the team, each member must successfully pass the gas mask test.



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### 7. TRT EQUIPMENT STANDARDS

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team will supply its members with the following equipment:

- Ballistic helmet with face shield
- External Molle Vest Carrier w/Patches

[REDACTED]

- Class C uniform be used for uniformed callouts
- Nomex tactical uniform
- Portable Radio
- TRT Uniform Pin

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Storage)
- Rescue Utility Tool

TRT members who are issued any of the above equipment are responsible for the care and maintenance of the items. Failure to maintain all equipment in serviceable condition can be grounds for removal from the team.



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In addition to the equipment issued by the team, TRT members may, at their own expense, carry the following equipment on their persons during training exercises and operational missions:

- Sheriff's Ball Cap, green
- Multi-tool Utility Device (Leatherman or similar device)
- Small tactical mirror
- Chemical Light Sticks and Carrier
- LBV style tactical carrier for rural operations
- Balaclava, green
- Boonie Hat, green
- Camouflage Face Cover (rural patrol)
- Pace Beads, compass, signal mirror, locator beacon
- Mess kit, fire starter, hydration system
- Poncho/liner
- Green or Camo Backpack, MOLLE or ALICE Style



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### 8. OPERATION PLANNING AND CRITIQUE

Planning is a critical element of the operational process. The Ventura County Sheriff's Tactical Response Team will utilize a written planning process for all operations that are proactive or anticipatory in nature. The written process will include documentation of how the resources will be assigned, how the operation is to be conducted, support needed to implement the operation, and the requirements for command, control, and communications. All operational plans will be filed and maintained for a period of ten years.

The TRT Captain or the TRT team leader will cause a log of events to be recorded on all TRT operations, including all planning, deployment of resources, operations enacted, incidents, contacts, and the decision-making factors considered.

The TRT Captain will cause an agency report to be generated detailing the activation and utilization of the TRT Team. This report will provide details of the operation and information required for follow-up investigations, prosecutors, County Counsel, etc.

Upon completion of any TRT operation, the TRT Captain will review and initial the operational plan, event log, and any reports generated by TRT members prior to their filing

#### The Six C's of Planning

There are six fundamentals (the "six C's") which are essential to the successful planning and outcome of operations:

- **Containment:** Perhaps the most important of these fundamentals and the most often violated. Containment must occur early in an incident. It is the key to accurate assessment as well as ultimate control of the incident.
- **Communication:** Communication systems must be established early to include a command frequency, a tactical frequency, and if necessary, a logistics frequency. Information gathered and orders given must be clear and understandable, never assume anything.
- **Coordination:** Duplication of efforts must be avoided. All efforts must be focused on the common goal established for the operation and the mission.
- **Command:** Command is responsible for the overall conduct of the operation. A plan must be formulated with a view toward the successful



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accomplishment of the goal. Resource issues such as staffing and equipment must be addressed with respect to needs and resources allocated appropriately. Notifications must be made as required.

- **Control:** This is the primary goal of all operations. Establishing or regaining control is the primary purpose of any mission.
- **Critique:** Upon the completion of all operations and significant training events the TRT Captain will conduct an after action critique with all team members present. The purpose of this review is to discuss the events of the operation and to provide a forum for team members to offer constructive criticism in order to improve the effectiveness of the team. The after-action critique will be formatted to develop information relative to positive factors concerning the operation, negative factors which arose and how they were dealt with, and solutions to unresolved problems.

Before beginning the formulation of any operational plan, the mission assigned to the TRT must be clearly defined and understood by all of those contributing to the plan process. Once the mission has been assigned, planning for execution of that mission should be undertaken as follows:

- Identify the problem(s) posed by the mission.
- Identify alternatives and options for accomplishing the mission.
- Evaluate the alternatives and options (risk / benefit, pro / con of each)
- Selection of the best alternative(s)
- Presentation of selection(s) to the Incident Commander.
- Implementation of the selected alternative(s).
- Evaluation of results:
  - Occurs not only during the after action critique, but also during the operation to determine if the desired results are being achieved.
- Redefining problem (if necessary):
  - Should ongoing evaluation indicate that the desired results are not being achieved, changes to the plan may be necessary. This may require that the problem be redefined, based upon the new information gained during the implementation of the operation.





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**9. DISPERSAL ORDER**

**I AM (name and rank) OF THE VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE. PURSUANT TO SECTION 726 OF THE CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE, I HEREBY DECLARE THIS TO BE AN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY IN VIOLATION OF PENAL CODE SECTION 407. IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, I COMMAND ALL PERSONS ASSEMBLED AT (location) TO DISPERSE. YOU HAVE (number) MINUTES TO DISPERSE AND LEAVE THE AREA. IF YOU FAIL TO DISPERSE, AND YOU REMAIN IN THE AREA, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO ARREST FOR VIOLATIONS OF PENAL CODE SECTION 407: UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY, AND PENAL CODE SECTION 409: REFUSAL TO DISPERSE.**

**(Routes for dispersing should be explained here)**

**\*\*Ensure that each and every admonishment is recorded at the point from which it is made as well as from a location at the rear of the crowd. \*\***

Note: Upon giving the initial dispersal order state a reasonable amount of time for the crowd to disperse, considering the size of the crowd and avenues available for dispersal, etc.

Thereafter, repeat the order periodically adjusting the time limit for dispersal, (IE: ten minutes ... seven minutes ... five minutes ... three minutes ... one minute ...)

It is important to broadcast in several languages if needed.

Large signs can be displayed so that the crowd is able to read the order if ambient noise prevents the effective broadcast of the order.



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### 10. MOBILE FIELD FORCE

#### Concept

Mobile Field Force is an operational tactic for dealing with both planned and emergency situations with a disciplined force of personnel. The Tactical Response Team will continually train and maintain proficiency in Mobile Field Force operations and tactics. Mobile Field Force is a critical team skill which allows the following advantages:

- Provides rapid, organized response to a variety of situations.
- Allows a flexible ready response force that can quickly respond to situations ranging from conventional to crisis.
- Can be used to quickly reinforce or replace existing personnel staffing during crisis situations.
- Can be operated single squad, multiple squad, or full team strength, depending on the circumstances.
- Allows rapid transitions in equipped response, from standard patrol equipment, to long baton / extended range impact weapons, chemical agent deployment, to full tactical response with tactical rifles.
- Specific missions include:
  - Crowd control or management incidents
  - Security / reinforcement of personnel or resources in hostile areas
  - Evacuations
  - Area Containments / Perimeters
  - Rescue of officers or civilians
  - Tactical Vehicle Escorts
  - Response to Natural or man-made disasters
  - Missions identified by Incident Commander

#### Operations

Due to the potential liability associated with the vehicle operations component utilized in mobile field force operations, the following guidelines will be followed:

- At no time during operations should vehicles lose rolling traction.

