

**Cobb County Police Department**

**Policy 4.07**

**ACTIVE THREATS**

<b>Effective Date:</b> May 1, 2016
<b>Rescinds:</b> None
<b>Related Orders:</b> None
<b>Issued By:</b> Chief J.R. Houser <span style="float: right;"><b>Page 1 of 2</b></span>
The words “he, his, him,” which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.

The purpose of this policy is to empower responding officers with the authority and responsibility to take immediate action to contain and, if necessary, neutralize Active Threats.

**I. POLICY**

The Policy of the Department is to intervene in Active Threat situations to neutralize the threat, prevent access to additional victims, and to rescue injured persons and potential victims. While it is important to provide first aid to the wounded, the primary duty is to stop the actions of the Active Threat, thereby preventing further injury or loss of life.

**II. DEFINITION**

**Active Threat:** An incident where one or more suspects is participating in a random or planned violent spree; actively demonstrating their intent to continuously cause serious bodily injury or death to others. Although these events often involve the use of firearms by perpetrators, they may also involve the use of other types of weapons or implements which could cause serious injury or death.

**III. RESPONSE TO THREATS WHEN LIVES ARE IN IMMINENT DANGER**

Officers responding to an Active Threat situation will assess the situation and, if possible, stop the suspect’s violent actions, consistent with training and experience. Actions taken by officers to stop the violence may include arrest, containment, or the use of force when justified. Additional actions may include efforts to locate, recover, shelter in place, and/or facilitate the evacuation process of victims to safe areas or to medical personnel for treatment.

**IV. NOTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Identifying the need for additional resources is the responsibility of the on-scene commander. Additional resources may include additional Department personnel, personnel from other law enforcement agencies, emergency medical personnel, fire

personnel, public works, utility companies, or any other assistance as may be deemed necessary by the on-scene commander.

**V. PUBLIC SHELTERING AND CONTAINMENT OF THE INCIDENT**

Decisions regarding public sheltering and containment of the incident are the responsibility of the on-scene commander and are incident specific. Actions taken by the on-scene commander may include evacuation, sheltering in place and establishing a perimeter. The on-scene commander should consider the risk of evacuation or sheltering in place to affected citizens. A primary consideration of the on-scene commander should be incident containment and termination of the Active Threat consistent with training and experience.

**VI. POST INCIDENT**

Once the threat has been neutralized or the situation resolved, the location shall be treated as any other crime scene and shall be secured until all evidence is collected for further investigation.

**VII. PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS FOR AWARENESS AND SAFETY**

- A.** The Department PIO will coordinate with the County Communications Department in providing general information to the public on Active Threats through the County's website and/or social media and at the direction of the on-scene commander.
- B.** When an Active Threat is identified the PIO will be responsible for coordinating media releases about the incident (location of the incident, closed roads, reunification points, etc.) and at the direction of the on-scene commander.

**VIII. DOCUMENTED ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY AND TRAINING NEEDS**

A documented annual review of this policy, along with training needs, will be completed by the Training Unit.