

Basic Course Workbook Series



# Learning Domain 44

## Active Shooter

*Version 1.0*

COMMISSION ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

**Basic Course Workbook Series**  
**Student Materials**  
**Learning Domain 44**  
**Active Shooter**  
**Version 1.0**

© Copyright 2005  
California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)  
All rights reserved.

Published April 2026

This publication may not be reproduced, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means electronic or mechanical or by any information storage and retrieval system now known or hereafter invented, without prior written permission of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, with the following exception:

California law enforcement or dispatch agencies in the POST program, POST-certified training presenters, and presenters and students of the California basic course instructional system are allowed to copy this publication for non-commercial use.

All other individuals, private businesses and corporations, public and private agencies and colleges, professional associations, and non-POST law enforcement agencies in-state or out-of-state may purchase copies of this publication, at cost, from POST as listed below:

From POST's Website:

<https://post.ca.gov>

Go to <https://post.ca.gov/Download-Student-Workbooks>

## POST COMMISSIONERS

---



*The POST Commission forms a balanced group of city and county administrators, law enforcement professionals, educators, and public members. The Governor appoints 15 of the Commissioners, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for three-year overlapping terms. The Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Pro Tempore also each appoint one Commissioner. The Attorney General is an ex-officio member and serves as the 18th POST Commissioner*

**Geoff Long- Chair**  
Public Member

**Rick Braziel - Vice Chair**  
Educator,  
Cal Poly Humboldt

**Alan Barcelona**  
Special Agent,  
Department of Justice

**Ingrid Braun**  
Sheriff,  
Mono County Sheriff's  
Office

**Jim Cooper**  
Sheriff,  
Sacramento County  
Sheriff's Office

**Justin Doering**  
Senior Deputy Sheriff,  
Ventura County Sheriff's  
Office

**Charles Duggan**  
City Official

**P. Lamont Ewell**  
Public Member

**Kelly Gordon**  
Chief,  
Santa Barbara  
Police Department

**Jacob Johnson**  
Officer,  
California Highway Patrol

**Michael Moodian**  
Public Member

**Shannan Moon**  
Sheriff,  
Nevada County Sheriff's  
Office

**Tina Nieto**  
Sheriff,  
Monterey County Sheriff's  
Office

**Freddie Rodriguez**  
Public Member

**Benjamin Therriault**  
Sergeant,  
Richmond Police  
Department

**Rob Bonta**  
Attorney General,  
Department of Justice  
Ex-Officio Member



## **THE MISSION OF POST**

The mission of the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training is to continually enhance the professionalism of California law enforcement in serving its communities.

## **THE ACADEMY TRAINING MISSION**

The primary mission of basic training is to prepare students mentally, morally, and physically to advance into a field training program, assume the responsibilities, and execute the duties of a peace officer in society.

## **FOREWORD**

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training sincerely appreciates the efforts of the many curriculum consultants, academy instructors, directors and coordinators who contributed to the development of this workbook. We must also thank the California law enforcement agency executives who allowed their personnel to participate in the development of these training materials.

This student workbook is part of the POST Basic Course Training System. The workbook component of this system provides a self-study document for every learning domain in the Basic Course. Each workbook is intended to be a supplement to, not a substitute for, classroom instruction. The objective of the system is to improve academy student learning and information retention and ultimately contribute to you becoming a peace officer committed to safety, and to the communities you will serve.

The content of each workbook is organized into sequenced learning modules to meet requirements as prescribed both by California law and the POST Training and Testing Specifications for the Basic Course.

It is our hope that the collective wisdom and experience of all who contributed to this workbook will help you, the student, to successfully complete the Basic Course and to enjoy a safe and rewarding career as a peace officer.

MANUEL ALVAREZ, Jr.  
Executive Director



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	I
HOW TO USE THE WORKBOOK .....	II
<b>CHAPTER 1 ACTIVE SHOOTER RESPONSE CONCEPTS .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
OVERVIEW .....	1-1
PEACE OFFICER RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS .....	1-3
EVOLUTION OF PEACE OFFICER RESPONSE .....	1-4
ACTIVE SHOOTER VS. OTHER INCIDENTS .....	1-6
RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS .....	1-7
WORKBOOK LEARNING ACTIVITIES.....	1-8
<b>CHAPTER 2 RAPID RESPONSE TACTICS .....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
OVERVIEW .....	2-1
RAPID RESPONSE TACTICS.....	2-2
SYSTEMATIC SEARCH VS. DIRECT TO THREAT .....	2-6
WORKBOOK LEARNING ACTIVITIES.....	2-8
<b>CHAPTER 3 MEDICAL AID AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
OVERVIEW .....	3-1
MEDICAL AID ADMINISTERED BY PEACE OFFICERS.....	3-3
SECURITY OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL.....	3-6
CASUALTY COLLECTION POINTS .....	3-8
SEARCHING AND CLEARING THE SCENE.....	3-10
SCENE CONTAINMENT/PROCESSING .....	3-11
WORKBOOK LEARNING ACTIVITIES.....	3-12
<b>GLOSSARY .....</b>	<b>G-1</b>