- [REDACTED]



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- [REDACTED]
- There may be crowd control situations of such size, scope, or duration that they require patrol personnel to be integrated with TRT personnel in order to provide adequate crowd control and provide for public safety. In these cases, the drivers of vehicles used in a mobile field force configuration should be TRT members, as they train repeatedly each year in the mobile field force tactics. Due to this training, TRT members can help reduce the risk of injury to officers and civilians while performing the close proximity driving required by this mode of operation.
  - Patrol personnel integrated with TRT personnel for crowd management purposes will be assigned to a specific TRT member who will be responsible for communicating the commands, actions and movements to the patrol person assigned with them.
  - When deployed in a mobile field force operation, TRT members will have all of their equipment in the vehicle they are assigned to. This insures flexible and rapid transitions to evolving circumstances during an incident.
- [REDACTED]

### Training

The Tactical Response Team will address the following components of mobile field force within each training year:

#### Standard Operations

[REDACTED]

#### Rescue Operations

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

### Hostile Area / Disaster Area Operations

[REDACTED]

**The listed operations will be performed at training sessions during daylight and darkness.**



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### 11. OPERATIONS WITH MOUNTED ENFORCEMENT UNIT

#### Concept

The effectiveness of mounted units in the control and management of crowds has been well established. Most large urban police agencies maintain mounted enforcement units specifically due to their ability to control large areas, their influence and control of large groups, and the visual advantage afforded mounted officers who can see above and beyond typical obstructions due to their elevated position atop the horse.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office is one of only a few agencies in the country that regularly trains mounted and dismounted personnel in integrated operations involving close proximity maneuvers. It is critical to the effectiveness of these integrated operations that the Tactical Response Team (TRT) and the Mounted Enforcement Unit (MEU) maintain regular combined trainings.

The safety of all personnel involved is hinged upon the familiarity of how these operations are performed and what actions can be anticipated while engaging unpredictable subjects in very close quarters.

#### Operations

When TRT and MEU are to be deployed as a combined unit, the following procedures should be followed;

- TRT Personnel will be under the direct control and direction of the TRT Captain and the TRT Sergeant/Team Leader
- MEU personnel will be under the direct control and direction of the MEU Captain and the MEU Sergeant/Team Leader
- The TRT team leader and the MEU team leader must maintain adequate communication to coordinate the movement and tactics of the two units.
- The units can be deployed as separate operational units, or can be combined as an integrated single force.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- In some situations, the integrated force could have the following components with a leader assigned for each;
  - MEU
  - TRT

[REDACTED]
- Communication between team leaders is critical, especially if the number of force components rise.
- Due to the nature of integrating MEU and dismounted TRT personnel, non-TRT personnel should not be integrated into these operations for the safety of the non-trained personnel. In these cases, non-TRT personnel should be utilized in separate supporting positions that do not put them in direct contact with the MEU horses.



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### 12. RURAL PATROL AND RECONNAISSANCE

#### Purpose

Rural area patrol and reconnaissance is conducted to gather information about a specific objective location and the terrain around it. The objective area must be identified by grid coordinates, map overlay, or terrain features on a map.

All team members, regardless of their assignment, must be alert to observe any information/presence of the suspect(s). They must also be constantly aware of the terrain and any human/mechanical/electrical efforts to detect the presence of the recon team.

#### Operations

**Movement:** Whenever possible, move on covered or concealed routes. Avoid trails and roads whenever possible. Movement draws attention to your location, even if the observer is a distance away. In a natural environment you can have perfect color match with your camouflage, but if you are the only thing moving, an observer will immediately be drawn to look at your location.

**Camouflage:** Colors that are not natural to the area draw the eye. The same applies to surfaces and textures, which may be shiny in the day or reflective in the darkness. Camouflage procedures need to be applied to personnel, vehicles, weapons, and equipment.

**Noise:** Sources of noise are: your equipment, your movement against the ground or plant materials, radios, pagers, cell phones, speaking, sneezing, coughing, eating, zippers, snaps and Velcro. All of these create noise that can be heard well in a rural environment and draw unwanted attention. Noise created by wind, rain, third parties or the suspect(s) can be used to your advantage as they mask the noise that you and your equipment make.

**Light:** Light discipline must be enforced. In darkness any light source you expose can give your position away in all directions for miles. Light is an unnatural occurrence in rural areas and can only be attributed to human presence.

**Scent:** Odors give you away. Avoid any products that have a strong or unnatural scent. In rural areas smells that are not natural are obvious to a person who has been in the environment for even a few hours. Natural body odors also give you away. Be aware of the direction of the wind, be sure your scent is not being carried directly to the location you have under surveillance. Smoking is absolutely restricted while on a recon detail.



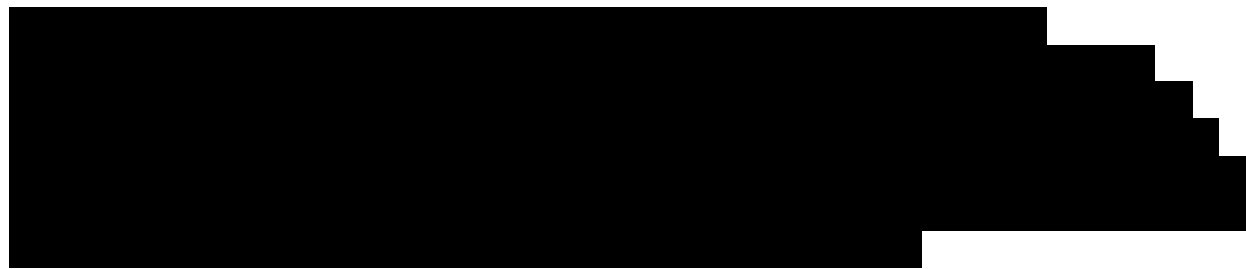


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The odor and the resulting "butts" are a positive give away, even days after you have left the area.

