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| Policy #**Crowd Control** | Related Policies: |
| *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 for internal discipline and/or criminal charges.* |
| Applicable State Statutes: KRS 39B.010-090, KRS 525.010-160 |
| KACP Accreditation Standard:  |
| Date Implemented: | Revision Date: May 1, 2025 |

1. **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.
2. **Policy**: It shall be the policy of this department to provide an effective police 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.
3. **Definitions:**
	1. **Civil Disturbance:** An unlawful assembly, as defined by state statutes and local ordinances. Normally, a gathering 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 police forces and related emergency services.
	2. **Demonstration:** A legal assembly of people organized primarily to express political or other views. These are typically scheduled events that allow for prior police 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.
	3. **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.
	4. **Crowd Management:** Techniques used to manage lawful assemblies before, during, and after the event for the purpose of maintaining their lawful status as accomplished through event planning, pre-event contact with group leaders, issuance of permits, intelligence gathering, personnel training, and other means.
	5. **Mobile Field Force (MFF):** A platoon of police officers and sergeants usually led by a lieutenant to provide a rapid, organized, and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd control, or other tactical situations. An MFF usually consists of six to eight squads and is supplemented by specialized units such as canine or mounted as appropriate.

**IV. Procedures: In cases where this agency is faced with a crowd control event but lacks the resources to effectively control the event, the Kentucky State Police or another agency with sufficient resources will be notified as soon as practical for assistance.**

1. **Crowd Management Response Team**: To accomplish this goal, the department has established a Crowd Management Response Team (CMRT). The goal of the CMRT is to provide a cadre of highly trained personnel who develop the skills and expertise to diffuse emotionally charged individuals and crowds and facilitate their right to demonstrate, while at the same time preventing the demonstration from escalating into a confrontation that threatens the safety of the demonstrators or the general public.

The CMRT will allow the department to effectively coordinate the deployment of police resources to deal with emotionally charged crowd situations. The CMRT concept seeks to provide a comprehensive operational and tactical response to spontaneous and preplanned demonstrations which may involve controversial social, political, economic, religious, and other issues which often involve emotionally charged but non-violent demonstrators.

Whenever possible, the department will serve as facilitators in these types of demonstrations, ensuring they are orderly in nature while maintaining police impartiality and sensitivity to the dynamics of the demonstration. As a facilitator, the department will seek the inclusion of responsible community leaders, media representatives, and concerned individuals and groups whose collective expertise may be channeled to achieve the lawful assembly of such demonstrations with minimum disruption to the public.

1. **CMRT Training:** The department has formulated an ad-hoc committee that will develop the policies and procedure manual to implement CMRT. It will include training in the following areas:
	* 1. Tactical handling of spontaneous incidents
		2. Tactical handling of preplanned incidents
		3. Personnel issues
		4. Coordination with the Mobile Field Force Concept
		5. Use-of-force issues
		6. Use of less-lethal weapons, chemical agents, fire hoses, and electronic control weapons
		7. Arrest techniques for passive demonstrators
		8. Use of arrest teams
		9. Close-quarter defensive tactics
		10. Handgun retention
		11. Human diversity awareness and group sensitivity
		12. First Amendment issues
		13. Creation of First Amendment zones.
		14. Critical incident management training.
		15. After-action reports.
		16. Other training as deemed appropriate
2. **Civil Disturbances:** Officers will preserve the peace, protect life, prevent the destruction of property, and remain impartial to all parties in a demonstration. Officers may take appropriate enforcement action when a demonstration violates the provisions of the state statute or city/county ordinances. Officers will notify supervisors when such demonstrations take place whenever they become aware of a demonstration. The on-duty CMRT will be dispatched to assess the situation and coordinate an effective response in concert with the incident commander.
3. **Responding Officer:** The first officer(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.
4. **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, property destroyed, injuries, and deploy necessary traffic control in the area.
5. **Riots:** When the incident commander and the CMRT supervisor have determined that the crowd has become violent and destructive, requiring additional police 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.
6. **Mutual Aid:** Requests for mutual aid will be governed by compliance with the Kentucky Revised Statues §39B.010-§39B.090
7. **Mobile Field Force**: A mobile field force will be led by a lieutenant or higher and is normally deployed for the following assignments:
8. To rescue police officers under hazardous conditions
9. To apprehend multiple offenders, i.e., looters
10. To isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster using large, organized perimeters
11. To control or disperse unruly crowds
12. Other assignments as required
13. The department will conduct MFF training with all sworn personnel on an annual basis or as deemed necessary by the chief. The training will cover all issues outlined under item IV.B CMRT training previously enumerated in this policy as well as the items listed above.
14. **Use-of-Force Reporting and Investigation**: Established use-of-force reporting of this department is equally applicable to policing mass demonstrations and civil disturbances. However, reporting, documenting, and reporting the use of force in the context of civil disturbances and mass demonstrations can be hampered by logistical and safety concerns. As such, this department’s internal affairs unit should comply with the following protocols during such events:
15. A member of the department’s internal affairs (IA) unit, as appropriate, should 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.
16. 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.
17. The IA team shall have full access to all video and photographic records documenting police and crowd actions.
18. The IA team will complete a comprehensive after-action report describing the use of force deployed during the event and summarizing the nature of any complaint generated.
19. The IA team will complete a comprehensive after-action report describing the use of force deployed during the event and summarizing the nature of any complaints concerning police tactics.