

1.7 Major Incidents

1.7.5 Crowd Control

(Effective: 2005.06.24)

The mission of the Vancouver Police Department is to ensure public safety by maintaining public order, upholding the rule of law, and preventing crime. The Vancouver Police Department will fulfill its mission by resolving public order incidents as safely as possible through the appropriate use of all Departmental resources and by working in cooperation with other police, government, public safety and non-government agencies as required.

Public Order Commanders Program.

Public Order Commander(s) (POC)

Public Order Commanders are members of the Officer rank specifically trained and designated as Public Order Commanders. The program and required training will be managed by the Officer designated by the Executive of the Vancouver Police Department. Public Order Commanders are available to act as a resource to the Duty Officer or other Departmental Officers who respond to and take command of a spontaneous public order incident. After consultation with the initial responding Officer, the Public Order Commander will continue to act as a resource or, if mutually agreed to, officially assume command of the incident. Whenever practicable, a Public Order Commander will be assigned as the Incident Commander for a pre-planned public order event. Public Order Commanders are expected to maintain a current CV outlining their training and public order assignments.

Crowd Control Unit (CCU) Commander(s)

CCU Commanders are members of the Officer rank specifically trained and designated as the officer(s) in charge of the Crowd Control Unit. CCU Commanders are available to act as a resource to the Duty Officer, POC or other Departmental Officers who respond to and take command of a spontaneous public order incident or a pre-planned public order event where members of the CCU are being deployed for crowd control.

The police are involved in controlling crowds under many different circumstances including the security of visiting dignitaries, public celebrations, sporting events, parades and demonstrations. Although the following instructions and procedures are specifically directed at major demonstrations, they are generally applicable in most situations involving public order.

Public Order will usually fall into 2 categories, Crowd Management and Crowd Control.

Crowd Management covers circumstances where the police are providing direction, security and assistance to large groups that are voluntarily complying with the police.

Crowd Control is initiated by the police in circumstances where the use of force options may be necessary to compel members of the public to comply with police direction and it requires the lawful authority to do so.

Public Order - Procedure

1. Strategic Objectives

The Incident Commander, working with the Inspector i/c the Emergency and Operational Planning Section, will be responsible for setting the objectives of a pre-planned public order incident.

Consideration should be given:

- To provide an environment for lawful democratic protest;
- To provide a visible police presence in the area in the event of a significant protest;
- To protect lives and reduce potential for injuries to the public and our members;

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- To protect property from vandalism, and to restore the public peace as expeditiously as possible;
- To expedite the movement of pedestrians and vehicles in a safe manner; and,
- To ensure there is a plan for gathering evidence against and/or arresting offenders.

2. Enforcement Policies

While we are committed to providing an environment conducive to lawful democratic protests, the Vancouver Police Department will take appropriate and necessary actions in relation to any persons engaging in criminal or unlawful activities. This includes occupations of premises that disrupt the lawful use of that premises.

Enforcement action will be applicable to the Criminal Code of Canada, Motor Vehicle Act, Liquor Act, City Bylaw offences, or any other applicable statute or common law authority or duty. It is not the intention of the Department to unnecessarily hinder the movements of any law-abiding person.

3. Police intervention should only be considered if one or all of the following occur:

- a. The rights of citizens are being restricted;
- b. There is violence against persons or property; or
- c. The elements of an unlawful assembly are present.

The following instructions, although directed at "planned" major demonstrations, are also applicable to "spontaneous" demonstrations.

