



GENERAL ORDER



SERIES

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1

EFFECTIVE DATE

December 1, 1971

SUBJECT

Major Disasters and Attack Warnings

DISTRIBUTION

A

ORIGINATING UNIT

PDD

The purpose of this order is to establish the policy and procedures to be followed upon the occurrence of a major disaster within the District of Columbia or the sounding of an "attack warning" by the Office of Civil Defense. This order consists of the following parts:

- PART I Responsibilities and Procedures for Members of the Department
- PART II Responsibilities and Procedures for Special Assignment Personnel
- PART III Responsibilities and Procedures for Supervisory and Command Personnel

PART I

A. Definitions.

1. A "disaster" means a natural catastrophe such as a flood, earthquake, tornado, or hurricane and also a sudden or extraordinary catastrophe such as a fire, explosion, transportation wreck, or similar occurrence in which large numbers of people are plunged into helplessness and suffering or which results in considerable loss of life or property.

2. An "attack warning" means the activation of civil defense warning systems, such as sirens, normally used to warn the public of an actual attack upon the United States.

B. Mutual Aid Agreement.

In the event of a major disaster or catastrophe, a mutual aid agreement exists between the Metropolitan Police Department and other D.C. and private agencies, such as the Fire Department and the D.C. Chapter of the American Red Cross. Members of the force shall extend all possible assistance to these agencies to aid them in the performance of their necessary functions.

C. Major Disaster.

1. Upon the occurrence of a major disaster, the Metropolitan Police Department shall be primarily responsible for:

- a. The protection of life and property.
- b. Prevention of looting and providing security for damaged buildings and structures.
- c. Traffic control.
- d. Providing identification and passes, if necessary, for Red Cross and other authorized personnel.
- e. Assisting with the identification of the seriously injured and dead.
- f. Assisting in the notification of the next of kin of the seriously injured and dead.
- g. Assisting with any mass evacuation of the District of Columbia.

2. When a member of the force has occasion to witness the occurrence of a disaster while on or off duty, he shall immediately notify or cause to be notified the Communications Division, supplying all known facts about the disaster. After this is done, he shall aid the victims and perform any other police service which may be necessary.

D. Radioactive Materials.

When disasters may possibly involve a nuclear radiation source or radioactive materials, the following emergency actions shall be taken in addition to those already stated:

1. Immediately restrict access to the area except to those authorized personnel who are performing necessary emergency functions.
2. Separate and detain for further examination all those persons, including policemen and firemen, who may have had contact with radioactive materials or persons.

3. Remove injured persons from the affected area with as little direct personal contact as possible and hold them at a separate point until transportation to hospital facilities is arranged.

4. Stay out of smoke, fumes, and dust resulting from the incident whenever possible.

5. Refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in the affected area.

6. Insure that all persons and equipment involved are checked by radiological monitoring devices upon the arrival of radiation specialists, including your own person and equipment.

E. Attack Warning.

1. A civil defense "attack warning" is indicated by the sounding of outdoor warning sirens in a wailing (rising and falling) tone lasting for 3 minutes or longer. It is repeated as necessary.

2. The attack warning signal means that an actual attack against the United States is in progress and that protective action shall be taken immediately. This signal will be used for no other purpose and will have no other meaning. Siren tests are well publicized and consist of a steady sounding of the siren with no wailing (rising and falling) tone.

3. Members who are on duty when an attack warning is sounded shall, if assigned to a radio equipped vehicle or assigned to carry a portable radio, immediately monitor their assigned frequency for verification of the warning which will be broadcast by the Communications Division over all radio frequencies. Members not equipped with radios shall, at the sound of the siren, immediately communicate with their assigned organizational element, using the patrol signal system if at all possible, for verification of the warning which will be relayed to all organizational elements by teletype.

