

CHAPTER 4
DISENTANGLEMENT
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CHAPTER 4

DISENTANGLEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION.

a. General. A Disentanglement Team is a specialized element of the Special Response Team (SRT), trained and equipped to safely and effectively extricate individuals from protester devices. These improvised devices, which include sleeping dragons, Bear Claws, Iron Maidens, lock boxes, tripods, bicycle locks, etc., act as force multipliers, enabling smaller numbers of protesters to effectively block access to a public place, building, freeway or roadway.

b. Law enforcement's proper response and handling of these situations is critical to protect First Amendment rights, ensure public safety, provide lawful access to public space, and avoid civil litigation. In order to effectively address these contemporary civil disturbance threats, the Department has developed Disentanglement Teams. To maintain effective accountability and oversight, approved Disentanglement Teams will be a component of, and responsible to, their Division SRT chain of command.

2. POLICY. Each Disentanglement Team must be approved by the Assistant Commissioner, Field. These teams will provide Division commanders an additional means to rapidly and effectively respond to and mitigate active or potential acts of civil disturbance which may inflict harm to human life or damage to property or state infrastructure through use of improvised devices. Disentanglement Teams can respond as a specialized element of a Division's SRT, or independently to mitigate a threat, as deemed most appropriate by the Division commander.

a. The structure of these teams, training requirements, and equipment are identified in this chapter and shall be followed.

3. TEAM COMPOSITION. A Disentanglement Team consists of one team leader (sergeant), seven team members (officers), and three alternates (one sergeant and two officers).

4. TRAINING.

a. Initial Training. Each Disentanglement Team member must successfully complete the Initial Disentanglement Training hosted by the Academy, Advanced Officer Safety Training (AOST) Unit, in conjunction with the SRT Training Cadre.

b. Quarterly Training. Special Response Team commanders shall ensure there is a disentanglement element provided to each Disentanglement Team member quarterly. This should include both classroom instruction and practical training using Disentanglement Team tools and equipment. In order to ensure consistency and team proficiency throughout the state, a recommended quarterly training guide has been developed (refer to Annex A). Each Division SRT has the flexibility to conduct additional training, as necessary, to develop and maintain team effectiveness.

c. Recertification Training. Team members shall attend annual recertification training hosted by the Academy, AOST Unit, in conjunction with the SRT Training Cadre to demonstrate proficiency with the array of disentanglement tools and equipment. Team members who fail to demonstrate proficiency will be removed from active member status until proficiency is demonstrated.

d. Training Reporting Procedures. Team leaders shall ensure all Disentanglement Team training is properly documented in the Employee Training Records System, and prepare an annual memorandum to their SRT commander summarizing training accomplishments for the year. Team members shall attend a minimum of three quarterly training sessions within a 12-month period. Failure to attend three quarterly sessions will cause a Disentanglement Team member to be moved to inactive status until appropriate training and proficiency is demonstrated.

5. EQUIPMENT. Only departmentally authorized tools may be utilized (refer to Annex B). It is the responsibility of the team leader to ensure the general upkeep and proper maintenance of this specialized equipment. As blades and bits become unserviceable, the Division will be responsible for replacing those items.

a. New Equipment. If a Division SRT identifies a piece of equipment they would like to add to the authorized equipment list, they should submit a memorandum to the Academy, AOST Unit, outlining the equipment description, the need, the benefit to the Disentanglement Teams, and the cost.

(1) Special Response Team Cadre Approval. Once the AOST Unit has received the memorandum, they will evaluate the viability of the equipment. If supported by AOST, the proposal will be presented at the next SRT cadre meeting for consideration and approval. If approved, a recommendation will be made to the SRT Steering Committee.

(2) Special Response Team Steering Committee Approval. The AOST Unit sergeant will present the equipment evaluation to the SRT Steering Committee for their consideration and approval. With the SRT Steering Committee's endorsement, the AOST sergeant will submit the proposal to Executive

Management for final approval. If approved by Executive Management, the equipment will be added to the authorized equipment list.