### **Student Workbooks**

The student workbooks are part of the POST Basic Course Instructional System. This system is designed to provide students with a self-study document to be used in preparation for classroom training.

### **Regular Basic Course Training Requirement**

Completion of the Regular Basic Course is required, prior to exercising peace officer powers, as recognized in the California Penal Code and where the POST-required standard is the POST Regular Basic Course.

### **Student Workbook Elements**

The following elements are included in each workbook:

- Chapter contents, including a synopsis of key points,
- Supplementary material, and
- A glossary of terms used in this workbook.

## HOW TO USE THE WORKBOOK

---

### Introduction

This workbook provides an introduction to the training requirements for this Learning Domain. It is intended to be used in several ways: for initial learning, for test preparation, and for remedial training.

### Workbook Format

To use the workbook most effectively, follow the steps listed below.

Step	Action
1	Begin by reading the: Introduction and How to Use the Workbook, which provides an overview of how the workbook fits into the POST Basic Course Instructional System and how it should be used.
2	Refer to the Chapter Synopsis section at the end of each chapter to review the key points that support the chapter objectives.
3	Read the text.
4	Complete the Workbook Learning Activities at the end of each chapter. These activities reinforce the material taught in the chapter.
5	Refer to the Glossary section for a definition of important terms. When first referenced these terms will be bolded and underlined (e.g., <b><u>term</u></b> ).

# Chapter 1

## Active Shooter Response Concepts

### OVERVIEW

#### Learning Need

Peace officers must understand what constitutes an active shooter incident and the characteristics of these incidents.

#### Learning Objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

<b>After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:</b>	<b>Objective ID</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define active shooter/active shooter incidents</li></ul>	44.01.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain the contemporary historical proliferation of these incidents and the effects these have had on the development/evolution of peace officer response</li></ul>	44.01.2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe the difference between active shooter and other incident responses (e.g., assault with a deadly weapon, barricaded suspect/hostage response etc.)</li></ul>	44.01.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss response priorities/considerations (e.g., safety of victims over peace officers, equipment, etc.)</li></ul>	44.01.4

## In This Chapter

This chapter focuses on basic knowledge related to a peace officer's response to an active shooter. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

Topic	See Page
Peace Officer Response to Active Shooter Incidents	1-3
Evolution of Peace Officer Response	1-4
Active Shooter vs. Other Incidents	1-6
Response Considerations	1-7
Workbook Learning Activities	1-8

# PEACE OFFICER RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

---

## Introduction

The term "**active shooter**" has become widely recognized, and public awareness has increased due to the unfortunate frequency of such incidents. These incidents occur in various settings, including schools, workplaces, malls, and other public spaces. These incidents can unfold rapidly, creating an urgent need for peace officers to be prepared and understand how to stop the threat.

## Active Shooter Incident

An **active shooter incident** is when a person or persons are actively engaged in a life threatening assault that could result in multiple deaths or serious bodily injury. Active shooter incidents are characterized by the use of firearms or other lethal weapons with the intent to cause mass casualties. These incidents typically require an immediate response from peace officers and other first responders.

# EVOLUTION OF PEACE OFFICER RESPONSE

---

## Introduction

Active shooter incidents today often involve complex and diverse motivations, including personal grievances, ideological beliefs, extremism, and mental health issues. The increased frequency has led to a growing awareness of the need for a coordinated and effective response. The diversity of targets has expanded beyond schools and workplaces to include shopping malls, entertainment venues, places of worship, and other public spaces. This has required law enforcement to develop adaptable response strategies suitable for different environments.

## Evolution of Peace Officer Response

The Columbine High School shooting in 1999 was a tragic and pivotal event that significantly influenced how law enforcement agencies approach and respond to active shooter incidents. The lessons learned from Columbine have led to important changes in tactics, training, and overall strategies for responding to such events.