**Leave nothing behind:** Any object you leave in the area, however small, gives away that you were there. This includes trash, paper, plastic, and equipment or burned fuel materials.

**Impressions:** Marks left on the ground, including footprints, handprints, equipment impressions and body impressions tell suspects you were there. Scrub the area prior to leaving to conceal the occupied area. If possible, team members should walk in the same footprints to conceal the number of personnel. If a trail or roadway is crossed, be sure to eradicate your impressions before moving on.

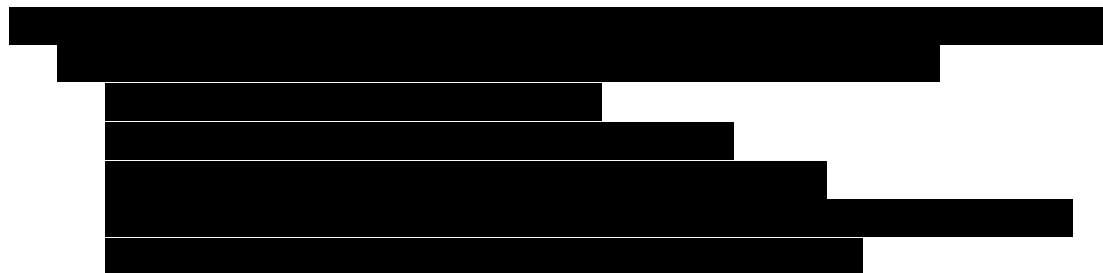


### Base Operation Point (BOP)



### Objective Rally Point (ORP)

1. Before beginning movement to the TA establish an Objective Rally Point (ORP). The ORP must be located far enough from the TA to allow it to be utilized as a staging and rally area for the involved recon and security units.



3. Once the forward team locates an adequate ORP, the remaining units will move in



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and secure the ORP area.

[REDACTED]

### Recon Operation Leader's Plan

[REDACTED]

### Recon Team Plan

[REDACTED]



# Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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[Redacted text block]

## Security Team Plan

[Redacted text block]



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### 13. MOBILE OPERATIONS URBAN TERRAIN (M.O.U.T.)

#### Purpose

Recent events in the United States and the World have demonstrated the need to maintain the capacity to respond to large-scale destructive incidents in a timely and effective manner. MOU is an operational strategy that enables law enforcement to prepare and respond to unusual catastrophic incidents in developed urban areas with dense population characteristics. These could be initiated by earthquakes, fires, weather, riots, or deliberate acts of destruction. The ensuing chaos and resulting damage to government and infrastructure resources can be minimized with expedient and effective deployment strategies.

The intent of MOU is the following:

- Provide stability and security in urban environments in the aftermath of natural disasters and man-made catastrophes
- Provide security for the delivery of humanitarian relief to victims of disasters
- Deterrence and response to acts of domestic and international terrorism
- Provide resource augmentation protection of infrastructure assets during disaster or conflict

#### Operations

#### Mission

As soon as practical, a clear mission must be determined, as this will dictate which operational practices **will be** employed to attain the objective(s). Missions fall into several categories:

- Security for distribution of humanitarian supplies
- High visibility patrol and general law enforcement
- Asset security and resource protection
- Area search and security
- Building or facility search and security
- Covert patrol and focused area law enforcement
- Force protection and emergency service escort



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### Support Logistics

Once a clear mission is identified, the following logistical information must be obtained before proceeding with implementation of resources:

- Incident Commander and Branch I/C
- Command Post location
- Available medical facilities and services
- Food and water supplies
- Fuel supply
- Communications — land line, cellular, radio
- Operational groups in the area and availability
- SAR, watercraft, aircraft, etc. availability
- Asses environment for safety and personal protective gear
- Weather considerations:
  - Temperature
  - Precipitation or storms
  - Wind
  - Sunrise and sunset times
- Special equipment considerations:
  - PPE
  - Lighting
  - Communications
  - Prisoner restraints
  - Less Lethal capability
  - Tools and/or breaching gear
  - Rain or cold gear
  - Area maps
  - Special vehicles
- Known threats, suspects, or criminal activity

### Mobility

Determine if the mission and/or terrain requires mounted (vehicle) deployment, dismounted (on foot) deployment, or an integrated mounted and dismounted force.

**If mounted or integrated deployment** is to be used, the mounted elements will use the procedures and tactics outlined in this SOP under the headings of Mobile Field Force and Tactical Vehicle Escort. [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Dismounted deployment** may be necessary due to the threat assessment or the environmental safety assessment. Dismounted deployment is also the most appropriate deployment if the mission requires covert search or presence.

### **Movement Techniques**

If your mission is high visibility patrol, movement techniques are the same as for normal patrol operations, whether mounted, dismounted, or integrated deployment is used.

[REDACTED]

If covert patrol or focused area protection/enforcement is your mission, the following general tactics should be employed:

- Moving covertly means moving quietly, slowly, carefully, and patiently
- Silence your gear, secure your equipment to minimize noise caused when you are moving
- Wear quality tactical footgear with durable construction and support
- Do not carry unnecessary equipment, and don't forget any critical equipment
- Look for covered and concealed routes on which to move
- The speed of movement depends on the mission, the terrain, and known threats

[REDACTED]

- Take short steps to help maintain balance

[REDACTED]



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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- Stop, look, and listen before moving
- Scan your route from cover to cover to avoid stumbling on obstacles
- Stop when birds or animals are alarmed, look and listen for the cause
- Use any ambient noises to conceal movement noise
- Cross roads and open areas at places that have the most cover and concealment
- Avoid clear open spaces and the tops of hills and ridges

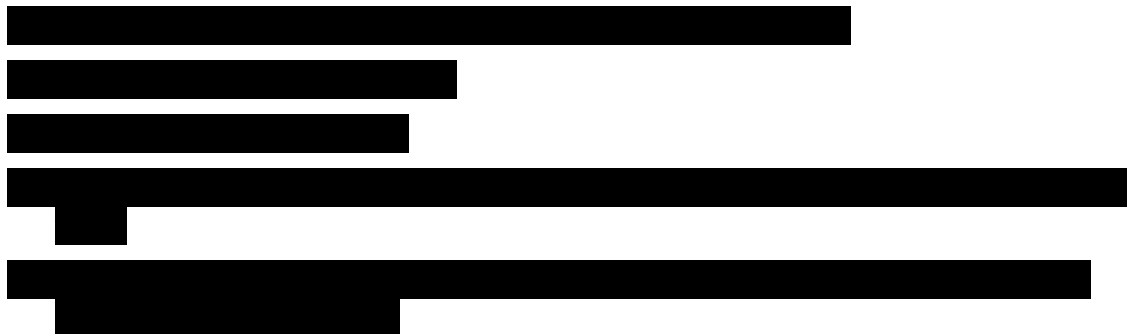
### Streets



If there is a known threat, areas of danger could be buildings, high ground, tops of structures, or any location that affords cover and concealment to a suspect(s).

