

**POLICY  
318**

**EFFECTIVE  
DATE  
5-16-01**

**Eugene  
Police Department**



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## **Field Force**

This policy is intended to be used in conjunction with other relevant policies, including Policies 316 - Public Assemblies and Demonstrations, 317 – Civil Disturbances, 803 - Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol, and 808 – Handcuffing, Control holds, and Impact Weapons.

### **PART I - Responsibilities and Procedures for All Personnel**

- A. Generally
- B. Officer Responsibilities
- C. Formations
- D. Communication
- E. Chemical agents/OC
- F. Arrest/rescue team

### **PART II - Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisors and Command Personnel**

- A. Supervisory roles
- B. Supervisory duties

### **PART I - Responsibilities and Procedures for All Personnel**

#### **A. Generally**

1. A field force is a group of police officers working as an organized unit, under one or more supervisors, to resolve an incident involving a significant group of individuals engaged in unlawful behavior, such as civil disturbances or unlawful demonstrations. It may include patrol officers, officers from special teams (e.g. Crowd Control Team, Bike Team), or some combination. Assembly of a field force constitutes a large-scale incident for purposes of 316 - Public Assemblies and Demonstrations.
2. Some factors to consider in determining whether to assemble and/or use a field force include crowd size and demeanor, likelihood of conflict and/or violence based on available information, level of available resources, and past experience with similar events.
3. Any sworn supervisor may activate a field force. If a field force is activated, notifications required in 316 - Public Assemblies and Demonstrations will be made.

4. Helmets and protective equipment worn by officers involved will have identifying information visible (i.e., name or badge number.)

## **B. Officer Responsibilities**

1. You need to function with other members of the field force as a unit, and take no independent action.
2. You may be assigned to be on the line, or a member of the arrest/rescue team or the gas team, or a related assignment.
3. Unless otherwise instructed, you must be equipped with:
  - helmet with face shield
  - gas mask
  - PR-24
4. It is advisable to wear gloves and a long-sleeve shirt or jacket.

## **C. Formations**

1. *Column of twos:* This formation is most often used to move to the incident location.
2. *Line formation:* This formation is most often used as a display of force.
3. *Wedge formation:* This formation is most often used to advance against a crowd.
  - a. A variation of this formation uses a vehicle as the "point", allowing some line positions to be taken up by the vehicle.
  - b. The vehicle can be utilized as cover, to carry additional equipment, as a place for downed officers, to provide additional lighting, or as a relatively safe location for video personnel.
4. *Diagonal formation:* This can be formed from a line or a wedge, and can be used to direct the crowd in a specific direction.
5. *Diamond formation:* This formation can be used to protect the flank or to retreat from a location.

#### **D. Communication**

1. Due to the noise of the crowd and hearing being limited by helmets and gas masks, communication will be difficult.
2. Five standard hand signals will be used:
  - Stop: one hand, fist clenched, held overhead
  - Go: one hand, fist clenched, pumped up and down several times
  - Column of twos form here: Two arms held up overhead
  - Line formation here: Two arms outstretched horizontally at shoulder height
  - Wedge formation here: Two arms held up overhead, with the hands forming a point.

#### **E. Chemical agents/OC**

1. In choosing which type of chemical agent to use, remember what you are trying to accomplish.
  - a. OC may cause a person to cover up, or to not be able to leave the area.
  - b. CS may allow the person the opportunity to leave, but he or she may recover quickly from the effects of the gas.
2. You should use chemical agents in a field force situation only when directed by a command officer, and you must document any chemical agent/OC you deploy.
3. Gas should be deployed in such a manner as to encourage the crowd to move in the desired direction.
4. In deciding whether and how to deploy chemical agents, supervisors should:
  - a. Consider factors such as the size of the crowd, environment (e.g., houses, hospitals), wind, and weather;
  - b. Consider immediately deploying gas upon receiving incoming projectiles;
  - c. Consider moving the line forward upon deploying gas, moving quickly but in an organized manner, to help disperse the crowd;

- d. Generally wait one minute or less after warning prior to deploying gas, as waiting an extended time does not help, and tends to attract more people.
5. When appropriate, summon a medic unit for after-care of individuals exposed to chemical agents or OC.

**F. Arrest/rescue team**

1. This team, generally stationed near the grenadiers and near the field force commander and/or executive supervisor, is tasked with making arrests and rescuing downed officers.
2. Officers assigned to the team must be able to drag a downed officer to a safe area.
3. The line formation should move up to cover the team as it performs its arrest/rescue.

**PART II - Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisors and Command Personnel**

**A. Supervisory roles**

1. Field force commander
2. Executive supervisor
3. Line supervisor
4. Special unit supervisor (arrest/rescue team, gas team)

**B. Supervisory duties**

1. Determine objectives, plan, tactics, and contingency plans, and communicate them to all involved personnel.
2. Ensure needed actions relative to a large-scale incident are taken (refer *Policy 316 - Public Assemblies and demonstrations* and *317 – Civil Disturbances*).
3. Assign officers to necessary tasks.
4. Make decisions about the use of chemical agents and direct their use (refer I.E above). Track which officers are issued gas and OC foggers. Ensure that any needed clean-up is accomplished after the incident.

5. Ensure that police actions are properly documented.
  - a. Have the incident videotaped, preferably using two video cameras: one to record the overall event, and one to record specific events (e.g., arrests, specific crowd actions).
  - b. Ensure that officers document any use of force in police reports.
  
6. Assign officers as needed to ensure that problems do not recur after the field force is withdrawn (e.g., saturation patrols.)

**JAMES R. HILL**  
**Chief of Police**