Before Columbine, the standard approach to active shooter situations was often to set up a perimeter and wait for specialized units, such as Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams, to arrive. The prolonged response of immediate police response at Columbine highlighted the need for a more immediate and proactive response. Police departments now emphasize immediate action and rapid response to active shooter situations. The traditional approach of waiting for specialized units to arrive has been replaced by a more proactive response to stop the threat as quickly as possible.

Peace officers are now trained to respond as a solo peace officer, or as a small team to confront the shooter. This allows for a more dynamic and coordinated response, enabling law enforcement to engage the threat more effectively.

## Notable Active Shooter Incidents

Other notable active shooter incidents throughout the United States include:

- Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, Virginia
- Route 91 Music Festival, Las Vegas, Nevada
- Sandy Hook Elementary, Newtown, Connecticut
- Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland, Florida
- Pulse Night Club, Orlando, Florida
- Robb Elementary School, Uvalde, Texas

## ACTIVE SHOOTER VS. OTHER INCIDENTS

---

### Introduction

Active shooter incidents differ significantly from other incidents that law enforcement commonly handle. Peace officers must be able to distinguish between active shooter scenarios and other incidents, adapting their response accordingly.

### Determining Response

High-risk law enforcement scenarios, like barricaded subjects and hostage situations, usually require a methodical approach emphasizing containment by peace officers. In contrast, active shooter incidents often demand rapid response tactics. Peace officers should remain aware that changes in incident dynamics may prompt a shift from one response type to another.

### Example

If an active shooter enters a contained room with a confirmed absence of victims, they might be treated as a barricaded suspect. Conversely, if an incident initially presents as a hostage situation, then transitions to the suspect assaulting victims, causing serious bodily injury or death, peace officers may choose to treat the situation as an active shooter scenario.

## RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

---

### Introduction

Peace officers should consider a number of things in preparation for a response to an active shooter incident. Specialized equipment may be needed at the scene to assist the peace officer. Additionally, information regarding the location and access to the facility will help the peace officer bring the incident to a safe conclusion.

### Response Priorities

Although officer safety is always a peace officer's chief concern, there are circumstances where peace officers must consider placing their safety in jeopardy to protect the innocent. The community has a right to expect that peace officers will "step into harm's way" on behalf of those endangered in a violent crime.

### Equipment Considerations

Some equipment peace officers should consider are:

- Rifle and magazines
- Medical supplies
- Plate carrier
- Ballistic shields
- Ballistic helmet
- Breaching tools

### Other Considerations

Upon arrival at an active shooter incident, peace officers should also consider:

- Gather real-time information
- Obtaining keys/fobs if available
- Maps of the location if available
- Requesting additional resources







# Chapter 2

## Rapid Response Tactics

### OVERVIEW

#### Learning Need

Peace officers must understand how to effectively use rapid response tactics to increase the survivability of victims during an active shooter incident.

#### Learning Objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	Objective ID
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss rapid response tactics<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Solo peace officer response</li><li>- Multiple peace officer response (two or more peace officers)</li></ul></li></ul>	44.02.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Define the difference between systematic search vs. direct to stimulus response</li></ul>	44.02.2

#### In This Chapter

This chapter focuses on basic knowledge related to a peace officer's response to an active shooter. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

Topic	See Page
Rapid Response Tactics	2-2
Systematic Search vs. Direct to Threat	2-6
Workbook Learning Activities	2-8

## RAPID RESPONSE TACTICS

---

### Introduction

Peace officers direct to threat response increases the likelihood of saving lives and suspect apprehension. Peace officers should be guided by their agencies' tactical guidelines when using rapid response tactics.

### Definition

A **rapid response** to a deadly encounter (e.g., active shooter situation) may be defined as the swift and rapid deployment of peace officer resources to “on-going, life-threatening situations” where delayed response could otherwise result in multiple deaths or serious bodily injuries to innocent persons.

