

# EXECUTIVE ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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|----------------|---|
| Subject        | <b>Barricaded Subjects/Hostage Situations and Other Unusual Incidents</b> |
| Number         | <b>EO-21-033</b>  |
| Effective Date | <b>December 30, 2021</b>  |
| Related to     | GO-HSC-805.05 (Barricade/Hostage Situations and Other Unusual Incidents)  |

## I. PURPOSE

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) shall use properly trained, equipped, and supervised members to respond to and contain a potential barricaded subject/hostage situation. The purpose of this executive order is to amend procedures in GO-HSC-805.05 (Barricade/Hostage Situations and Other Unusual Incidents) related to determining when an incident involves a barricaded subject/hostage situation and circumstances requiring the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and/or other Special Operations Division (SOD) assets.

## II. PROCEDURES

1. Upon arrival on the scene of and incidents involving a barricaded subject/hostage situation or other unusual circumstances, the first responding member shall notify an official and attempt to determine whether a criminal or non-criminal critical incident occurred.
2. The official shall consider the type of incident, whether criminal or non-criminal, and the level of support needed. If the incident involves a barricaded subject/hostage situation or other unusual circumstances requiring additional resources, the official shall notify the watch commander.
3. The watch commander shall determine the need for specialized assistance based on the circumstances of the incident. The watch commander shall notify SOD for assistance in any incident when patrol operations would be overwhelmed, specialized resources may be needed, and/or technical capabilities or knowledge could be used. The watch commander shall establish a command post, assume incident command until relieved, and notify District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services (DCFEMS) to respond, when applicable.
4. ERT **shall be** notified of all barricaded subject/hostage situations and other unusual incidents involving the following factors:
  - a. There is good reason to believe that the subject is armed;

- b. The subject poses a potential threat to the lives of themselves or others;  
**and**
  - c. The subject refuses or ignores police commands.
5. The responding official, watch commander, and all responding SOD members shall continually assess the circumstances of the incident that may transition from one incident type to another (e.g., barricaded subject/hostage situations may become active shooters).



Robert J. Contee III  
Chief of Police

RJC:KDO:MOC:SMM