4. The Inspector i/c the Emergency & Operational Planning Section is responsible, through the Deputy Chief Constable Commanding Operational Support Division, for advance planning and shall:

- a. Be responsible for the analysis of available intelligence (intelligence publications, handbills, news media, etc.) relative to a known event, for the purpose of determining the approximate number of demonstrators and sympathizers, location and other pertinent factors;



- c. Liaise with E-Comm for use of the Operations Room and the assignment of additional E-Comm staff. The Inspector assigned to E-Comm shall be responsible for operating the Operations Room;

- d. Through consultation with Division Commanders, determine the number of police personnel required, recommended deployment models, and initiate necessary call-outs. If available Vancouver Police Department personnel is not considered sufficient, a member of the Executive Officer rank may request assistance from outside agencies;

- e. Furnish the Incident Commander with all available information concerning the event and an outline of arrangements prior to finalization of plans;

- f. Establish a liaison with other Divisions and make necessary logistical arrangements including, but not limited to, provisions for:

- Transportation of personnel;
- Transportation of prisoners;
- Motorcycle escorts for parades, etc;
- Welfare of assigned personnel;

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- Additional jail staff;
- Identification of prisoners;
- Justice staff;
- Assembly areas for personnel;
- Holding areas for prisoners;
- Relief system for personnel;
- Operational codes;
- Photographers;
- Helmets;
- Crowd control batons, loud hailers, tape recorders;
- Medical services;
- Ambulance services;
- Reservation of portable radios and other equipment; and
- Media Spokesperson

5. Command

- a. Normally command will rest with the Incident Commander. When command is assumed at Headquarters, the level of the Incident Commander's authority will be defined.
- b. If two (2) squads or more are deployed in the field, the Incident Commander should be a Public Order Commander who may be assisted by a Deputy Public Order Commander or a NCO. The Deputy Public Order Commander or NCO shall be responsible for communications, available for consultation and, in an emergency, assume command.
- c. If three (3) or more CCU squads are deployed in the field, the Incident Commander shall appoint a designated CCU Commander as the Officer in charge of the CCU. A CCU Commander will always be used when the response is Level 2, in full protective equipment.

6. Operations Room

- a. Members of E-Comm will normally staff the Operations Room.
- b. Operations Room staff shall maintain a chronological log of field developments as information is received and dispatched by telephone and radio.
- c. A senior NCO shall brief stand-by Squads deployed from Headquarters and ensure they are properly supervised and equipped.

7. Incident Command Post

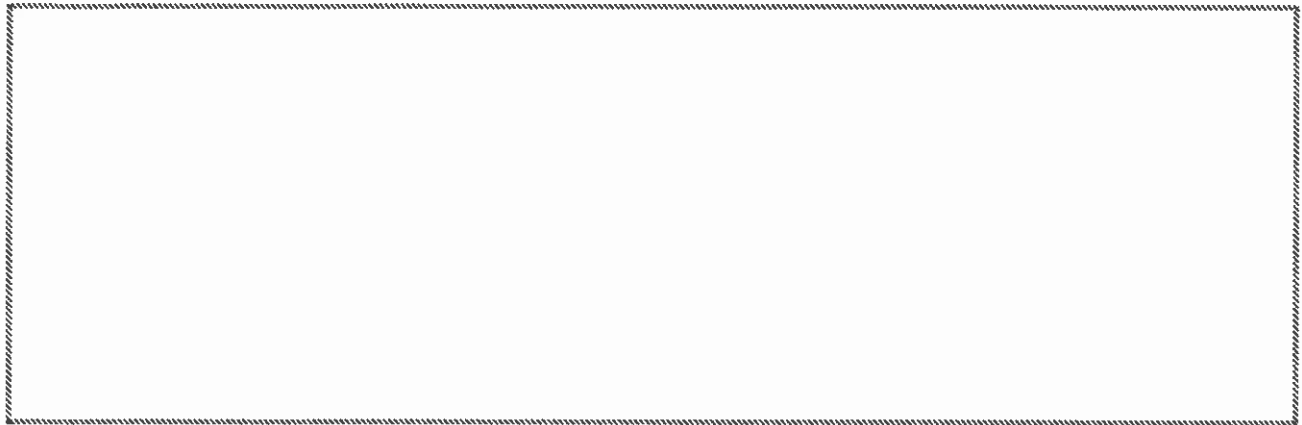


8. Squad Composition



- b. A Squad may be supported by additional members to cover casualties and assist if arrest action is necessary.