### First Responder Considerations

The initial peace officer on scene:

- Rapidly assess the situation and provide updated information
- Is solo officer or team response appropriate?
  - Would delaying response result in loss of life?
- As a priority, make contact with suspect(s) and stop the threat
- Communicate progress to responders

### Rapid Response Tactics

Peace officer response considerations

- a. Assess **stimulus**
- b. Respond to threat
- c. Solo vs. team; would delaying response result in loss of life?
- d. Move quickly using cover when possible

## Rapid Response Tactics (Continued)

- e. Maintain 360 Degree awareness
  - I. Fields of fire
  - II. Muzzle discipline
  - III. Crossfire
- f. Number of suspects
- g. Threat level (weapons, capabilities)
- h. Individual peace officer capabilities
  - I. Experience, proficiency, fitness level, fortitude
  - II. Weapons and equipment available
  - III. Rifle, precision shot capabilities, optics, extra ammo, plate carrier, helmet, Individual First-Aid Kit (IFAK)
- j. Team Dynamics/Responsibilities
- k. Example Formations
  - I. Diamond formation
  - II. T-formation
  - III. Wedge formation
  - IV. Linear formation

## Rescue Team Responsibilities

The **rescue team** responsibilities are to:

- As a priority, locate and rescue downed victims
- Obtain additional information regarding suspects from victims
- Coordinate actions with **contact team**

Note: Rescue team is comprised of peace officers and should only be formed after sufficient contact teams have deployed.

## What to Expect

The following is a list of problems that may be encountered in a rapid response to a deadly encounter (i.e., active shooter):

- Confrontation with a deadly threat
- Noise from alarms, people screaming
- Confusion, victims hiding and frightened, not responding to peace officer directions
- Carnage, possibly very young victims
- Fire and sprinkler operations
- Explosives devices

## Examples

A School Resource Officer received information from students that there is a “subject on campus with a knife stabbing students” at an Elementary School. Additionally, the peace officer receives a description of the subject. The peace officer advised dispatch of the call. The officer is met by a frantic teacher who states, “There is a crazy man stabbing everyone inside.” The witness then gives a brief description of the suspect to the officer. The officer forms the opinion that he has an “Active Shooter type incident” at the location and takes immediate action to preserve human life. The officer responds as a solo officer. The officer observes the subject stabbing several students and moves tactically towards the threat. The officer continues to move while passing injured victims, open doors, and unsearched rooms towards the threat. The peace officer locates the suspect running at another child with a knife. The officer uses deadly force to stop the suspect’s actions.

Peace officers receive a radio call of “shots fired at River City Mall.” Comments of the call state there is a male dressed in all black clothing shooting at patrons of the mall. Peace officers form a contact team and enter the mall using an agency approved tactical formation searching for the suspect. The peace officers move in the direction of the gunfire and find the suspect holding a handgun. The peace officers shoot the suspect to protect themselves and others from serious bodily injury or death. The suspect is hit and drops his weapon while falling to the ground. The peace officers then take the suspect into custody.

## SYSTEMATIC SEARCH VS. DIRECT TO THREAT

---

### Introduction

When utilizing rapid response tactics, peace officers should be familiar with both direct to threat and systematic search techniques. In general, peace officers should consider direct to threat response when they have specific knowledge of the location of the threat and when doing so may preserve human life. Peace officers should consider a systematic search when they do not know the location of the threat, or when direct to threat tactics are not needed to preserve life.

### Systematic Search

Using a systematic method of visually clearing or physically searching one area at a time before moving on to the next area.

See LD 23: Crimes in Progress

### Direct to Threat

Move directly to the threat without delay. During this response, peace officers will generally move as quickly as possible, and may bypass traditional exposures (open doors, etc.) to prioritize reaching the threat as soon as possible.

### Examples

Peace officers respond to a call of shots fired with multiple victims down at a hotel. Upon arrival, the first responding peace officer encounters downed victims in the first-floor lobby and hears sounds of screaming and sees multiple people running from the first-floor stairwell. While running towards the stairwell, the peace officer asks fleeing civilians for information about the suspects' location and description. They tell the peace officer a white male with a rifle went up the stairwell towards the second floor and was last seen moving west through the hallway. As the peace officer moves towards the stairwell, they hear gunshots from the second floor. The peace officer continues running towards the sound of gunfire up the stairs to the second floor. Upon reaching the second floor, the peace officer confronts the suspect. The suspect points his rifle at the peace officer. The peace officer shoots the suspect, who is incapacitated and apprehended.

## **Examples** (Continued)

Peace officers respond to an active shooter situation at a high school. Upon arrival, they gather information about the shooter's whereabouts. Hearing gunfire and screams, they move towards the north end of the campus, directly to the threat. The shooting pauses, causing a loss of information on the suspect's location. Peace officers shift to a systematic search, checking rooms, closed doors, and closets along the hallway. Suddenly, gunfire erupts further down the hall, prompting peace officers to shift tactics, advancing directly towards the threat.



# Chapter 3

## Medical Aid and Other Responsibilities

### OVERVIEW

---

#### Learning Need

Peace officers must understand other responsibilities during an active shooter incident.

