



PAWNEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SHERIFF DARRIN VARNELL

Policy # Crowd Control	Related Policies:
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by The Pawnee County Sheriff's Office for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable Oklahoma Statutes:	
CALEA Standard: 46.1.2, 46.1.4, 46.1.10	

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for managing crowds and preserving the peace during demonstrations, large gatherings, and the handling of civil disturbances.
- II. **Policy:** It shall be the policy of The Pawnee County Sheriff's Office to provide an effective law enforcement presence at assemblies and gatherings in a posture that guarantees the constitutional rights of participants and promotes an orderly, lawful demonstration in the best interest of public safety and community harmony.
- III. **Definitions:**
 - A. **Civil Disturbance:** An unlawful assembly, as defined by state statutes and local ordinances. Normally, a gathering that constitutes a breach of the peace or an assembly of persons where there is a threat of collective violence, destruction of property, or other unlawful acts. These are typically, but not always, spontaneous occurrences requiring the emergency mobilization of agency forces and related emergency services.
 - B. **Demonstration:** A legal assembly of persons organized primarily to express political or other views. These typically scheduled events allow for prior agency planning. They include but are not limited to marches, protests, and other assemblies that are largely designed to attract the attention of onlookers, the media, and others. Demonstrations can evolve into civil disturbances that necessitate enforcement actions. Although crowd control may be necessary at sporting events, festivals, concerts, and related events, these are not defined as demonstrations.

- C. Crowd Control:** Techniques used to address unlawful public assemblies, to include a show of force, crowd containment and dispersal equipment and strategies, and preparations for multiple arrests.
- D. Crowd Management:** Techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event for maintaining their lawful status as accomplished through event planning, pre-event contact with group leaders, and issuance of permits, intelligence gathering, personnel training, and other means.

IV. Procedures:

- A. CMRT Training:** The Sheriff's Office will develop the policies and procedure manual to implement CMRT which will include training in the following areas:
 - a. Tactical handling of spontaneous incidents.
 - b. Tactical handling of Pre-Planned Incidents
 - c. Personnel Issues.
 - d. Coordination with the Mobile Field Force Concept.
 - e. Use of Force Issues.
 - f. Use of less lethal weapons, chemical agents, fire hoses, and electronic control weapons.
 - g. Arrest techniques for passive demonstrators.
 - h. Use of Arrest Teams.
 - i. Close quarter defensive tactics.
 - j. Handgun retention.
 - k. Human Diversity Awareness and group sensitivity.
 - l. First Amendment Issues.
 - m. Creation of First Amendment Zones.
 - n. Critical Incident Management Training.
 - o. After Action Reports.
 - p. Other Training as deemed appropriate.

V. Civil Disturbances: Deputies will preserve the peace, protect life and prevent the destruction of property, and remain impartial to all parties in a demonstration. Deputies may take appropriate enforcement action when a demonstration violates the provisions of the State laws. Deputies will notify supervisors when such demonstrations take place whenever they become aware of a demonstration and the on-duty CMRT will be dispatched to assess the situation and coordinate an effective response in concert with the Incident Commander.

- a. Responding Deputy:** The first Deputy(s) on the scene of a civil disturbance will observe the situation from a safe distance, notify the Dispatch of the seriousness of the situation, notify a supervisor as soon as practicable, request the CMRT to respond, and attempt to identify, by observation, the leader of the group.
- b. Incident Commander:** The responding supervisor will assume command of the incident until relieved by a higher authority. Supervisors will assess the situation;

consult with the responding CMRT supervisor to determine the appropriate response, establish a command post, inform Dispatch of the crowd size; mood, weapons involved and any property destroyed, injuries, and deploy necessary traffic control in the area.

- c. **Riots:** When the Incident Commander and the CMRT supervisor have determined that the crowd has become violent and destructive requiring additional law enforcement action, the Mobile Field Force will be deployed. The Mobile Field Force Commander will assume command of the incident, and when an adequate number of personnel are in place, issue a dispersal order to the crowd via the public address system, establish a time limit for dispersal, and when necessary, order the use of Mobile Field Force tactics to restore order and disperse the crowd.
- d. **Mutual Aid:** Requests for mutual aid will be governed by compliance with Oklahoma law.

VI. Mobile Field Force: A mobile field force will be led by a lieutenant or higher and is normally deployed for the following assignments:

- A. To rescue Deputies under hazardous conditions.
- B. To apprehend multiple offenders, i.e. looters.
- C. To isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster by the use of large, organized perimeters.
- D. To control or disperse unruly crowds
- E. Other assignments as required.

VII. The agency will conduct MFF training with all sworn personnel on an annual basis or as deemed necessary by the Chief/Sheriff.

VIII. Use of Force/Response to Active Resistance Reporting and Investigation:

Established use-of-force/response to active resistance reporting of The Pawnee County Sheriff's Office is equally applicable to policing mass demonstrations and civil disturbances. However, reporting, documenting, and reporting use of force in the context of civil disturbances and mass demonstrations can be hampered by logistical and safety concerns. As such, this agency's internal affairs or professional standards unit shall comply with the following protocols during such events:

- A. A member of the professional compliance unit or internal affairs (IA) unit, as appropriate, shall be assigned to the command post of the incident commander during a mass demonstration or civil disturbance to coordinate and record force-related information and complaints.
- B. The IA team will review all incidents of use of force and investigate all complaints of excessive force. The IA team should be prepared to deploy quickly to a serious use of force incident and initiate an investigation as soon as practicable when a complaint is generated.
- C. The IA team shall have full access to all video and photographic records documenting police and crowd actions.
- D. The IA team will complete a comprehensive after-action report describing the use of force deployed during the event.
- E. The IA team shall have full access to all video and photographic records documenting law enforcement and crowd actions.