### Buildings

If a building or facility is to be searched and secured, the following steps should be considered:



### Defensive Positions / Perimeters

When a defensive position is required for over watch, security, or to establish a perimeter, the following should be considered:







## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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- Concealment: Self-explanatory, if you can be easily seen you are not in a defensive position

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Open Area Searches

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### 14. TACTICAL AIRLIFT

#### Purpose

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance for deploying the Tactical Response Team with the Sheriff's Air Unit Helicopters. The ability to deploy utilizing the Sheriff's Air Unit affords numerous advantages for the timely delivery of services. With this advantage also comes the need for well-trained personnel and established safety guidelines. Training in these procedures will enable the team to be utilized in response to a variety of incidents. All TRT members are responsible for maintaining an operational familiarity with these procedures.

#### Operations

##### Preparation

When it is anticipated that the team will deploy by helicopter(s), the following will occur:

- The Tactical Response Team Leader will determine how many helicopters will be provided and what the seating capacity is for each.
- The Tactical Response Team Leader will determine how many team members will be transported and what equipment they will be taking with them. (Rifles, long batons, less lethal systems, chemical agents, water, MRE's, etc.)
- The members of the team will be divided into "Flight Groups" based on the number of helicopters to be used and what items and equipment each group will be transporting with them.
- Each flight group will have a group leader assigned. It is important to remember that when air deployment has been completed, the TRT members return to their normal squad configurations and responsibilities. If the team is to be re-located with the helicopters they revert back to their flight group assignments for the transport.

#### Equipment

Each flight group leader is responsible for their flight group members and equipment. The group leader will complete the following before flight:

- All equipment worn/carried must be secured. This includes all items in pockets, glasses, flex-cuffs, etc.
- All pocket flaps secure and no items exposed out of the pocket unless secured.
- Helmets on, shields down (if worn), and chinstraps secure.



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- Radios "strapped" or attached with swing release to gun belts. (Radio holders that only "cup" the radios are not acceptable.) Microphones and earpieces secured to the wearer.
- Jackets, rain gear, gloves or other clothing items are to be worn, not carried onto/off the aircraft.

[REDACTED]

### Approach and Loading

The approach and loading of the aircraft require absolute attention to safety, as this is when the greatest exposure to risk is present.

[REDACTED]



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- [REDACTED]
- Climb into the aircraft carefully, do not jump, leap or pull heavily on the aircraft.
  - Do not step on fire gear, snorkels, or hoses.
  - Once in the passenger compartment, be seated, buckle in, and secure gear as quickly as possible.

- [REDACTED]
- The group leader removes and secures his/her helmet and wears an onboard headset so he/she can communicate with the crew and receive instructions for landing/exiting the aircraft.

### Landing and Unloading

- Prior to landing, the flight crew will advise the group leader if the exit will be left, right, or both sides of the aircraft. The group leader will signal the group what exit or exits will be used.
- Group members need to anticipate landing and have all gear ready to exit the aircraft.

- [REDACTED]
- When exiting the aircraft, move carefully. Do not jump, leap, or pull heavily on the aircraft. Do not step on fire gear, snorkels or hoses.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

The group leader confirms that all members and gear are secure on the ground, are clear of the aircraft, and signals the flight crew.



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### **15. TACTICAL VEHICLE ESCORTS**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide guidance for deploying the Tactical Response Team as a tactical escort (Force protection) for public safety vehicles and personnel; specifically, escorting fire and ambulance or other public service personnel into areas of denied access. This includes fire suppression at critical facilities and medical evacuation of victims from areas deemed unsafe due to hostile civil disobedience or other threat. Training in these procedures will enable the TRT, Fire, and EMS to be utilized more effectively in response to incidents involving prolonged and serious hostile activity. This procedure is to be distributed to all TRT members and they are responsible to know the content.

#### **Operations Preparation**

When it is anticipated that the team will deploy for tactical vehicle escorts, the following will occur:

1. The Tactical Response Team Leader will determine how many fire vehicles and how many ambulance vehicles will be in the escort group.
2. The Tactical Response Team Leader will identify the Task Force or Strike Team Leader for the fire personnel and the EMS Leader for the ambulance personnel.
3. All of the involved units will communicate on a VSO channel that allows direct contact between all vehicles. The channel to be used will be determined and provided to all personnel prior to the escort.
4. When a specific target is identified, the Tactical Response Team Leader will brief with the Fire Strike Team and EMS Leaders and gather as much information as possible about the routes, location, staging area, available hydrants, areas needed for apparatus, hostile activity at the scene, etc.
5. It is critical that the mission is identified as fire suppression, medical evacuation, or combination, as this will affect the configuration and assignment of the equipment and personnel. Once the mission is defined as fire suppression or medical evacuation, refer to the appropriate section of this procedure for guidance.

#### **Equipment and personnel**

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. The Team Leader should secure maps and any other detailed information available about the area of expected operations.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

7. A driver will be assigned to each vehicle and they are primarily responsible for the movement, placement, and relocation of the vehicle during these operations.

