

Operations Planning and Deconfliction

608.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for planning, deconfliction and execution of high-risk operations.

Additional guidance on planning and serving high-risk warrants is provided in the Warrant Service Policy.

608.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

High-risk operations - Operations, including service of search and arrest warrants and sting operations, that are likely to present higher risks than are commonly faced by officers on a daily basis, including suspected fortified locations, reasonable risk of violence or confrontation with multiple persons, or reason to suspect that persons anticipate the operation.

608.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Louisville Police Department to properly plan and carry out high-risk operations, including participation in a regional deconfliction system, in order to provide coordination, enhance the safety of members and the public, decrease the risk of compromising investigations and prevent duplicating efforts.

608.3 OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

An available member of the Command Staff will be designated as the operations director.

The operations director will develop and maintain a risk assessment form to assess, plan and coordinate operations. This form should provide a process to identify high-risk operations.

The operations director will review risk assessment forms with involved supervisors to determine whether a particular incident qualifies as a high-risk operation. The director will also have the responsibility for coordinating operations that are categorized as high risk.

[Risk Assessment Matrix-LPD Form 22.pdf](#)

608.4 RISK ASSESSMENT

608.4.1 RISK ASSESSMENT FORM PREPARATION

Officers assigned as operational leads for any operation that may qualify as a high-risk operation shall complete a risk assessment form.

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When preparing the form, the officer should query all relevant and reasonably available intelligence resources for information about the subject of investigation, others who may be present and the involved location. These sources may include regional intelligence and criminal justice databases, target deconfliction systems, firearm records, commercial databases and property records. Where appropriate, the officer should also submit information to these resources.

The officer should gather available information that includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Photographs, including aerial photographs, if available, of the involved location, neighboring yards and obstacles.
- b. Maps of the location.
- c. Diagrams of any property and the interior of any buildings that are involved.
- d. Historical information about the subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession or use, known mental health disorder, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history).
- e. Historical information about others who may be present at the location (e.g., other criminals, innocent third parties, dependent adults, children, animals).
- f. Obstacles associated with the location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance measures, number and type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations).
- g. Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service).
- h. Other available options that may minimize the risk to officers and others (e.g., making an off-site arrest or detention of the subject of investigation).

608.4.2 RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Officers will present the risk assessment form and other relevant documents (such as copies of search warrants and affidavits and arrest warrants) to their supervisors, via the chain of command, ending with approval by the operations director.

The supervisor and operations director shall confer and determine the level of risk. Supervisors should take reasonable actions if there is a change in circumstances that elevates the risks associated with the operation.

608.4.3 HIGH-RISK OPERATIONS

If the operations director, after consultation with the involved supervisor, determines that the operation is high risk, the operations director should:

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1. Determine what resources will be needed at the location, and contact and/or place on standby any of the following appropriate and available resources:
 1. SWAT Team (SWAT)
 2. Additional personnel
 3. Outside agency assistance
 4. Special equipment
 5. Medical personnel
 6. Persons trained in negotiation
 7. Additional surveillance
 8. Canines
 9. Property and Evidence Section or analytical personnel to assist with cataloguing seizures
 10. Forensic specialists
 11. Specialized mapping for larger or complex locations
2. Contact the appropriate department members or other agencies as warranted to begin preparation.
3. Ensure that all legal documents such as search warrants are complete and have any modifications reasonably necessary to support the operation.
4. Coordinate the actual operation.

608.5 DECONFLICTION

Deconfliction systems are designed to identify persons and locations associated with investigations or law enforcement operations and alert participating agencies when others are planning or conducting operations in close proximity or time or are investigating the same individuals, groups or locations.

The officer who is the operations lead shall ensure the subject of investigation and operations information have been communicated to the regional drug task force and or surrounding law enforcement agencies to determine if there is reported conflicting activity. This should occur as early in the process as practicable, but no later than two hours prior to the commencement of the operation. The officer should also relay relevant updated information when it is received.

If any conflict is discovered, the supervisor will contact the involved jurisdiction and resolve the potential conflict before proceeding.

608.6 OPERATIONS PLAN

The operations director should ensure that a written operations plan is developed for all high-risk operations. Plans should also be considered for other operations that would benefit from having a formal plan.

