

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL ORDER



BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE ISSUED: May 8, 2025	DATE EFFECTIVE: <del>August 23, 2025</del> <u>January 1, 2026</u>	NUMBER: SO25-019 <u>A</u>	PAGE: 1 of 4
TO: Distribution "A"		RETENTION DATE: Until Rescinded	
SUBJECT: <b>Manual Revision – <u>7-804 Evaluating and Responding to High-Risk Situations</u></b>		APPROVED BY: <i>Chief O'Hara</i>	

MP-8806

**Introduction:** This policy is being added to describe the how members should apply the critical decision-making model to high risk situations.

This special order was updated with minor changes to ensure better clarity and operational effectiveness.

- The new changes are tracked and highlighted in yellow.
- The originally scheduled third session of Use of Force training was delayed. Training has been completed and the new policy effective date is 01/01/26.

Effective with the issuance of this Special Order, Section 7-804 of the MPD Policy and Procedure Manual shall be added as follows:

**7-804 Evaluating and Responding to High-Risk Situations**  
(08/23/25)

**I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a standardized decision-making framework that guides members in evaluating and responding to high-risk situations.

By training all members to this standardized process, the MPD seeks to instill the principles of critical thinking, the Duty to De-escalate (P&P 7-802), the principle of Avoiding Escalation and Unnecessary Risk (P&P 7-802), and the pursuit of the Department's Mission, Vision, Values and Goals (P&P 0-102).

**II. High-Risk Threat Response**

Members (including non-tactical members involved in initial response) can apply the critical decision-making model (CDM) (P&P 7-801) and can generally use the following strategies in addressing high-risk threats.

## **A. High-Risk Threat Assessment**

The purpose of a high-risk threat assessment is to evaluate the nature of a volatile and potentially dangerous situation and determine the best course of action to uphold the sanctity of life.

The following categories can be generally used to evaluate the urgency of action in addressing threats:

### 1. Isolated

A threat is isolated when the person or people who pose a threat of harm are known to be alone and do not currently pose an imminent threat to the public.

### 2. Developing

A threat is developing when the person or people who pose a threat of harm are in the presence of others, and there is a potential risk of imminent harm to those nearby.

### 3. Immediate

A threat is immediate when actions of a person or people create a threat of imminent harm to others. An immediate threat requires action by members without delay.

## **B. Resource Organization**

After assessing the threat, members should consider the following tactics or actions:

- Creating or strengthening the perimeter of the incident to further isolate the person or people posing a threat.
- Identifying safe routes for moving resources to and from the scene.
- Evacuating the surrounding area of people who might be in danger, to the extent reasonably possible.
- Maintaining clear communication:
  - Between members.
  - With any additional resources on scene.
  - With the person or people posing a threat, when appropriate.

### 1. Building teams

As resources arrive or become available, teams should be organized to handle a variety of tasks and functions. Teams should be formed to prepare for addressing the different categories of potential threats, including but not limited to:

- Immediate response teams.
- Perimeter teams.
- Evacuation teams.

## 2. Task organization

When establishing teams, functions should be assigned to account for actions and capabilities that may be needed to address the threat categories. These functions may include:

- Primary communicator.
- Arrest and control.
- Intermediate weapons (P&P 5-300).
- Ballistic shields.
- Breaching tools.
- Lethal cover.

## 3. Additional support resources

Members should stage Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Members should also consider whether resources such as the following may be necessary and should be requested:

- UAS (drones) (P&P 4-226).
- Air support (State Patrol helicopter).
- Crisis negotiator.

## **C. Contingency Planning**

Members should develop plans that account for a variety of behaviors or actions by the person or people posing a threat.

These contingencies may include the following:

- Compliance.
- Fleeing.
- Opposition.
- Barricade.
- Rescue.

## **III. Definitions**

**Critical Decision-Making Model:** A tool that allows members to organize situational factors and inform their decisions as they respond to police incidents of all degrees of complexity. All sworn members are trained in using the critical decision-making model (CDM). (P&P 7-801)

**Fleeing:** An effort by the person to avoid arrest or capture through actions such as running, biking or driving away.

**Imminent Threat:** A threat is imminent when all of the following apply:

- It can be articulated with specificity.
- It is reasonably likely to occur absent action by the law enforcement officer, and

- It must be addressed through the use of objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional force without unreasonable delay.

A fear of future harm is only an imminent threat if it must be addressed without unreasonable delay, no matter how great the fear or likelihood of harm.

An imminent threat is not merely a fear of future harm, no matter how great the fear, and no matter how great the likelihood of harm.

**Tactical Positioning:** A member's attempts to place themselves in the best tactical position possible to reduce unnecessary risk, plan for contingencies, allow for other de-escalation techniques and tactics, and allow for implementation of the critical decision-making model.

**Totality of the Circumstances:** All facts known to the member at the time, including the conduct of both the member and the person leading up to the action (such as the use of force).