8. The Team Leader is the front passenger in vehicle #1.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Fire Suppression Response

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

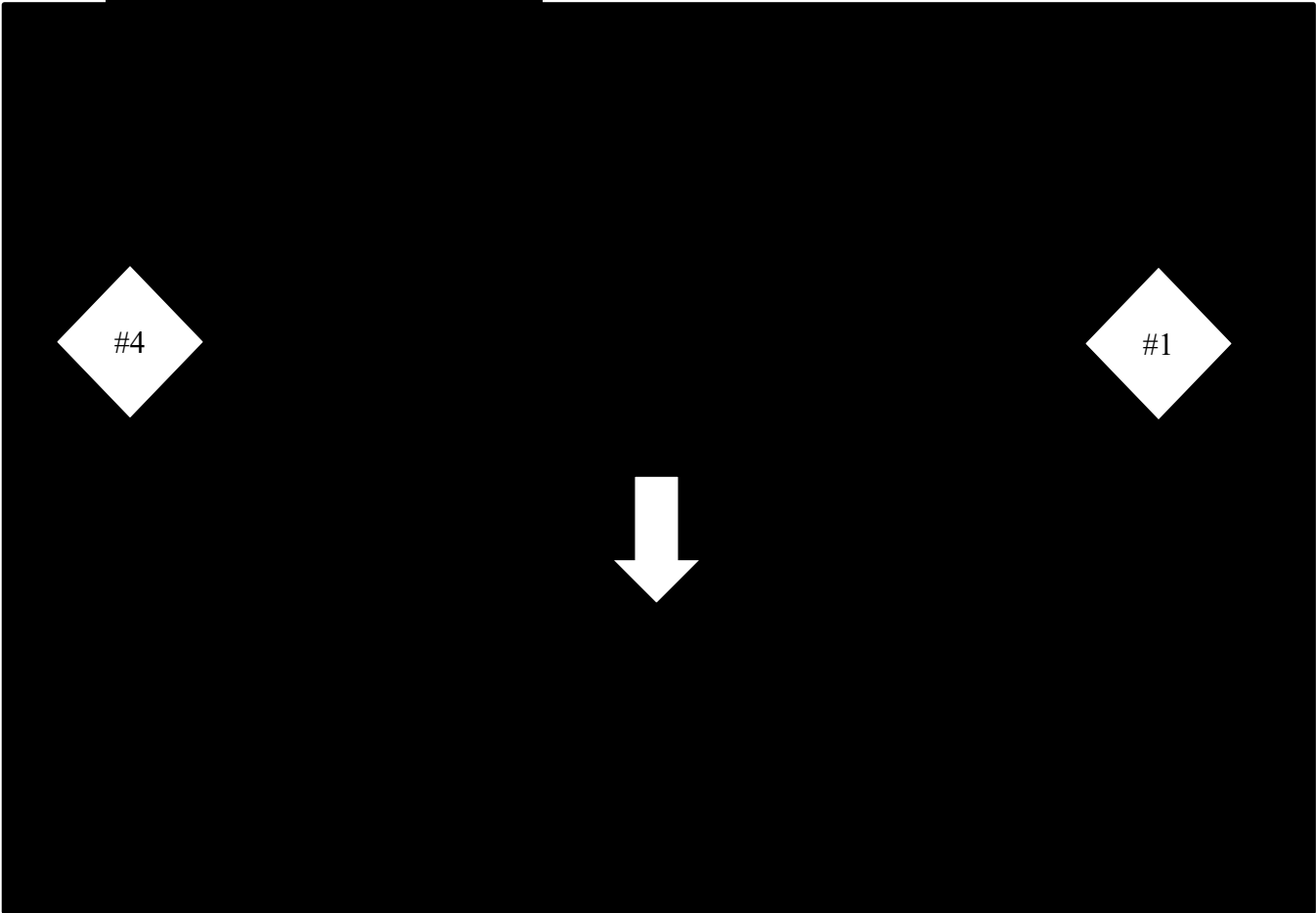
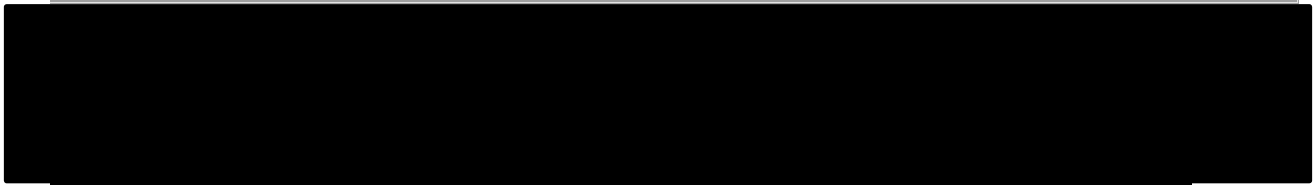
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





**Ventura County Sheriff's Office  
Tactical Response Team  
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## **Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures**

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### **Combined Fire Suppression/Medical Evacuation**

When a mission requires a combination of fire suppression and medical evacuation, it is critical that the Tactical Response Team Leader, Strike Team Leader, and EMS Leader communicate what resources they will need to accomplish both tasks at the same time. The guidelines set forth above provide a basis for operations, but each of these cases will require flexibility and adaptability to be accomplished successfully. It is important for all three leaders to coordinate adequate personnel for each of their mission responsibilities.



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### 16. WILDFIRE OPERATIONS, DISASTERS AND EVACUATIONS

#### Purpose

Due to the topography, weather, and fuel characteristics, Ventura County and Southern California are consistently affected by wildfires. Ventura County also has many communities that are built at the edges of wild land areas. This creates what is referred to by fire professionals as "rural/urban interface areas".

It is the abundance of these interface areas that warrant effective pre-planning for operation and evacuation in these areas during wildfire activity. The purpose of this SOP is to inform TRT members of the proper equipment needed, safe operational procedures, and rapid and effective evacuation strategies.

The following information was provided during wildfire training with the Ventura County Fire Department. The members of TRT will train with County Fire personnel in wildfire operations and survival techniques at least once during each 12 month training cycle.

#### Equipment

- Issued Nomex uniform will be worn for deployments. Optional clothing worn during wildfire operations should be 100% cotton. DO NOT wear polyester or other synthetic materials, as these offer no protection and are more likely to ignite/melt.
- Goggles that enclose around the eyes are important. Standard eyewear that does not isolate the eyes will not be sufficient for wildfire operations.
- Gloves to protect the hands in case of over burn or deployment of fire shelters
- Particulate mask or cotton bandana to cover the face and mouth to minimize exposure to particulates
- Department hat or balaclava to protect your head. Nomex materials will provide the best protection from flame.
- Binoculars/optics
- Hydration system/water
- Rescue utility tool
- Radio and extra battery
- First aid pack
- Personal items and garments for extended deployments



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### Operations

#### Evacuations

During a fire incident, man-made or natural disaster, the decision to evacuate an area is generally at the discretion of the responsible fire department. However, nothing precludes other public safety personnel from making an advisement to leave an area if there is an imminent threat to structures or facilities. During the sometimes frenetic operational tempo during wildfires, it is possible that the responsible fire authority is not aware of the pace, direction, and location of the fire. In these cases, make the advisement to the persons in the area of danger, but also communicate the situation to the Incident Command with as much information as possible regarding the speed, height of flames, direction, and addresses of structures threatened. All notifications will be documented on Survey123, or if unavailable, the emergency evacuation log.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Evacuation System consists of two parts, the mobile application used by field personnel to collect and transmit data, and the operational dashboard which allows visual mapping of critical data and access to key evacuation information. This new system will be used during critical evacuation incidents, including natural disasters.