9. Special Equipment



b. Videotape Equipment, if required, shall be operated by qualified members of the Forensic Identification Unit.

c. Chemical Munitions shall be:

- Deployed only on the order of the Incident Commander; and
- Be the responsibility of the Crowd Control Unit.
- Under exigent circumstances where consultation with the Incident Commander is impractical or not possible the Crowd Control Unit Commander may authorize the deployment of chemical munitions.

d. Portable radios shall be assigned as follows:

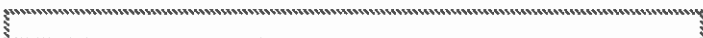
- Incident Commander;
- NCOs in charge of Squads;
- Incident Command Post;
- Headquarters Operations Room;
- Observation Posts; and



10. Command Decisions

The following types of police action shall be considered, keeping in mind the discretionary authority of the police.

a. Observation

- Maintain appropriate foot, mounted, bicycle or motorcycle presence;
- Establish observation posts; and
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b. Escorting

- Escort protest parades with appropriate resources such as motorcycles, bicycles and horses; and
- Prevent complete traffic stoppage if at all possible.

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c. Containment in Area or Zone

- Maintain observation as in (a);
- Block off perimeter street; and
- Facilitate movement of groups and individuals who wish to leave area.

d. Selective Enforcement Action

- Consider selective enforcement (Appearance Notice, Summons, Arrest) against instigators and parties committing offences against persons and/or property (possibly after conclusion of demonstration).

11. Police Intervention and Dispersal of Crowd

Unless violence has developed, police dispersal action shall not normally be taken without authority of a member of the Officer rank.

a. When considering dispersal of the crowd, the Incident Commander shall:

- Consider the existing circumstances and possible consequences of police action;
- Be able to justify the decision. Minor breaches of law (obstruction of street, disturbances, et cetera) are not necessarily sufficient cause for intervention;
- Realize that physical contact resulting from police intervention could result in violence; and
- Consider the desirability of discussing the situation with a Senior Officer.

12. Having decided that circumstances demand police intervention, the Incident Commander shall:

- Determine the immediate and overall objectives;
- Designate the specific area to be cleared and dispersal routes;
- Ensure there are sufficient personnel and equipment to accomplish objective;
- Brief all personnel on their responsibilities, Squad formation, and the objective to be achieved;
- Emphasize that dispersal of the crowd is the primary objective, not arrest action;
- Inform the crowd of the decision. A prepared message is to be repeated; and
- Allow reasonable time for the crowd to voluntarily disperse.

13. Command Escalation Options

In the event that information identifies a potential for disruption or significant threat to persons or property: The Incident Commander will decide whether or not to immediately escalate the Police response. The first consideration given must be to calling out on-duty and off-duty Crowd Control Unit members to report to a designated location for equipping and deployment. The Incident Commander will further decide the need to activate the Patrol Response Squads or to initiate a Department-wide fan-out. If a Department wide fan-out is to be initiated, the Incident Commander will have the Chief Constable or his designate notified.

The Incident Commander, in consultation with EOPS Coordinators and/or the Field NCO(s) will further assess the situation. If it appears likely there is a need to escalate the response to a level beyond the Departments capability, the Incident Commander or Duty Officer will immediately have E-Comm activate the Emergency Operations Centre and callout necessary personnel to respond.

The Incident Commander will remain responsible for the deployment of assigned personnel as well as additional called-out members, including the Crowd Control Unit and will ensure that these resources are deployed as required.

If a Department wide fan-out is required refer to the Regulations and Procedure Manual Section 1.7.18- Mandatory Call Outs for the procedure to follow.

14. Crowd Control Unit

In the event the Operations Officer authorizes a call-out of the full CCU, the Communications Section will notify the CCU Commander who will advise the CCU NCOs to contact their assigned members. The Communications' copy of the Operations Plan will contain a complete list of all CCU members with home phone numbers and pager numbers, provided by the CCU Coordinator, in the event the CCU Commander is not available to commence a call-out.