#### Learning Objectives

The chart below identifies the student learning objectives for this chapter.

After completing study of this chapter, the student will be able to:	Objective ID
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medical considerations including<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Medical aid administered by peace officers</li><li>- Security of medical personnel</li><li>- Coordinating casualty collection points</li></ul></li></ul>	44.03.1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scene containment/processing</li></ul>	44.03.2

## In This Chapter

This chapter focuses on basic knowledge related to a peace officer's response to an active shooter. Refer to the chart below for specific topics.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>See Page</b>
Medical Aid Administered by Peace Officers	3-3
Security of Medical Personnel	3-6
Casualty Collection Points	3-8
Searching and Clearing the Scene	3-10
Scene Containment and Processing	3-11
Workbook Learning Activities	3-12

## **MEDICAL AID ADMINISTERED BY PEACE OFFICERS**

---

### **Introduction**

A peace officers' number one goal when responding to an active shooter scene is to stop the active threat posed to the public. Once that threat has been stopped, or an adequate number of peace officers are actively looking for the suspect(s), peace officers must recognize other critical tasks involved with active shooter events. These tasks include but are not limited to peace officers administering first aid to casualties, providing security to medical personnel, and coordinating casualty collection points.

### **Triage**

As mentioned before, the primary goal of peace officers during an active shooter event is the stop the killing. Peace officers responding to the scene later in the event, or peace officers who have stopped the threat to the public, still have to recognize the urgent need to render medical aid to the injured.

First aid would ideally be rendered by trained medical personnel such as paramedics and EMT's. There may be a need for peace officers to render first aid to critically injured persons when medical staff is not yet on scene. A critical component of mass casualty care is triage of victims. Victims should be directed towards a casualty collection point. Peace officers may render aid to critically injured persons by the use of tourniquets, chest seals, and wound packing with gauze. See LD 34: First Aid, CPR, and AED.

## Tourniquets (TQ)

Loss of blood is a common cause of death related to active shooter incidents. Death from blood loss can occur quickly. Bleeding from extremities can often be stopped or slowed by proper application of a tourniquet. The following are a few considerations when using tourniquets:

- Equipment selection and location
- Proper application
- Recognize non-traditional equipment that could be used as a TQ (belts, neck ties, etc.)

## Chest Seals

Tension pneumothorax, also known as a collapsed lung, is another common cause of death related to active shooter incidents. This occurs when the chest cavity is penetrated by a foreign object, air enters the chest cavity from the wound and causes excess pressure on the lungs. This pressure can cause the lung to no longer inflate, which can lead to severe medical complications.

Utilizing an occlusive dressing such as a chest seal will prevent air from entering the chest cavity from the wound, see LD 34: First Aid, CPR, and AED.

The following are a few considerations when utilizing chest seals:

- Equipment selection and location
- Proper application
- Unconventional chest seals (Ziplock bag, wrappers, etc.)

## Wound Packing

Bleeding from junctional areas is another cause of death related to active shooter incidents. Junctional areas are parts of the body where a tourniquet cannot be applied. Wound packing and applying pressure are also effective ways to stop or slow bleeding, see LD 34: First Aid, CPR, and AED for further.

The following are some considerations when wound packing:

- Equipment selection and location
- Proper application

# SECURITY OF MEDICAL PERSONNEL

---

## Introduction

During an active shooter event, peace officers may be required to provide security for Emergency Medical Services (EMS). There are multiple techniques used to accomplish this task, and different agencies should communicate with EMS in their areas to determine which specific technique best suits their needs.

## Examples of EMS Security Techniques

One or more peace officers form a team with one or more EMS personnel. Peace officers provide security as the team travels as a cohesive unit through the scene. These teams may be formed through a formalized command system or may be formed by line personnel at the scene as the need and opportunity arises. Peace officers conducting **EMS security operations** may use specific techniques (e.g., diamond formations) while providing security.

- Rescue Task Force (RTF)

Peace officers provide security along an ingress/egress route, allowing EMS personnel to travel freely along this route.

- Security/Protective Corridor

## Additional Considerations

Peace officers providing security to EMS personnel should understand their primary responsibility is protecting EMS. While it is possible, they could assist with other activities (assisting with medical aid, etc.), they should only do so if the security needs of EMS personnel are already met or no longer necessary.

## Incident Zones

Peace officers should be aware of the Hot Zone/Warm Zone/Cold Zone concept, and how it applies to security for EMS. These zones are intended to delineate areas where EMS personnel should be allowed to operate and whether EMS will require peace officer's security. These zones may be designated by peace officers at the scene or by formal command structure.