The mobile application, **Survey123**, can be downloaded on any cellular phone and contains the Fire Evacuation Survey. All department issued cell phones should already have the Survey123 app downloaded.

Field personnel responding to a residence or other location within an evacuation zone will enter information based upon the status of the residence. Once the survey has been completed, the information including date/time stamp, evacuation information and location, is sent digitally to the operational dashboard.

The operational dashboard visualizes the incoming information provided by the mobile application in real-time. The dashboard can also provide updated evacuation zones, current fire lines, and current and anticipated weather conditions including wind speeds and direction.

**Sheriff's Office personnel will not force anyone to leave their home when asking them to evacuate due to any emergency, e.g., flood, fire, etc. After the deputies have made every reasonable attempt to notify the persons of the danger, they will enter the information for the location on Survey123 indicating the person contacted, the number of persons remaining, and phone information if possible.**



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### Hi-Lo Warning

AB 909 was approved by the governor on September 29, 2020. This legislation amends California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 27002 to authorize emergency vehicles be equipped with a "Hi-Lo" audible warning sound to be used solely for the purpose of notifying the public of an immediate need to evacuate (also referred to as an "Evacuation Order"). CVC Section 27002 (c) has been added and states, "A Hi-Lo warning sound may only be used to notify the public of an immediate evacuation in case of an emergency and is not a siren. For the purposes of Section 21055, a Hi-Lo shall not be used in lieu of a siren if the sounding of a siren is reasonably necessary pursuant to that section."

### Evacuation Types

#### Evacuation Warning

- **An Evacuation Warning** may be initiated by law enforcement, Fire Departments, Public Health Agencies, and in rare cases federal agencies. Evacuation warnings are issued when residents should begin preparing for a potential evacuation order to be issued.
  - The threat to lives is **NOT YET IMMINENT**.
  - Due to the potential for rapidly changing conditions to develop into a serious threat, residents are advised to prepare for the issuance of an **evacuation order**.
- Access to the area under an evacuation warning may be restricted by a soft or hard closure.
- Residents should prepare personal belongings including pets and livestock for evacuation.
- Advance measures should be taken to prevent harm to individuals with mobility issues or other types of access and functional needs.

#### Evacuation Order

- **Evacuation Orders** may be initiated by law enforcement, Fire Departments, Public Health Agencies, and in rare cases some federal agencies when residents are requested to vacate the area due to an imminent threat.
  - Conditions exist that **SERIOUSLY IMPERIL** or **ENDANGER** the lives of those in the defined area.
  - The danger is **IMMINENT!**



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- All non-essential persons are requested to leave the area immediately.
- Generally, residents will not be forcibly removed from their own property however those found to be on public property including roadways and public parks may be subject to removal from the area.
- Once out of the area, the general public (including residents) will not be permitted to return until conditions permit.
- Any non-essential persons found by officials traveling through, or loitering in, the area will be escorted out and not permitted to re-enter the area. Those found to be interfering with the disaster response are SUBJECT TO ARREST.
- Utility workers in work vehicles including Southern California Edison, the Gas Company, etc. shall be permitted beyond closures for official business only.
- Pursuant to §409.5(d) PC, nothing shall prevent a duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network from entering the area unless the area is determined to be a crime scene.

### Shelter-in-Place Order

- Conditions exist that may **ENDANGER** the lives of those in a defined area.
- Access to the area under a shelter in place order may or may not be restricted by a soft or hard closure.
- Residents should select an interior room or rooms within their home or business with no or few windows, and taking refuge there. All doors and windows should be locked to prevent unauthorized entry.
- Wait for an "All Clear" notification from a news radio station.

### **ROAD CLOSURES**

#### Hard Road Closure

- Law enforcement will prevent the public from entering the area on foot or by vehicle.
  - In the case of a long-term closure, barricades may be used to maintain the closure in lieu of law enforcement personnel.
- Pursuant to §409.5(d) p.c., nothing shall prevent a duly authorized representative of any news service, newspaper, or radio or television station or network from entering the area unless it is a secured crime scene.



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### **Soft Road Closure**

- Closed to all traffic except Fire, Law Enforcement, and critical incident resources (i.e. utility, Caltrans, City/County Roads, etc.)
- Those residents who reside in the impacted area may be allowed access with ID.

### **Resident Only Closure**

- Soft Closure with the additional allowance of residents and local government agencies assisting with response and recovery.

### **Operational Considerations for Wildland Fires**

TRT may be utilized for evacuations or for area security of evacuated areas to prevent looting or to protect infrastructure or resources. When operating during fires the LCES system will be employed. LCES represents Lookout, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safe Zones.

**Lookout:** A lookout will be assigned with every team. They are only to watch the fire and communicate the fire behavior to the operating team members. This is especially critical if the operational area is covered with a canopy of trees or vegetation. This canopy prevents the operating members from monitoring the fire, and provides an overhead aerial fuel source that can ignite and trap the team.

**Communication:** Communication is critical, between the lookout and the team, and between the lookout and the command center. If you enter an area and communications cannot be maintained consistently, consider relay positions. If relay positions do not solve the problem, evaluate the topography, fuel, weather and fire location/direction and determine whether resources should enter the area or not.

**Escape Routes:** Every member of each team must know the escape route or routes before they enter an area. Contingency plans are also important. Consider what route is available if the fire cuts off the most direct route. If an area offers only one route of ingress and egress, utilize a high degree of caution and exit the area early if a threat is posed.

**Safety Zones:** Identify and locate safety zones as early as possible, before entry if possible. Safety zones are areas that have no fuel or very little fuel and provide an area to accommodate team members who may be over burned by the fire. The best locations are covered with cement or pavement and have no large trees or overhead hazards such as power lines. Areas that are graded down to mineral earth also offer good protection.



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Areas that are already burned are excellent areas for protection. The wider the area is the better. Position yourself on the area away from the side that the head of the fire will reach first.