4. Members assigned to the operation of marked police vehicles shall continue to operate their vehicles and be prepared to answer calls for police service broadcast by the Communications Division. They shall, if possible, disregard all minor violations and other incidents of a minor nature and shall not attempt to initiate out-of-service assignments unless a failure to do so could possibly result in loss of life or serious injury to the public or themselves.

5. Members assigned to operate scooters shall immediately dismount, park their scooters in a secure place, and assist the public in gaining shelter. They shall direct traffic if necessary and attempt to keep roadways clear of abandoned vehicles. They shall remain in the public view and not seek shelter themselves until all possible assistance has been rendered. If the member is carrying a portable radio, he shall continuously monitor his assigned frequency and be prepared to remount his scooter should he be so directed.

6. Members assigned to foot patrol or fixed posts shall also be guided by the above procedures.

7. After the public has been assisted to shelter, members of the force not assigned to mobile units may respond to shelter areas themselves. While inside shelter areas, they shall maintain order, give first aid, and perform such other police duties as may be necessary.

8. Members assigned to mobile units shall not seek shelter unless directed to do so by the Communications Division. At the time they are ordered to take shelter they shall park their vehicles in as secure a manner as possible. In no circumstances will a police vehicle be left where it might possibly interfere with or obstruct the passage of emergency vehicles. When leaving their police vehicle to respond to a shelter area, members shall remove and take with them all first aid equipment carried in the vehicle.

F. Mobilization.

Members of the force who are in an off-duty status (with the exception of those who are on sick leave due to incapacitating injuries or contagious diseases and those who are on terminal or administrative leave pending termination) shall be guided by the following instructions:

1. In the event of an attack warning or major disaster affecting the entire District of Columbia, they shall immediately report to their assigned organizational element WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE. If conditions make it impossible for a member to reach his assigned organizational element, he shall report to any unit of the department which can be reached or to any on-duty official of the department who can be located.

2. In the event of a major disaster within the District of Columbia which is localized or confined to a relatively small geographical area (such as a transportation wreck, explosion, or fire) members shall remain where

they can be reached in the event that full or partial mobilization of the department becomes necessary. If any member is away from his residence at such a time or if it becomes necessary for any member to leave or be away from his place of residence, he shall contact an on-duty official of his organizational element, advise the official of his whereabouts and be guided by his orders.

PART II

A. Casual and Plainclothes Personnel.

1. In the event of a major disaster throughout the District of Columbia or an attack warning, casual and plainclothes personnel operating unmarked cruisers shall follow the below listed procedures:

- a. Immediately put on the police coveralls contained in the cruiser or if no coveralls are available, fasten their badges to the left breast area of their outer garment.
- b. If the cruiser is equipped with a portable beacon light, the light shall be mounted on the cruiser's roof.
- c. Notify the Communications Division by radio of their location and be guided by the instructions of the dispatcher.

2. In the event of a localized disaster confined to a specific geographical area such as an explosion or fire they shall:

- a. Notify the Communications Division of their location and stand by for further instructions. They shall not respond to disaster scenes unless their presence is requested by the police dispatcher or a field supervisor.
- b. If ordered to the scene of a disaster, follow the procedures in part II, paragraph A.

B. Motorcycle Officers.

Members of the Special Operations Division or Traffic Division assigned to operate motorcycles shall:

1. In the event of a major disaster throughout the District of Columbia or at the sound of an attack warning, respond immediately to their assigned organizational element while continuously monitoring their radios for further instructions.

2. In the event of a localized disaster confined to a specific geographical area, notify the police dispatcher of their location and await further instructions.

C. Undercover Officers.

Members performing in undercover assignments shall:

1. In the event of a major disaster throughout the District of Columbia or an attack warning be guided by the procedures for all members of the department.

2. In the event of a major disaster confined to a specific geographic area, they shall not perform police duties except to render emergency first aid unless otherwise directed by their immediate superior.

D. Aircraft Crashes.

Police radio dispatchers receiving notifications of aircraft crashes shall attempt to obtain information regarding the size and type of aircraft involved, the location, and registration numbers on wings or tail surfaces if at all possible. The dispatcher shall then notify the official in command of the Communications Division.

