

Chapter 27

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

"Unusual occurrences" connote situations, generally of an emergency nature, that result from disasters—both natural and man made—and civil disturbances. The category of disasters includes floods and explosions. Civil disturbances include riots, violence arising from rock concerts, and labour disputes.

The many variables affecting the response to unusual occurrences preclude developing standards on specific situations. Therefore, these standards address the administrative and operational measures a department should take in developing plans and preparing operationally to respond effectively to an unusual occurrence.

27.1 Administration

27.1.1 A written directive specifies a position in the department responsible for planning for response to unusual occurrences.

Comments: The person holding this position should be the principal advisor on disasters and civil disturbances. (M M M)

27.1.2 The department has a written plan for responding to natural and man-made disasters and includes provisions for:

- o communications;
- o field command posts;
- o casualty information;
- o community relations/public information (media briefings);
- o military support;
- o public facility security;
- o traffic control;
- o equipment requirements;
- o de-escalation procedures;
- o availability for command (order of precedence); and
- o transportation.

Comments: Thorough planning is a fundamental requirement in meeting the exigencies associated with natural and man-made disasters. The plan should be coordinated with regional or provincial authorities. (M M M)

27.1.3 The department has a written emergency mobilization plan, to include provisions for:

- o communications;**
- o alert stages;**
- o primary and alternate assembly areas;**
- o equipment distribution;**
- o special task force activation;**
- o key personnel designations;**
- o transportation requirements;**
- o management control measures; and**
- o rehearsals.**

Comments: In the event of an unusual occurrence, the planned response of department personnel is imperative. (M M M)

27.1.4 The department maintains liaison with emergency program authorities.

Comments: The department's component charged with preparing an unusual occurrence plan should be required to coordinate the plan's contents with all affected departments. (M M M)

27.1.5 The department has an emergency operations manual for use by command officers that is reviewed and updated at least annually.

Comments: The emergency operations manual should contain step-by-step instructions on how to implement the plan. It should contain referral worksheets that list operational orders, manpower and equipment resources, external resources, command post needs, available communications, security measures, intelligence matters, media relations, and on-site operations. (M M M)

27.1.6 If the department is involved in a contingency plan concerning an emergency situation at a correctional or other institution, it has a written plan for such an occurrence.

Comments: As in other environments susceptible to unusual occurrences, correctional systems and individual institutions should develop plans to prevent and deal with disorders and incidents of extraordinary violence. If the department is included in a contingency plan of another institution, the department should have a parallel plan. (M M M)

27.2 Operations

27.2.1 A written directive requires procedures for responding to industrial relations disputes and/or acts of civil disobedience.

Comments: Policy should reflect that police response should be neutral, non-confrontational and independent.

27.2.2 The department's civil disturbance plan includes the following provisions for carrying out mass arrests:

- o processing (to include booking);**
- o transportation;**
- o detention;**
- o evidence collection;**
- o security;**
- o identification;**
- o interdepartment agreements;**
- o defense counsel visits;**
- o court and prosecutorial liaison;**
- o media relations/public information;**
- o food, water, and sanitation; and**
- o medical treatment.**

Comments: Although alternatives to mass arrests should be actively sought, law enforcement agencies should devise emergency contingency plans for mass arrest situations. The plans should include provisions for prisoner and officer security and the facilitation of the restoration of order by means of lawful arrest. (M M M)