### Fire Shelters

During wildfire operations, each TRT member will be issued a fire shelter. The shelter is to be carried and accessible to the member at all times during the deployment. The best defense in a fire is constant situational awareness and risk management. **DO NOT RELY ON YOUR FIRE SHELTER TO SAVE YOU.** The best plan is to not get burned over and not have to deploy your fire shelter. If you are deploying your shelter you are already in serious trouble.

As soon as the threat is identified:

1. Get to a safety zone, or into a structure and close the windows, doors, curtains and blinds, or into a vehicle and deploy your shelter against the inside of the glass to deflect the heat.
2. If no vehicle and no structure is available deploy your shelter as follows;
  - Give yourself ample time to have your shelter deployed before the fire arrives.
  - Do not get under the shelter with O.C.
  - Use personal protective equipment
  - Bring water under the shelter if you have it
  - Do not bring flammable items under the shelter
  - Find the lowest point available and pick a surface that allows the shelter to seal with the ground
  - Maximize your distance from tall objects and vegetation, power lines, aerial fuels and heavy fuel areas
  - Scrape away ground fuels with your rescue/utility tool
  - If several team members are deploying shelters, try to be close enough to talk to each other for communication
  - Open the shelter and hold it behind you, turn your back to the fire and anchor the corner straps with your feet
  - Grab the upper corner straps and prone out on the ground, stretching to hold down the edges of the shelter to the ground
  - Keep your face pressed directly on the ground, to one side
  - Cover your face with material (Nomex or cotton) if possible
  - It may become quite hot in the shelter, do not panic





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- You may hear very loud sounds from fuel being consumed around you
- Do not leave the shelter until you "peek" in several directions to be sure it is safe

### Fire Behavior and Indicators

**Remember, the best plan is to maintain constant situational awareness and risk management.** Fire behavior is a complicated subject and it would be difficult to develop the expertise of a professional fire fighter. However, there are basic fire characteristics that all team members should be aware of to increase their safety and survivability.

- Fuels: look around; determine the type of fuel, the amount, and how it is arranged.
- Weather: wind and humidity have dramatic effects on fire direction and speed.
- Be aware of the wind direction. The wind direction and velocity changes as you change your position.
- Topography affects the fire, watch the slope and aspect around you.
- Southwest slopes burn faster, while Northeast slopes burn slower.
- Stay out of canyons as much as possible. If you are in a canyon, know which way the canyon runs (E/W or N/S) and which way the wind is blowing.
- NEVER have fire below you on a slope.
- People move slow uphill, fire moves fast uphill, (self-explanatory.)
- If you are on a road that is on a hillside, inside corners burn HOT, outside corners burn a little cooler. The inner side of the road nearest the upslope is better for protection.
- Fire typically burns slower going downhill.
- Overhead fuels and canopy are extremely dangerous. They can ignite before, during, or after a burn through.
- Light smoke indicates lighter fuels burning.
- Dark smoke indicates heavier fuels are burning
- A high "anvil" of smoke indicates there is a high fuel area flaring.



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### 17. TRT EXTENDED DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

The Tactical Response Team is available as a ready-response force to any area or region that is experiencing long term effects from natural or man-made disasters or destructive events. This may involve responses out of the standard mutual aid area, even outside of the State of California. In these cases of extreme need and limited resource availability at the area of the incident, the team must deploy and arrive as a self-sufficient unit with all of its own resources, support materials and personnel.

#### TRANSPORTATION METHOD

Determine how the team will transport members and equipment to the scene;

- Department Vehicles and trailers
- Commercial Air Service
- Military or Federal Air Service

If Department vehicles and trailers are to be utilized confirm the following;

- All members and vehicles to one check-in / load location
- Fuel purchase ability in place and responsible members identified
- Fuel provision for generators
- Maximum 4 TRT members and gear per vehicle
- Depending on type of event, 4 wheel drive and SUV may be preferable to passenger vehicles
- Confirm secure load of all materials in vehicles and trailers
- Final headcount, routing, and vehicle assignments before departure

If Commercial or Military / Federal Air Service is to be utilized;

- Obtain specific instructions for equipment to be loaded and any restrictions to equipment or personal gear
- Determine specific location for loading airframe including directions to loading area and any security measures that will impact arrival and parking
- Determine specific location for disembarking and unloading
- Coordinate vehicles at disembark location to transport personnel and equipment to the staging / operational area
- Have all members meet at one location for check-in and loading of vehicles
- Convoy to airport / air base and assemble at loading location
- **No Chemical agents aboard airframes**
- Load all gear onto air frame
- Weapon and ammo handled per flight provider guidelines
- Load all personnel onto airframe and final headcount before takeoff



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### **PERSONNEL**

#### **Captain**

In cases of extended deployments, it is recommended that the TRT Captain deploy with the team. This is due to the possible extended length of the deployment and the need for administrative input and representation in a situation where centralized command and control may be delayed or non-existent upon arrival. If the TRT Captain is not deployed, a TRT Sergeant will be designated to coordinate between the team and the Captain on necessary issues.

#### **Paramedic/Medical Personnel**

In most disaster situations, units that respond to assist are required to bring their own medical personnel who will remain assigned to the responding unit for the duration of their deployment. This is necessary due to the probability that local medical resources will be overwhelmed or out of service. At least one paramedic or comparable medically trained person will deploy with the TRT and bring all of their anticipated supplies and equipment.

#### **Tactical Dispatcher**

If an extended deployment is anticipated and enough intelligence is available to indicate the ability to safely deploy a Tactical Dispatcher with the TRT, one should be deployed to handle the communications with the active team elements and provide documentation of activities.

#### **Sheriff's Service Technician**

The Sheriff's Service Technician assigned to TRT will deploy with the team on all extended deployments. The SST is needed due to the increased need for inventory control and resource distribution / collection during these types of operations.

#### **Other Personnel**

Dependent upon the situation, other personnel may be needed at the scene of the response to provide services and / or recovery capability. If additional personnel are deployed with the team, provisions must be made for the necessary gear, food, water, and shelter for each person.



