



GALENA FIRE DEPARTMENT
Standard Operating Guideline
MASS SHOOTING / ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT

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Fire Chief Signature

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Page: 1 of 2

Purpose: To create a standard of operation to which all members of the GFD operate at the scenes of incidents involving a mass shooting or an incident at which an active shooter is present

This type of incident will be under the direct authority of either the Galena Police Department or the Jo Daviess County Sheriff's Office. If dispatched, GFD will maintain a secondary role in this incident and, once on scene will report to the established Incident Command Post for assignment by the Incident Commander. This meeting should be face-to-face (IC and first responding GFD Officer) if possible, with due consideration for the Officer's safety.

Dispatch and Response Phase

- The nature of the call and exact location are important. While units are responding, the Dispatch shall provide as much information as possible.
- While units are responding, to the extent possible, information should be relayed cell phone in order to keep radio frequencies as clear as possible.
- Emergency units will observe radio silence as much as possible, and will run 'silent' (no lights or siren) to the location dispatched.
- The current threat environment must be assessed. Ask yourself – Are there any current threats, planned events, or intelligence regarding this location? Is this location a "soft target?"
- If not advised by the existing IC, determine a safe staging area that is out of a direct line of site and at least 1500 feet away from the incident scene.

Approaching the Area

- Slow down when approaching the staging area and conduct a 360 degree windshield survey.
- Look for people and objects that seem out of place for the location and time of day. If something looks suspicious, it is most likely worth a call to dispatch to report exactly what you see.
- Limit the number of responders in the staging area. As much as possible, avoid stacking resources in one location where they could become a target.

Arriving at Staging Area

- Immediately conduct a 25 foot circumference search of the area around the staging area to establish a security perimeter. Always maintain awareness for secondary attacks and devices.
- Establish a unified command with Law Enforcement and EMS as soon as possible.
- Stay alert. Law enforcement tactics to active shooter incidents generally dictate the use of Rapid Deployment tactics.



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Page: 2 of 2

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- Don firefighting PPE so you are easily and readily identifiable as a firefighter.
- Fire and EMS units should remain in staging until the area is secured, if possible.
- In situations where an active shooter threat remains – a “scoop and run” decision should be adopted.

Special Considerations

- Be prepared for a large and immediate media response.
- Be prepared for a large and immediate response to the area of parents, family, and friends.