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Policy statement

Summary

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) complies with Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) also Civil contingencies, and has established a local policy to provide clear standards and guidelines to ensure that selected West Yorkshire Police officers have the necessary skills, equipment and support to respond to a CBRN incident as safely and effectively as possible.

Due to the nature of CBRN incidents, police officers and police staff currently undertake these roles on a voluntary basis.

This policy explains the Forces position on selecting, training, equipping and deploying officers and staff for CBRN duties. As well as planning and the procedures that must be undertaken for an arrest and the decontamination process for officers, staff, casualties and detainees.

Scope

This policy applies to all police officers and police staff.

Principles

General

- Officers must qualify for selection meeting the criteria in order to obtain this skill.
- Once selected and trained, officers will be expected to perform these duties throughout their service unless they fall outside the criteria for selection.
- Officers must declare any injury/unfitness to perform before deployment.
- Officers wanting to be removed from their CBRN responder commitment must apply to the lead officer for CRBN.
- CBRN trained officers will be provided with the equipment required and will store, service and maintain their equipment in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- The Force will licence and store devices containing radiation sources in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.
- All responses to CBRN or suspected CBRN incidents can be found in the Force Contingency and Operational plans and must be referred to when dealing with such incidents.
- When deploying to an incident, officers will be deployed in the appropriate PPE and with sufficient equipment to safely fulfil the task.
- All activities concerning CBRN deployments will be generically risk assessed and recorded.
• Officers and staff entering the inner cordon or otherwise coming into contact with suspected contaminants or other contaminated persons must be considered contaminated until deemed otherwise.
• Handling contaminated detainees is a high risk area and support and advice must be sought from CBRN Tactical Advisors or Operations Support CBRN staff.
• Detainees must be decontaminated before travelling within a police vehicle or entering a custody suite.
• Preserving life is the first consideration and, if necessary, the Fire and Rescue Service or Ambulance Trust must be asked to use emergency decontamination.

The Force:
• Is required to have a minimum strength of fifteen police support units (PSUs) as trained responders in basic CBRN techniques as follows:
  o Gold Commanders;
  o Silver Commanders;
  o Bronze Commanders;
  o CBRN Tactical (Tac) Advisors;
  o CBRN trained support officers; and
  o CBRN trained inspectors, sergeants and constables.

• Maintains a number of specialist trained responders as follows:
  o CBRN trained instructors;
  o CBRN trained POLSAs;
  o CBRN trained Crime Scene Investigators;
  o CBRN trained CTU officers;
  o CBRN trained firearms instructors;
  o CBRN trained firearms officers;
  o Portacount trained officers;
  o CBRN search trained officers; and
  o CBRN Tac advisors.

Selection criteria

Criteria for selection

To qualify for selection officers must be:
• Free of facial hair as it interferes with the respirator seal;
• Fit enough to pass the West Yorkshire Police Level 2 PSU fitness test and remain so;
• Level 2 Public Order trained; and
• Officer safety trained in line with the Police Support Unit training policy.

Officers who are selected must complete a medical declaration before they undertake any training. These declarations must be submitted under confidential cover to the Force Medical officer and will be retained in the
Disqualifying criteria

Officers will be disqualified if they:
• Have an underlying heart and/or lung condition;
• Have uncontrollable asthma;
• Are pregnant/lactating;
• Are otherwise prohibited by the Force Medical officer; or
• Are assessed, by an accredited CBRN instructor, as being non competent.

Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

All CBRN trained WYP personnel must be issued with the Civil Responder (CR1) and Quick Don (SR3) outfits and associated equipment as per the current personal protective equipment issue list held by the Force CBRN co-ordinator.

Each officer must be issued with:
• Two full sets of CR1 PPE;
• One set of SR3; and
• One set of CR1 and SR3 training PPE.

Other CBRN equipment

The Force will maintain the following:
• Chemical agent monitors;
• Hazmat ID;
• Radiation detection pagers;
• Radiation monitoring equipment;
• Equipment for conducting safe reconnaissance;
• Safe undressing/decontamination area;
• Decontamination equipment;
• Portacount respirator testing equipment;
• Respirator testing facility;
• Trailer (barrier and communication);
• Training equipment; and
• Escape hoods (issued to personnel at times of heightened tension in response to intelligence or as an operational contingency)

Deployment

In Force

The Force Contingency and Operational plans contain all types of responses to CBRN incidents, and must be referred to when dealing with such incidents.
Reference must be made to the:
• West Yorkshire Multi Agency Concept of Operations;
• Police Strategic Management of CBRN Events; and
• Police Tactical Management of CBRN Events.

**Improvised Explosive Device (IED)**

Officers must be aware that an IED may also contain a chemical element, which in turn may cause a fire.

It is important that all staff dealing with an incident must:
• Consider all the possible outcomes of an IED (secondary devise);
• Conduct a dynamic risk assessment; and
• Establish adequate safety and security controls.

