



Hold Up Alarms and Robberies

.01 Policy

It is the policy of the Bladensburg Police Department to establish specific response procedures designed to provide the maximum safety possible for officers and citizens during hold up alarms and in-progress robberies.

.02 Terms

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

.04 Procedure

A. Communications Responsibility

When notified of a hold up alarm or in-progress armed robbery to a business or financial institution, the dispatcher will:

- Immediately dispatch a primary and minimum of one secondary unit (some situations may require several units);
- Advise the on-duty supervisor; and,
- Not initiate any type of telephone contact with the scene until/unless such contact is requested by the investigating officers.

Upon arriving at the scene, the responding officers will make the determination to have Communications telephone the business and confirm the validity of the alarm.

In the event of a false alarm, the dispatcher will:

- Advise the investigating officers;
- Obtain identification data from an employee and advise the employee to meet the on-scene officer; and,
- Advise the officers of the description of the employee.

In the event of a hold up in progress, the radio dispatcher will:

- Advise the dispatched officers of the available information indicating that an actual hold up is in progress; and,

- Dispatch additional officers as directed by the on-scene personnel.

B. Officer Responsibility

Dispatched officers will advise the dispatcher of their location immediately and respond as quickly and safely as possible, slowing down before arrival to avoid making their presence known.

Responding units will advise their position at the scene upon arrival. The first unit at the scene will be considered the primary unit. The primary unit will be in charge until relieved by a supervisor or by EST personnel, if it is a hostage situation. All other responding units will be considered secondary or back-up units.

Officers will practice "invisible" deployment upon arrival, taking safe positions to avoid cross-fire, and maintain "invisible" deployment until advised of the status of the alarm by Communications.

The primary unit will evaluate the situation and advise Communications whether to initiate a telephone contact to determine the validity of the alarm.

If the dispatcher advises that a hold up is not in progress, the responding officers will:

- Remain in positions and obtain identification of the employee who is to exit the business to verify the alarm status;
- Continue to consider the alarm valid until proper identification of the employee is made; and,
- Not enter the business under any circumstances unless it is determined that all offenders have left the business.

In the event of an actual holdup, the responding officers will:

- Request additional units as needed to secure the perimeter and evacuate civilians;
- Maintain "invisible" deployment until the offenders leave the business;

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- Not enter the business under any circumstances unless it is determined that all offenders have left the business; and,
- If the offenders have left, identification of the employee established, and all necessary safeguards have been taken, officers may enter and secure the scene. It may be necessary to temporarily close the business until the crime scene can be processed.

If a hostage situation develops, the EST Team and Hostage Negotiation Team will be called and will assume responsibility for the situation.

C. Non-Dispatched Officers

Random/non-dispatched units will not respond unannounced.

Officers from other zones or districts in the immediate vicinity will advise Communications and responding officers of their presence and status (i.e. in uniform, marked unit, off duty, plain clothes, etc.). Officers in plainclothes and/or unmarked units will provide a physical description of themselves to the responding officers.

An off-duty officer in a business or in close proximity should take no arrest action unless an immediate life threatening situation exists.

HISTORY: Adopted July 1, 2014

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:



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Chief of Police