**Hot Zone**: Areas where EMS personnel should not be present

**Warm Zone**: Areas where EMS may be present with peace officers providing security

**Cold Zone**: Areas where EMS may be present without the need for provided security

Note: Peace officers should be aware they will likely be responsible for communicating the boundaries of the above zones to EMS personnel.

# CASUALTY COLLECTION POINTS

---

## Introduction

During active shooter incidents, **Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI)** often occur, underscoring the crucial role of a swift medical response in enhancing the chances of victim survival. **Casualty Collection Points (CCPs)** play a pivotal role in effectively managing MCIs. They serve as primary locations where injured individuals are relocated for initial medical triage, treatment, ongoing assessment, and decisions regarding transportation. The purpose of CCPs is to provide essential care for life-threatening injuries before transferring patients to facilities equipped to deliver a higher level of medical support.

## Casualty Collection Points

Selecting an appropriate CCP location involves several critical considerations:

- CCP may be formal or informal
- A "hasty" CCP can be swiftly established in the "warm" zone and moved to a more secure location when safe to do so
- A "hard" CCP, established in the "cold" zone, ensures ongoing care and coordination for casualty evacuation
  - Accessibility for entry and exit of medical personnel is a crucial factor in CCP location selection
  - Clearance and security measures

## CCP Security

Once resources permit, designated personnel should clear the area and ensure CCP security, preventing unauthorized access and maintaining victims within the designated area.

## **Medical Assistance**

The medical component within the CCP involves several considerations to ensure effective care for the injured. Peace officers' primary focus should be on security operations. When needed, peace officers may assist with triage and patient care. Patients should be prioritized based on the severity of their injuries (minor, moderate, or immediate) and sorted into designated areas within the CCP accordingly. Immediate patients should ideally be placed closest to transportation availability, if feasible.

## SEARCHING AND CLEARING THE SCENE

---

### Introduction

Once peace officers have stopped the threat, and once medical aid and/or evacuation of victims have been completed, peace officers should perform a thorough systematic search of the scene and areas in the vicinity of the scene.

### Intent

The purpose of this search is to discover any unknown suspects, victims, and evidence. Peace officers should not be diverted for this purpose from stopping an active threat, or from providing aid to victims, until these tasks are complete.

### Process

Peace officers should form search teams and use traditional systematic search techniques for this task. Peace officers may self-assign this task or may be assigned by incident leadership. In order to avoid prioritizing this task over other higher priority problems, Peace officers should generally communicate with incident leadership before beginning this process.

## SCENE CONTAINMENT/PROCESSING

---

### Introduction

After all security, medical, and other safety related considerations have been resolved, peace officers must take measures to support the investigation of the related crime and resolution of the event.

### Additional Tasks

Additional responsibilities may include:

1. Scene security
2. Preservation of evidence
3. Other investigative tasks as appropriate
4. Reunification of victims and families







# Glossary

## Introduction

The key vocabulary terms for Learning Domain 44: Active Shooter are listed below with the definitions as they apply to this workbook.

## Active Shooter

On-going, life-threatening situation that could result in multiple deaths or serious bodily injury

## Active Shooter Incident

When a person or persons are actively engaged in life threatening assault that could result in multiple deaths or serious bodily injury

## Casualty Collection Points (CCPs)

Locations at which patients involved in a multiple casualty or mass care incident are collected, triaged and provided with initial rapid medical care

## Cold Zone

Areas where EMS may be present without the need for provided security

## Contact Team

The first peace officer(s) at the scene of an active shooter incident tasked with locating the suspect(s) and stopping the threat

## Direct to Threat

Moving directly to the threat without delay

## **EMS Security Operations**

A team consisting of fire/emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, paired with peace officers tasked with initial treatment and triage of victims in the warm zone

## **Hot Zone**

Areas where EMS personnel should not be present

## **Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)**

An incident where emergency medical service resources are overwhelmed by the number and severity of casualties

## **Rapid Response**

The swift and rapid deployment of peace officer resources to “on-going, life- threatening situations”

## **Rescue Team**

Comprised of peace officers and should only be formed after sufficient contact teams have deployed

## **Stimulus**

Visual or audible clues that indicate the location of the suspect(s)

## **Systematic Search**

Visually clearing or physically searching one area at a time before moving on to the next area

## **Warm Zone**

Areas where EMS may be present with peace officers providing security