E. Station Clerks and Clerical Personnel.

Members of the department assigned to or performing duties of a clerical nature in any organizational element of the department shall:

1. In the event of a major disaster throughout the District of Columbia or an attack warning, continue to perform their assigned duties until otherwise directed by competent authority.

2. In the event of an attack warning, remove any prisoners held at their organizational element to a designated shelter area. All prisoners shall be hand-cuffed and adequately guarded.

3. The foregoing provisions shall not apply to prisoners confined at the Central Cell Block.

PART III

A. Communications Division.

1. The Communications Division is equipped to receive attack warnings by means of the Washington Area Warning System (WAWS). This system is backed up by voice radio communication over a Motorola Quick Call Receiver System operated by the Office of Civil Defense from the Mayor's Command Post.

2. When notification of a major disaster affecting the entire District of Columbia or an attack warning is received by the Communications Division, the director or official then in command shall cause the following notifications to be made. In instances where any Bureau Head cannot be reached, the next in command of his element shall be notified.

a. Between the hours of 0800 and 1600, Monday through Friday, except holidays.

- (1) Chief of Police.
- (2) Field Operations Officer.
- (3) Technical Services Officer.
- (4) Inspectional Services Officer.
- (5) Administrative Services Officer.
- (6) Disaster Service, D.C. Chapter, American Red Cross.

b. Between 1600 and 0800 hours Monday through Friday, and all hours of Saturdays, Sundays, or holidays.

(1) The Bureau Head, Deputy Chief or inspector then in charge of the department.

(2) The notifications listed in part III, paragraph A2a.

c. In the event of an aircraft crash within the District of Columbia and in addition to those regularly required, make the following notifications:

- (1) Base Operations, Bolling Air Force Base.
- (2) Office of Civil Defense by means of the Washington Area Warning System (WAWS).
- (3) Federal Bureau of Investigation, Disaster Team.
- (4) National Transportation Safety Board, Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aviation Safety.

d. When disasters are reported involving the possibility of a nuclear radiation source or radioactive materials, the official then in charge of the Communications Division shall notify, through the Mayor's Command Post, the person then in charge of the Radiological Health Division of the D.C. Department of Public Health.

3. The Commander or official in charge of the Communications Division shall also cause to be broadcast over all radio frequencies a voice message stating that a disaster or attack warning has occurred. This message shall be repeated three times initially and will then be repeated at 3 minute intervals for the following 15 minutes. In addition, a teletype message reflecting the type of disaster or an attack warning shall be sent to all organizational elements.

4. In the event of a disaster which is limited in effect and geographical area, the official then in command of the Communications Division shall notify only the Chief of Police or, in his absence, the official in charge of the department and any further notifications will be made at his discretion.

B. Commanding Officers.

1. In the event of a major disaster confined within a relatively small geographical area, command responsibility shall follow the provisions of the department's order pertaining to command at the scene of major crimes or unusual incidents.

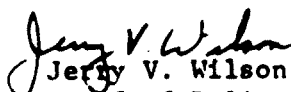
2. Commanders of organizational elements or officials in charge at the time of notification of a major disaster affecting the entire District of Columbia or the sounding of an attack warning shall be responsible for the immediate implementation of the departmental mobilization procedures.

3. Commanders or officials then in charge of all organizational elements to which radiological monitoring equipment is assigned shall cause such equipment to be placed into service immediately upon notification of an attack warning.

4. Commanders of organizational elements shall be responsible for identifying and arranging for the security of any essential records maintained within their elements in the event of a major disaster or attack warning.

C. Mobilization Authority.

In the event of a disaster which is limited in scope and geographical area, any decision to partially or fully mobilize the department shall be made by the Chief of Police or, in his absence, the Bureau Head, Deputy Chief or inspector then in command of the department.


Jerry V. Wilson
Chief of Police

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