



### Critical Incident Awareness

Over the past few years, the Field Training Bureau has distributed advisories of related topics such as; Critical Incident Management, Critical Incident Response, Rapid Deployment Tactics, Ambush Resolution and Maintaining Vigilance. All of these topics involve situations referred to as, High Intensity/Low Frequency (HI/LF) events and their response deserves review. The following pages will address some of these topics.

### Situational Awareness

#### **Congregate**

When practical, avoid congregating in public view. Throughout the course of a shift, we often get together to talk shop, have Code 7, take a break, etc., and doing so is both reasonable and necessary. During those times, it is human nature to, albeit inadvertent, [REDACTED]. Conducting that type of activity [REDACTED]

#### **Cover vs. Concealment**

Cover is any substance or object capable of stopping bullets. Concealment is anything that masks our movement or location. Given the fact that most of our environment [REDACTED]. Keep these areas in mind when determining possible reactions to threats.

#### **Background / Priority of Life**

When formulating potential responses, keep backdrops in mind. When fired upon or firing back, do your best to position the angles of trajectory to minimize innocent civilians from harm.

### Action/Reaction

#### **Standard Operating Procedures**

Action will always beat reaction. Often, our profession's nature forces us to be on the reaction end of someone else's actions. That being the case, when that action is life-threatening, it is vital we train regularly to react tactically to a variety of situations. Whether it's a gunfight or a physical altercation, you need to have a forceful and effective response built into your muscle memory when you are attacked. A response will be created through frequent training, and it is incumbent upon each individual to seek out and attend additional relevant training.





## Reaction

The term OODA loop refers to the decision cycle of “Observe, Orient, Decide and Act”. When attacked, both you and your opponent are experiencing this cycle. In order to disrupt his/her OODA loop and obtain the tactical advantage, as well as, overcome the lag time created by your reaction, your response needs to be smart, fast, and effective. Maintain situational awareness so that you will not be overcome by events and will prevail.

## Communicate

Communication is an essential component of our day-to-day job. Therefore, you must communicate your situation, as soon as possible; minimally: who you are, where you are, the threat, suspect location and description, resources needed, where they are needed and from where they should enter the location.

Make it a habit to practice the communication of HI/LF scenarios. Discuss the communication of various scenarios with your area partners, then practice saying them out loud in a calm, concise, coherent manner. Under stress, Deputies will tend to speak louder and faster, to the point of being unintelligible. Practicing ahead of time will build a response memory that will mitigate or prevent it.

## Response

### Stay Focused

When responding to aid a fellow Deputy involved in a situation, pay attention to the information you are receiving; weapons used, the area, the suspects, areas of ingress and egress, and other responding units. Is the information that is being put out complete or correct? The initiating Deputy might inadvertently give information you recognize as being incorrect or fail to request assets properly. Be prepared to adjust accordingly.

### Look/Listen to Environment

Once on scene, make a quick assessment of the area. If the fight has moved from the last position broadcasted by the initiating Deputy, look and listen for clues. Senses can be deprived by adrenalin, and when that happens, we must make a conscious effort to look and listen carefully, for even the obvious things can be missed.

### Case Build

From the moment the first transmission of the incident is broadcasted, while responding to the location and upon arrival, you will be gathering information needed to make calculated decisions regarding your involvement in the solution of the problem. For example, the positioning of your vehicle, force options, perimeter/containment needs, etc.

### Fix Mistakes Quickly

With the exception of an accidental discharge, any mistake you make (bad positioning of your car, moving to poor cover or concealment, directing responding units to respond to/from a bad location, etc.) can be fixed; do so quickly.





## Weapons and Equipment

### Weapon Selection

We have two types of weapons; offensive and defensive. [REDACTED] Everything else is defensive. If you know you are responding to a situation involving a suspect [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Our goal is to end the problem as quickly and safely as possible. [REDACTED]. We have a number of vehicle configurations in our fleet. On any given week, you could be driving a combination of vehicles, each requiring different techniques for getting your weapons out of the vehicle.

### Personal Protective Equipment

As with your weapons, keep your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in a location you can quickly access and don and practice doing so. Your PPE consists of (at a minimum) a Kevlar helmet, plate carrier (w/armor). Additionally, you should also carry your Individual First Aid Kit (IFAK) and extra ammunition. When donning all of this gear, there are numerous considerations to include, possible repositioning of your radio and/or PVS mic., possibly removing of your patrol vest and getting in and out of your vehicle with it on. When responding to a HI/LF event, [REDACTED]

### Resources

It is every Deputy and Sergeant's duty to stay current on law and policy. Some of the reference material used for this advisory was; *Graham v Conner*, OCSD policy Manual (Lexipol) sections 300 and 310, FOM sections 46, 51, 67, 74 and FTB Field Operations Advisory Issues 7, 46 and 47. Please review all of the above.

Finally, we owe it to our families, the public we serve, our partners, and ourselves to be the finest we can be at our profession. We must continually strive to hold ourselves to a higher standard and hold each other accountable to do the same.

