



California Exposition and State Fair Police Department

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DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

ORDER № 2500.600

Feb. 2019 (Revised)

08/01/2003 (New)

CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND RIOTS

2500.601 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish initial guidelines for major civil disturbances or riots, and is supplemented by Department General Order № 2500.700 for Civil Disobedience / Mass Arrests.

2500.602 INITIAL RESPONDING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The first sworn officer or senior sworn officer shall assume the role and responsibilities of Incident Commander until a ranking sworn officer or designated Incident Commander arrives at the scene. The Incident Commander shall:

- A. Obtain all available information from the dispatcher (Communications).
- B. Evaluate the situation:
 1. Approximate how many participants involved.
 2. Apparent nature of the civil disturbance or protest.
 3. An apparent Leader within the group.
- C. Advise the dispatcher and a supervisor of the situation.
- D. Request a supervisor to respond to the scene.
- E. Until a supervisor arrives, coordinate the response of any other units and relay any need of support personnel to the supervisor.

2500.603 SUPERVISOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Determine if the incident falls within the guidelines of the "Civil Disobedience/Mass Arrests" Department General Order and establish a Command post, if necessary.
- B. Coordinate the actions of all responding units.
 1. Identify immediate response locations for on-duty units and a staging area for assisting incoming units.
 2. Indicate the recommended route for staging.
- C. Notify the Chief of Police.
- D. Determine the need to close any area to public access, and the boundaries of any area so identified.
- E. Assess the potential risks to public safety.

*The mission of the California Exposition & State Fair Police is to:
Provide for the safety and security of visitors, employees, and stakeholders; keep order and
preserve the peace; and support the economic well-being of the California Exposition & State Fair.*

- F. Assess whether or not a static event has the potential to go mobile, either on foot in the form of a march, or in vehicles.
- G. Assess the number of officers and type of equipment required to maintain order and their manner of response.
- H. Assess the potential need for outside resources:
 - 1. On-duty personnel from other police agencies.
 - 2. Fire Department personnel and resources.
 - 3. Media relations personnel.
 - 4. Identify and broadcast the location of the Incident Command Post, operational staging areas, and routes to and from.
- I. Ensure that participating personnel receive an operational briefing, whether in person or via radio, prior to their deployment. Information communicated in an operational briefing shall include, at minimum:
 - 1. The nature of the event.
 - 2. The mission and operational goal(s) of the department.
 - 3. The chain of command managing the event.
 - 4. The individual's assignment and any special equipment he/she may require.
 - 5. When possible, the identity and appearance of all undercover personnel involved in the police response.

2500.604 PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

- A. Photographs and video recording, when appropriate, can serve a number of purposes, including support of criminal prosecutions by documenting criminal acts; serving as training material; recording the use of dispersal orders; and facilitating a response to allegations of improper law enforcement conduct.
- B. Photographs and videos will not be used or retained for the sole purpose of collecting or maintaining information about the political, religious or social views of associations, or the activities of any individual, group, association, organization, corporation, business or partnership; unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities and there is reasonable suspicion that the subject of the information is involved in criminal conduct.

2500.605 RELATED ENFORCEMENT CODE SECTIONS

- PC § 403 Disturbance of Assembly or Meeting
- PC § 404 Riot Defined
- PC § 404.6 Urging Riot; Burning or Destroying Property
- PC § 405a Escape from Lawful Custody
- PC § 406 Riot
- PC § 407 Unlawful Assembly
- PC § 409 Remaining at Riot After Warning to Disperse
- PC § 409.5 Entering Into Area Closed During an Emergency
- PC § 410 Officer: Neglects/Refuses to Disperse Rioters
- PC § 416 Refusing to Disperse on Lawful Command
- PC § 647c Obstruction of Thoroughfare/Public Place

PC § 726 Officers to Command Rioters to Disperse
PC § 727 Obligation to Arrest if Failure to Disperse

2500.606 ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY

- A. Dispersal Order: A dispersal order must be given before a person can be guilty of remaining at a place of a riot, rout, or unlawful assembly.
 - 1. Should the Incident Commander make a determination that public safety is presently or is about to be jeopardized, he/she or the authorized designee should attempt to verbally persuade event organizers or participants to disperse of their own accord. Warnings and advisements may be communicated through established communications links with leaders and/or participants or to the group.
- B. Announcement: The unlawful assembly announcement should be given in a clear and loud voice, utilizing a loudspeaker if necessary.
 - 1. When initial attempts at verbal persuasion are unsuccessful, the Incident Commander, or his/her authorized designee, should make a clear standardized announcement to the gathering that the event is an unlawful assembly, and should order the dispersal of the participants.
- C. Announcement Wording: The unlawful assembly/dispersal announcement may have the following form: *“I am (Name, Rank), of the California State Fair Police Department. I hereby declare this to be an unlawful assembly and, in the name of the People of the State of California, command all those assembled at (give specific location) to immediately disperse. If you do not disperse you will be arrested.”*
- D. Exit Route: Announce also a route acceptable for the demonstrators to take when leaving the area.
- E. Time to Comply: A reasonable amount of time should be given for compliance. If the crowd fails to disperse, the order for arrest may then be given.
- F. Perimeter: Establish a well identifiable perimeter within which all persons who choose to remain will be arrested.
 - 1. The area to be cleared of demonstrators must be clearly defined.
 - 2. If feasible, an officer should be stationed at the outermost point of the perimeter during the dispersal order to ensure that the order can be heard.

2500.607 ARREST PROCEDURE

- A. Justification: Arrests must be justified and only that amount of force necessary shall be used to make the arrests.
- B. Expedited Handling: Incidents shall be handled as quickly as possible without escalating the situation.
- C. Unauthorized Entry: Entry into the incident perimeter by unauthorized persons shall be prohibited. Persons wishing to leave shall be allowed the opportunity unless there is a legitimate reason for arrest.

2500.608 CALL-UP PERSONNEL

- A. Emergency Situation: The ranking supervisor, with the approval of the Chief of Police, shall call in those off-duty personnel necessary to handle the disturbance.

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Department General Order № 2500.600, Civil Disturbances and Riots

1. If it is not feasible to call up off-duty personnel, resources will be requested from surrounding allied agencies.
- B. Non-Emergency Situation: If the situation allows for advance planning, use the procedures outlined in the Departmental General Order № 2500.700 for Civil Disobedience/Mass Arrest.

2500.609 DEMOBILIZATION

- A. When appropriate, the Incident Commander, or his/her authorized designee, should implement a phased and orderly withdrawal of law enforcement resources. All relieved personnel should promptly complete any required reports, including use of force reports, and account for all issued equipment to their supervisors prior to returning to normal operational duties.