15. Responsibilities of Specialist Sections

a. Forensic Identification Unit

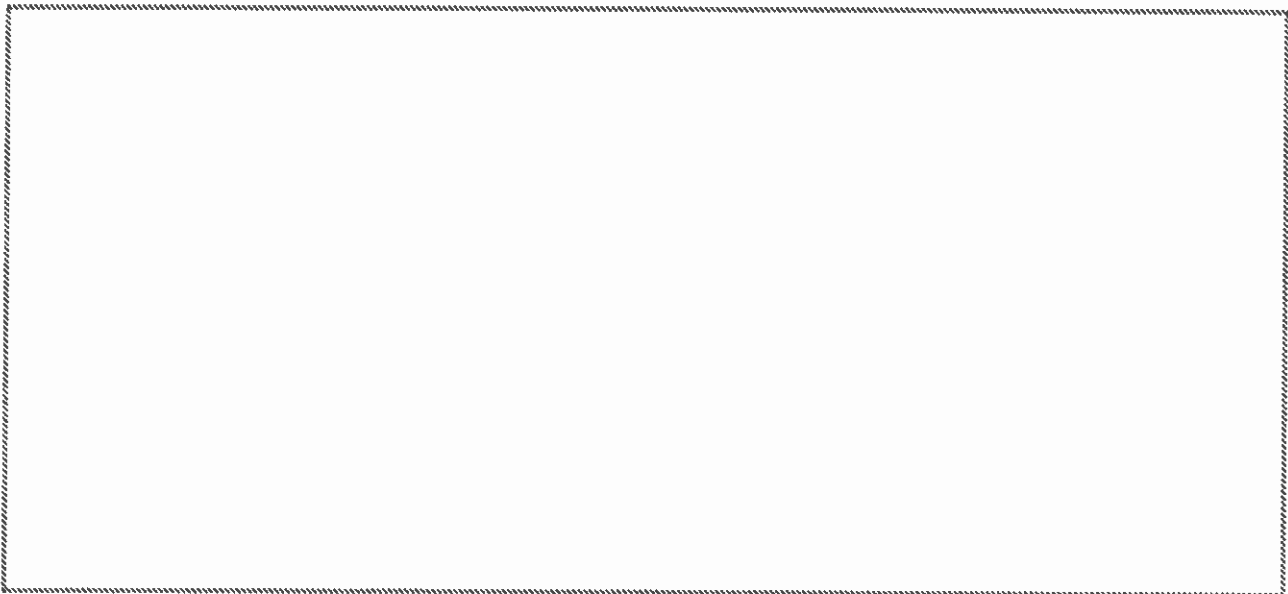
The Forensic Identification Unit shall:

- i. Photograph all persons arrested together with arresting member
- ii. Photograph highlights at the scene of the disturbance (video tape, and/or still equipment)
- iii. Photograph individual demonstrators involved in overt acts

b. Mounted Squad

After consultation with the NCO i/c of the Mounted Squad and the Incident Commander, and when used in conjunction with a foot squad, the Mounted Squad may be utilized to:

- i. clear large areas of uncooperative crowds;
- ii. clear confined areas such as breezeways and entrances to buildings; and
- iii. act as a barrier to protect foot members making arrests.
- iv. clear roadways of gathering pedestrians



e. Traffic Enforcement Squad

Motorcycle members will normally be utilized to escort parades and control perimeter traffic in demonstrations.

f. Traffic Authority

The Traffic Authority shall, when necessary:

- i. Assume traffic duties on the perimeter
- ii. Relieve regular members in outlying areas so the regular members may be re-deployed for crowd control duties

g. Training

The Training Board shall be responsible for ensuring that Officers, NCOs and Constables receive training in policing of crowds on a continuing basis.

h. Liaison - News Media

The Incident Commander may act in a liaison capacity with the media representatives. This responsibility may be delegated to a NCO or to a Media Spokesperson from Public Affairs and Marketing.