The plan should address such issues as:

1. Operation goals, objectives, and strategies.
2. Operation location and people:

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1. The subject of investigation (e.g., history of weapon possession/use, known mental health disorder issues, known drug use, threats against police, gang affiliation, criminal history)
2. The location (e.g., fortification, booby traps, reinforced doors/windows, surveillance cameras and/or lookouts, number/type of buildings, geographic and perimeter barriers, the number and types of weapons likely to be present, information that suggests the presence of explosives, chemicals or other hazardous materials, the potential for multiple dwellings or living spaces, availability of keys/door combinations), including aerial photos, if available, and maps of neighboring yards and obstacles, diagrams, and other visual aids
3. Other environmental factors (e.g., nearby venues such as schools and day care centers, proximity of adjacent homes or other occupied buildings, anticipated pedestrian and vehicle traffic at the time of service)
4. Identification of other people who may be present in or around the operation, such as other criminal suspects, innocent third parties, and children
3. Information from the risk assessment form by attaching a completed copy in the operational plan.
 1. The volume or complexity of the information may indicate that the plan includes a synopsis of the information contained on the risk assessment form to ensure clarity and highlighting of critical information.
4. Participants and their roles.
 1. An adequate number of uniformed officers should be included in the operation team to provide reasonable notice of a legitimate law enforcement operation.
 2. How all participants will be identified as law enforcement (CRS§ 16-3-305).
5. Whether deconfliction submissions are current and all involved individuals, groups, and locations have been deconflicted to the extent reasonably practicable.
6. Identification of all communications channels and call-signs.
7. Use of force issues.
8. Contingencies for handling medical emergencies (e.g., services available at the location, closest hospital, closest trauma center).
9. Plans for detaining people who are not under arrest.
10. Contingencies for handling children, dependent adults, animals, and other people who might be at the location in accordance with the Child Abuse, Adult Abuse, Child and Dependent Adult Safety and Animal Control policies.
11. Communications plan.
12. Responsibilities for writing, collecting, reviewing, and approving reports.
13. Requirements for no-knock entries as provided in CRS § 16-3-303, CRS §16-3-305, and CRS § 16-3-312,

608.6.1 OPERATIONS PLAN RETENTION

Since the operations plan contains intelligence information and descriptions of law enforcement tactics, it shall not be filed with the report. The operations plan shall be stored separately and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule.

608.7 OPERATIONS BRIEFING

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A briefing should be held prior to the commencement of any high-risk operation to allow all participants to understand the operation, see and identify each other, identify roles and responsibilities and ask questions or seek clarification as needed. Anyone who is not present at the briefing should not respond to the operation location without specific supervisory approval.

1. The briefing should include a verbal review of plan elements, using visual aids, to enhance the participants' understanding of the operations plan.
2. All participants should be provided a copy of the operations plan and search warrant, if applicable. Participating personnel should be directed to read the search warrant and initial a copy that is retained with the operation plan. Any items to be seized should be identified at the briefing.
3. The operations director shall ensure that all participants are visually identifiable as law enforcement officers.
 1. Exceptions may be made by the operations director for officers who are conducting surveillance or working undercover. However, those members exempt from visual identification should be able to transition to a visible law enforcement indicator at the time of enforcement actions, such as entries or arrests, if necessary.
4. The briefing should include details of the communications plan.
 1. It is the responsibility of the operations director to ensure that the Communications Center is notified of the time and location of the operation, and to provide a copy of the operation plan prior to officers arriving at the location.
 2. If the radio channel needs to be monitored by the Communications Center, the dispatcher assigned to monitor the operation should attend the briefing, if practicable, but at a minimum should receive a copy of the operation plan.
 3. The briefing should include a communications check to ensure that all participants are able to communicate with the available equipment on the designated radio channel.

608.8 SWAT PARTICIPATION

If the operations director determines that SWAT participation is appropriate, the director and the SWAT supervisor shall work together to develop a written plan. The SWAT supervisor shall assume operational control until all persons at the scene are appropriately detained and it is safe to begin a search. When this occurs, the SWAT supervisor shall transfer control of the scene to the handling supervisor. This transfer should be communicated to the officers present.