For further information on IED see the Contingency and Operational plans as follows:
• Bomb Threat – Initial action;
• Bomb Explosives – Initial action;
• CBRN white powder/unknown substances – Initial action; and
• CBRN terrorist incidents – Initial action.

Senior managers must ensure all staff, including public enquiry counter staff and external contractors are properly briefed on what to look for and the action to be taken.

**Mutual aid**

WYP will seek to provide mutual aid to our colleagues regionally and nationally. The decision will be made by ACC Protective Services Operations or the duty ACC. Deployments must go through the appropriate channels at the Forces Planning and Logistics sections, but if out of hours, contact Force Control.

**Making an arrest**

**Planning**

• When evidence warrants the arrest of a suspect, due regard should be given to the health and safety of officers engaged in the operation as it is possible they will be confronted with a contaminated environment, prisoner and/or evidence.
• While arresting an offender is a major element of the investigation, the safety of the arrest team is paramount. Appropriate PPE and possibly prophylactic drugs must be considered as part of the operational planning process.

**Decontamination**
Introduction

• Decontamination refers to the removal of hazardous materials from people, equipment and the environment.
• Any person removed from the scene of a suspected CBRN incident must be considered to be contaminated.
• Removing the outer clothing can eliminate up to 80% of contamination. Further decontamination can be achieved through washing or by applying neutralising agents.
• Wherever possible medical advice must be sought regarding the most appropriate method of decontamination.

Police officers and police staff

Incident Protection

• Officers and staff protected by PPE are trained in the safe systems of undressing to remove contaminated clothing.
• Officers and staff who are not protected by PPE must be subject to decontamination the same as a ‘contaminated person’.
• The incident must be fully recorded, as appropriate in Storm, Policy and CBRN logs as appropriate. Recording must include reporting to HSE as a near miss.

Health monitoring

All officers and staff regardless of whether they were wearing PPE or not, must receive a health check, further medical interventions and longer term health monitoring, as necessary with full access to:
• Caring services;
• Occupational Health; and
• The Police Federation, Superintendents’ Association and Trade Unions.

Detainees

Introduction

Decontaminating detainees at the scene can prove to be a dangerous and complex operation. Wherever possible, NECTU officers must be in attendance but, if this is not practical, advice must be sought from NECTU teams or the anti-terrorist branch reserve at New Scotland Yard.

Arresting detainee

• Arresting officers must accompany their detainees through decontamination to:
  o Ensure evidence is not lost or discarded;
  o Protect Fire and Rescue and Health Service staff from violence or threats of violence; and
  o Prevent any escape attempts.
• Clothing and property removed from a detainee must be considered as evidential property and must be retained and treated as such with appropriate consideration of contamination issues.

• If, after decontamination an arrested person:
  o *Doesn’t require further medical care*: They will be transported to the custody suite as normal and processed in accordance with current procedures.
  o *Does require further medical care*: Then they will be transported to a medical facility by health transport. The Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) must be consulted so that arrangements regarding security and detention can be put in place. However, transportation must not be delayed to facilitate this action.

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**Responsibilities**

**Force CBRN co-ordinator**

The Force CBRN co-ordinator is responsible for:

- Being the single point of contact (SPOC) for regional and national CBRN issues;
- Ensuring the Force fulfils any regional obligation;
- Maintaining links with partner agencies;
- Liaising with the Force Health and Safety officer to ensure adequate support is provided to officers and staff required;
- Ensuring hazardous materials are stored in accordance with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) and assessed accordingly; and
- Maintaining appropriate records.

**Fire and Rescue service and Ambulance Trust**

The Fire and Rescue service and Ambulance Trust are responsible for:

- Supporting the decontamination process if necessary;
- Providing emergency decontamination, using improvised equipment, where time does not allow for the deployment of specialist NHS resources;
- Providing disrobe and re robe packs to affected persons if necessary;
- Informing the NHS service as soon as possible regarding emergency decontamination to ensure clinical decontamination is prioritised by specialist NHS staff; and
- Providing decontamination, triage and movement for further medical care to contaminated casualties (Ambulance Trust);

For contaminated casualties, you must refer to **section 9** of the APP – Civil contingencies.

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**Other parties**

The local authority is responsible for:

- Providing support and assistance to decontaminated persons who will, of
course, be potential witnesses or suspects. This must be considered in consultation with the SIO.

Agencies are responsible for:
- Ensuring the staff they have deployed equipped with specialised PPE adheres to the safe undressing procedure or decontamination of those members, which can be found in the Force Contingency and Operational plans.

Additional information

Compliance

This Policy and Procedure complies with the following legislation and policy:
- APP – CBRN
- APP – Civil contingencies
- Police Support Unit training policy

Policy database administration

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The Equality and Human Rights Assessment for this policy is held on Force Registry which can be accessed via this link.

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