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### MEMBER EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

(Items in parentheses are optional, depending on incident)

- Body Armor
- Uniform Shirts and Pants
- Black Boots
- Jackets/Cold Weather Gear
- Rain Gear
- (Black Sheriff's Beanie)
- Sheriff's Ball Cap
- (Green Boonie Cap)
- (Green Balaclava)
- Helmet
- Eye Protection
- Gloves
- Gas Mask, Carrier
- Dept. ID on Neck Strap
- Flat badge
- Gun belt/Weapons/Ammunition
- Rescue Utility Tool
- Handcuffs, Flex cuffs/Cutters
- Flashlights, Chargers, Batteries
- Collapsible or Long Baton
- Radio, Charger, Batteries
- Taser
- (GPS)
- (Compass)
- (Pace Beads)
- (Signal Mirror)
- Hydration System
- First Aid Kit
- (Personal Locator Beacon)
- Backpack
- (Light Sticks, Holder)
- Lighter, Matches
- (Trioxane or Gel Fuel)
- (Mess Kit, Utensils)
- (Poncho)
- (Poncho Liner or Sleeping Bag)
- (Sleep Mat)
- (Tent Stakes)
- (Para-Cord)
- (Multi-tool)
- (Folding Knife)
- (Shovel, Saw, Pick, Machete)
- (Optics)
- Toiletries
  - Razor
  - Toothbrush/paste
  - Deodorant
  - (Saline)
  - (Glasses/Contact Lenses)
  - Lip Balm
- Prescription and OTC Medications
  - Pain Reliever
  - Nasal Spray
  - Cold Medications
  - Vitamins/Supplements
  - First Aid Cream/Spray
- Sun Screen
- Insect Repellent
- Personal Clothing
  - Under Garments
  - T-Shirts
  - Socks
  - Civilian Attire
  - Civilian Footwear
- Cell Phone/Chargers
- Personal Business Items
  - Cash
  - Driver License
  - (Debit/ATM/Credit Cards)
  - Insurance Cards
  - Emergency Numbers
  - (Passport)



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### TEAM EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

- Water
- Food /MRE's
- Ice chests
- Portable Base Radios
- Office Supplies
  - ICS Forms
  - Team Roster/Phones
  - Laptop Computers
  - Printer(s)
  - Dry Erase Boards/Pens
  - Legal Pads/Pens
  - Paper Clips/Stapler
  - Envelopes, Large/Small
  - First Report of Injury
  - Sign-in Sheets
  - Clip Boards
  - Notebooks
  - Equipment Sign-outs
  - Procurement Card Forms
- Crime Scene Tape
- Tables / Chairs
- Canopies
- Generators
- Power Cords and Power Strips
- Lights
- Chargers For All Devices
- Camera(s)
- Bulk Hand Sanitizer/Soap
- Bulk Body Wipes
- Bulk Paper Towels
- Bulk Toilet Paper
- Bulk Latex Gloves, XL
- Bulk Filter Face Masks
- Fire Shelters
- Ropes, Tow Straps, Carabiners
- Bulk Cyalume Sticks
- Chains and Padlocks
- Shovel
- Hand Saws
- Picks
- Hammer/Nails Size 8 & 16
- Duct Tape / Electrical Tape
- Bolt Cutters
- Door Ram
- Door Pick
- Sledge Hammer
- Less Lethal Systems
- Extended Range Impact Weapons
- Ammunition for all Weapons
- Gun Cleaning Supplies
- Medical Supplies Boxes
  - Disinfectant Wipes
  - Gauze
    - Rolls
    - Squares
  - Medical Tape
    - Wide
    - Narrow
  - Latex Gloves
  - Athletic Wraps/Bandages
  - Ice Packs
  - Heat Packs
  - Adhesive Bandage Variety
  - Sterile Saline Wash
  - Field Surgical Kits
  - Suturing Materials
  - Tweezers
  - Stethoscope
  - Blood Pressure Cuff
  - Mini Exam Lights
  - Tents or Shelters
  - Folding Cots
- Tools
  - Sockets, Wrenches, Drivers



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### OPERATIONAL CONCERNS

When deployed in a disaster location, members must be especially aware of the possibility of contaminated materials and substances that may be distributed in the area. Along with any materials that may have been deliberately distributed with a destructive device, it is also possible that damaged infrastructure components such as water treatment, sewage treatment, rubbish removal, and animal control could lead to constant exposure to infectious materials.

Avoid contact with trash, debris, human and animal waste. Avoid contact with water, whether standing or in a natural watershed. These could be contaminated from sewage systems, or they could have been affected by water that ran from contaminated areas and made its way into the natural watershed features.

Industrial and factory sites could also be sources of toxic solids, fluids, and gases. Without power or human oversight, these locations may have stored materials that are released into the environment, or even react into explosions or combine into toxic materials.

Once a human or animal corpse has been located and marked, avoid contact with the corpse and any fluids that are sourced from it. It is also a sound practice to avoid walking in any fluids that you encounter, as they may also be contaminated with materials that you cannot readily see or identify.

Employ universal precautions as much as possible. Avoid contact with substances as much as you can. If you are contaminated with a substance, assume it is harmful and immediately seek to disinfect and clean the contact area. Avoid breathing dust and particulates, use a face filter mask or in cases of heavier airborne matter, use your gas mask. Remember that your gas mask is a filter only and does not provide oxygen. Wash your hands often, and always before and after you eat, use the restroom, go to sleep, or provide first aid to yourself or a team member. Use latex gloves whenever possible.

Once we are established in an area and given a mission, we will follow the TRT SOP's for the type of service we are providing. This includes asset protection, covert patrol, high visibility patrol, tactical escort, resource distribution, humanitarian services, or other missions reviewed and approved by the TRT Captain or Commander, or their designee.



## Ventura County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

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### 18. AFTER ACTION REPORT

Upon completion of a Tactical Response Team operation or deployment, an after action report shall be completed and forwarded to the TRT Commander via the TRT Captain. A copy of each report will also be maintained in the TRT administrative files in accordance with the Ventura County Records Retention Schedule. The report shall include the following:

- Date and time of the request / activation.
- Date and time of arrival.
- Date and time of the termination of the incident / operation.
- Location(s) of the operation.
- Brief synopsis of incident.
- Nature of the incident and type of operation / service provided.
- Information of any suspects, witnesses, arrestees, or unusual contacts.
- Use of force. (Reason, type, effect, injuries, arrest, etc.)
- Total of perishable resources expended.
- Total number of man-hours and members involved for each operational period.
- Property damage or risk management issues.
- Problems, solutions and suggestions.

This report will be completed by one of the team sergeants with input from all operational period supervisors who will provide names and man-hours for each operational period they supervised.