608.9 SPECIAL EVENTS AND DIGNITARY PROTECTION

For special events, including dignitary visits, that require department involvement, the operations director should also consider whether to apply some or all of this policy to the event and address the following:

- a. The size of any crowds anticipated to gather and the likelihood that crowd control could pose a problem
- b. The possibility of crime in the area
- c. Protection of VIPs
- d. Coordination with VIP teams

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- e. Coordination of VIP management with other jurisdictions
- f. Whether the Department has the capacity to handle the event and, if not, ensure that assistance from the appropriate outside agencies is coordinated
- g. Personnel allocation
- h. Possible use of private security
- i. Traffic management plans
- j. Arrest protocol, including management of mass arrests

608.10 MEDIA ACCESS

No advance information regarding planned operations shall be released without the approval of the Chief of Police. Any media inquiries or press release after the fact shall be handled in accordance with the Media Relations Policy.

608.11 OPERATIONS DEBRIEFING

High-risk operations should be debriefed as soon as reasonably practicable. The debriefing should include as many participants as possible. This debrief may be separate from any SWAT debriefing. After the debriefing, the investigating officer or supervisor should prepare an after action report and submit that report to the operations director.

608.12 TRAINING

The Deputy Chief should ensure officers and SWAT team members who participate in operations subject to this policy receive periodic training including, but not limited to, topics such as legal issues, deconfliction practices, operations planning concepts and reporting requirements.

Attachments

Risk Assessment Matrix-LPD Form 22.pdf

LOUISVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX

- This matrix is to be completed for **all** search warrants for real property, pre-planned felony arrest warrants and situations in which a suspect barricades himself or herself.
- All supporting documents (criminal history checks, suspect photos, address checks, etc.) are to be attached to this document.

Address/target location

Type of warrant (search or arrest)

Case number

Date

Case officer

Personnel assigned:

Risk assessment is based on facts and circumstances stated in the affidavit for the warrant and pertinent source documents to include, but limited to, the criminal history of suspect(s), police/criminal history at the target location, premise hazard notes, details obtained during the scout of the target location and any known and definitive intelligence obtained during the investigation.

To conduct the risk assessment, the on-duty supervisor will review all source documents and circle all applicable points. The supervisor will total the points and document the threat assessment score where indicated. The supervisor will compare the threat assessment score to the decision matrix and consult the Staff Duty Officer to determine how to proceed.

SCORE

1 – 19 points

20 – 30 points

30 or more points

DECISION MATRIX

Service of warrant may be handled by on duty officers (Staff Duty Officer will be consulted prior to warrant briefing and service).

Street supervisor should consider utilizing tactical assistance in service of the warrant (Staff Duty Officer will be consulted prior to warrant briefing and service).

Mandatory service of warrant by Boulder County SWAT. Staff Duty Officer will coordinate and supervise execution of warrant.

RISK ASSESSMENT FACTORS

Search Warrant

Points (circle all applicable)

Search warrant is for evidence of property crime(s) <u>only</u>	2
Search warrant is for evidence of narcotics violations	3
Search warrant is for evidence of crimes against persons	5

Arrest Warrant

Arrest warrant is for property crime(s) <u>only</u>	1
Arrest warrant is for narcotics violations	5
Arrest warrant is for violent felony crime against persons	10

Service

Warrant will not require forced entry	0
Location has vicious dogs, surveillance equipment or lookouts	3
Warrant is "No-Knock"	SWAT
Warrant requires forced entry with tools and/or equipment due to fortification	SWAT
Location is booby trapped	SWAT
Location has active drug lab	SWAT

Suspect

Suspect is wanted for/has history of property crimes <u>only</u>	1
Suspect is wanted for/has history of crimes against persons	3
Suspect is wanted for/has history of weapons violations	5
Suspect is wanted for/has history of crime(s) involving a firearm	15
Suspect has barricaded himself/herself	SWAT
Suspect is barricaded, suicidal, unarmed and refuses to surrender	SWAT
Suspect is barricaded, suicidal, <u>armed</u> and refuses to surrender	SWAT
Suspect is wanted for/has history of threats against police with a weapon	SWAT
Suspect is a confirmed member of a violent criminal organization	SWAT
Suspect has required SWAT for arrest or search in the past	SWAT

Weapons

Confirmed firearms at target location	1
Suspect is known to carry firearms at target locations	10
Suspect is always armed	15

Total risk assessment score _____

Case Officer

Date

Supervisor

Date

Commander

Date

Chief of Police

Date