


DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL		
CHAPTER 243	STRATEGIC TACTICAL DISENGAGEMENT	
	Effective: 9/24/2025	Commissioner Approval: 
	Authorities: AS 11.81.900, AS 11.81.370	
	Applicability: Commissioned and Partially Commissioned	
	Special Instructions: Click here to enter text.	

243.100 INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose. This department policy explains the concept of strategic tactical disengagement and provides officers with information to assist in appropriate tactics when encountering non-criminal subjects and suspects who have committed minor offenses going through a mental health crisis.

Disengagement does not apply to mandatory arrest incidents, including when the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed an offense subject to mandatory arrest under AS 18.65.530, , unless the victim is safe and officers have received authorization from the District Attorney in the jurisdiction of the offense as outlined in OPM 212.340 and supervisor approval.

Not all suicidal subject calls require immediate police action. There is a clear distinction between a suspect wanted for a serious crime and an individual who has not committed a crime but is in a mental health crisis. It is not a criminal act to express the desire or even attempt to commit suicide within one's home, and suicidal subjects or persons suffering from a possible mental health crisis are afforded the same constitutional rights as everyone else. Disengagement does not apply when a non-criminal suicidal subject engages in conduct that creates a risk to third parties or is engaging in conduct outside their home.

This chapter supersedes any existing SOPs related to disengagement.

B. Sanctity for human life. Officers are guided by the overarching principle of sanctity for human life in all investigative, enforcement, and other contacts with members of the public.

C. Tactical Disengagement. Some situations require an immediate response, while others allow officers to communicate with the subject, refine tactical plans, and, if necessary, call for additional resources. The actions of an officer will be weighed against the information known, the seriousness and gravity of the situation, the subject's actions, and, when feasible, efforts to de-escalate the situation. Tactical disengagement is one tactic that may be considered when an officer reasonably believes that continued contact with the person presents an unreasonable risk to the subject, the public, and Department members. This is true in situations involving a barricaded suspect, a non-criminal suicidal subject, or a person believed to be experiencing a mental health crisis.

243.200 PROCEDURES

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

243.300 SWAT RESPONSE

SWAT Response. While tactical disengagement is a valuable tool in many situations, there are instances where disengagement is not feasible or appropriate due to the immediate threat posed by an individual to others. In such cases, specialized units, such as SWAT and Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), may be required as outlined in OPM Chapter 233.

243.310 TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. De-escalation. Tactical situations vary, and there is no single solution to resolving every incident. Disengagement is only one of many tactics that should be considered to reduce the intensity of the encounter if it is believed it would de-escalate the situation and no crime or a minor crime has occurred.

B. Assessing the Situation. Officers should continually assess the situation as circumstances change and new information is received. Officers should additionally evaluate if further contact with the subject may result in an undue safety risk to the person, the public, and officers.

225.600 FOLLOW-UP CONSIDERATIONS AND DOCUMENTATION

A. Documentation. In all incidents, officers shall complete the appropriate ARMS report, to include documenting the mental health crisis offense code, if any, and a brief synopsis of the circumstances and the notifications made and to whom.

B. Phone Contact. When no crime has been committed and in-person contact is not necessary or feasible, officers may use phone contact as an alternative means of communication. Officers are encouraged to consider this option when appropriate.

243.700 CRISIS-RELATED RESOURCES

Officers are encouraged to provide crisis-related resources to the subject and person reporting when feasible. Resources include, but are not limited to:

- 988 – National Call Center, Alaska Careline
- 907-452-2771 – Alaska Call Center, Alaska Careline
- 877-266-4357 – Alaska Call Center, Alaska Careline
- Suicide Prevention and Survivor Hotline (877) 727-4747 and (888) 628-9454 (Spanish)