(3) New Equipment Training. The SRT will train the Disentanglement Teams on the use of the new equipment at the next disentanglement recertification course. Disentanglement personnel shall not use the equipment until they have received training from the SRT.

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ANNEX A

STANDARDIZED QUARTERLY TRAINING GUIDE

This list is not all-inclusive and is recommended as a guide for standardized quarterly training. Each Disentanglement Team has the flexibility to conduct additional training, as needed, to develop their team. The following is a list of quarterly training:

First Quarter: Review related departmental policy (Highway Patrol Manual [HPM] 50.1, Emergency Incident Management Planning and Operations Manual; HPM 50.5, Civil Disturbance Planning and Operations Manual; HPM 50.6, Special Response Team; and HPM 70.6, Officer Safety Manual), the First and Fourth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and current case law. Practice the safe and methodical extrication of two individuals from sleeping dragons using extrication tools.

Second Quarter: Review related departmental policy (HPM 50.1, HPM 50.5, HPM 50.6, and HPM 70.6). Review current terrorist/protester group trends in California, the United States, and throughout the world. Practice the safe and methodical extrication of three individuals from concrete-encased sleeping dragons, using the proper extrication tools.

Third Quarter: Review related departmental policy (HPM 50.1, HPM 50.5, HPM 50.6, and HPM 70.6). Extricate an individual using a bicycle pick and/or appropriate extrication tools.

Fourth Quarter: Review related departmental policy (HPM 50.1, HPM 50.5, HPM 50.6, and HPM 70.6). Conduct scenario-based training, and include the effective extrication of individuals utilizing the various tools and devices.

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ANNEX B

LIST OF DISENTANGLEMENT EQUIPMENT

1. Long-handled shovels.
2. Sledgehammers, 12-pound.
3. Sledgehammers, 8-pound.
4. Vice-grip pliers.
5. Hacksaws and assorted blades.
6. Bolt cutters, 36-inch.
7. Bolt cutters, 16-inch.
8. Miscellaneous screwdriver set.
9. Box and open-end wrench set.
10. Crescent wrench set, 3-piece.
11. Tin snips.
12. Tape measure, 12-foot.
13. Tape measure, 100-foot.
14. Channel lock pliers, 12-inch.
15. Safety goggles.
16. Leather gloves.
17. Canvas drop cloths.
18. Pressurized water cans, 2.5-gallon.
19. Tool-carrying caddy.
20. Rolls of duct tape.
21. Funnel.

22. Gas cans with 93 octane gasoline, 5-gallon.
23. Extension cords, 14-gauge.
24. Wood step chocks (or “Wally” board).
25. Concrete chisel.
26. Pry bars.
27. Generators (1,300-watt, plus).
28. Reciprocating saw.
29. Blades, reciprocating (rescue style).
30. Extrication saw (i.e., K-12).
31. Masonry composition blades, extrication saw, 12-inch.
32. Electric 15-amp concrete jackhammer (plus essential bits).
33. Electric circular saw.
34. Angle grinder.
35. Rotary tools (Dremel or Roto-Zip).
36. Flame-resistant hoods (i.e., Nomex).
37. Latex gloves.
38. Respiratory protection (i.e., paper filter mask).
39. Needle-nose pliers.
40. Push broom.
41. Wheel cart.
42. Shop rags/towels.
43. Angle grinder wheels–cut-off.
44. Angle grinder wheels–metal grinding.
45. Rotary cut-off wheels–metal (extra).

46. Brake cleaner aerosol cans.
47. Rotary hammers and essential bits.
48. Ear protection.
49. Rebar cutter.
50. Biohazard waste bags.
51. Band saw.
52. Utility tool box (large).
53. Spray bottles.
54. Disposable plastic face shields.
55. Portable fire suppression units.
56. Medical kit.

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