



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OPERATING PROCEDURES MANUAL		
CHAPTER 225	MAJOR INCIDENT INVESTIGATION	
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	Authorities: Click here to enter text.	
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225.100 INTRODUCTION

This chapter identifies a major incident and establishes protocol for handling such an incident.

225.300 DESCRIPTION OF A MAJOR INCIDENT

A major incident is identified as:

1. Multiple or serial homicides, or any death which the Commander or designee deems a major incident;
2. Bombing or sabotage of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline or associated facilities;
3. Assassination or attempted assassination of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or a Supreme Court Justice;
4. Hostage situations;
5. Kidnappings; and
6. Any other situations declared a major incident by the Division Director.

225.310 NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

When a major incident has occurred or is anticipated, the Commander or designee will notify, in this order, the Major Crime Unit (MCU) Field Supervisors and Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) Commander. The ABI Commander will notify the Division Director via the most expedient means.

The Division Director will determine whether ABI or the Detachment will have jurisdiction of the major incident.

225.320 MAJOR INCIDENT REMAINING UNDER LOCAL DETACHMENT JURISDICTION

Detachment retaining jurisdiction of an investigation may request ABI assistance in furnishing trained personnel and specialized resources. A copy of the case report on the incident will be furnished to ABI at case closure.

225.330 MAJOR INCIDENT PLACED UNDER ABI JURISDICTION

A. Investigation will be coordinated with local detachment. The investigation will be coordinated with the Commander, or designee, in the affected area who will provide ABI with support in the form of personnel and resources. ABI will keep the local Commander fully apprised on all aspects of the investigation.

If required, the local detachment will assign at least one investigator, familiar with the community and geography of the concerned area, to assist ABI investigators. This investigator, or other members assigned to the local detachment can be used for follow up or other assignments.

B. Actions and responsibilities of the ABI Commander. The ABI Commander, or his designee, will:

1. Assess the situation or take immediate action to obtain additional information;
2. Ensure steps have been taken to protect the scene and may suggest immediate investigative procedures to follow;
3. Contact and brief the Division Director of the situation daily or as developments occur;
4. Determine the amount of manpower, equipment, and resources needed to properly investigate the incident;
5. Contact and brief investigators as quickly as possible;
6. If necessary, accompany the investigator(s) to the scene and remain as needed;
7. Arrange economical and expedient transport of investigators to the scene of the accident or other areas if needed;
8. Make suggestions as to clothing and personal equipment needed; and,
9. Ensure that the local District Attorney's office is briefed as soon as practical.

C. Actions and responsibilities of the Major Crimes Unit Field Supervisor. The MCU Field Supervisor or the lead investigator will:

1. Immediately contact the local Commander or designee at the scene for the situation briefing;
2. Determine the local and ABI resources (e.g., personnel, technical specialists, and equipment) needed to conduct the investigation;
3. Coordinate all phases of subsequent investigation with the local Commander and the ABI Commander; and,
4. Furnish one copy of all reports to the Commander.

225.340 COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Local police departments and other law enforcement agencies should be apprised of major incidents, which may affect their operations when appropriate. If the investigation will involve

other agencies an investigative task force can be established with the approval of the Division director.

225.350 PRESS RELEASES ON MAJOR INCIDENT

All press releases shall be formulated jointly between the local Commander, the ABI Commander, the Public Information Office, and other agencies involved with the investigation and the Department of Law attorney handling the case. [Ref. OPM 206]

225.360 VILLAGE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER UNARMED OFFICER INTERVENTION

A. Authority to intervene. In many instances, a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) may be present within or near the active shooting location but are typically not armed in their broad public safety role. Whether on or off duty, in uniform or civilian clothes, the VPSO may determine that immediate action is necessary and reasonable to stop the threat. That decision may take into consideration the officer's capability to effectively intervene, based on his or her training and the availability of tools, equipment, or other means. Such an intervention is generally consistent with the emergency exception to firearm use in AS 18.65.678.

B. VPSO responsibilities when able. When VPSOs determine they are not capable of immediate intervention, the Major Incident Response Policy does not expect it of them, but VPSOs must still perform critical functions in active shooter response whenever possible by:

1. Facilitating evacuation by:
 - a. Locating points of egress and directing people to those evacuation points if reasonably safe for them to do so; and,
 - b. Locating and directing persons hiding in unsecure locations (e.g., under desks, inside unlocked rooms) to evacuation points.
2. If evacuation is not possible,
 - a. Helping locate and direct persons to safer locations, preferably with thick walls and solid doors with locks; or, in the absence of such locations, structures or rooms that can be barricaded with heavy furniture or objects;
 - b. Directing individuals to silence all personal electronic devices, take cover, and remain silent; and,
 - d. Taking any actions possible to distract, disrupt, divert, or incapacitate the suspect using surprise attacks and any aggressive force possible.
3. When possible, assisting with the injured and directing incoming teams to injured persons.

225.370 NON-COMMISSIONED INTERVENTION

In the event a non-commissioned employee may be present within or near an active shooting location, the employee may intervene as is consistent with the justification of use of force in defense of a third person or self-defense in AS 11.81.335 and AS.81340.