

	CLEARFIELD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / 9-1-1 Standard Operating Procedures	Initial:
	SOP #: Police 5-20	Revised: 10-2005
	Subject: Hostage Situations	

HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

- A. Most hostage situations that the Communications Center will encounter will result from one of several possible situations, such as a family dispute, interrupted holdup, or incidents involving a mentally disturbed person. It is of great importance that the intent of the suspect is determined when this type of call is received. The responding police department may be able to resolve these types of incidents if the reason behind the taking of hostages is determined early.
- B. The dispatcher will obtain as much information as possible from the caller to include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - Location of the incident.
 - Why were hostages taken?
 - Does the caller know the suspects? Who is it? Names and descriptions.
 - Are the suspects armed? With what?
 - Was anyone injured? How severely?
 - Were any demands made?
 - Have the suspect and hostages left the scene? Direction of travel? Mode of travel?
 - Is the location of the suspect known now?
- C. The appropriate police department will be dispatched. The dispatch of further emergency service responders will be done at the request of the police department.
- D. The dispatchers will run any license information that was obtained from the caller and relay it to the responding police officers (with the exception of PSP).
- E. It is important to know who is reporting the incident. The caller may only be a witness making the report from a safe distance, or the caller may be directly involved in the incident. The dispatcher should also determine if the caller is the hostage taker or a victim that has called.
- F. BOLO or ATL information will be dispatched by radio as soon as possible. As time permits, the information will also be group faxed to county police departments.
- G. When there are multiple calls on the same incident where a hostage situation has been reported, the dispatchers are to obtain the name, telephone number and address of ***all callers***. Information on ***all*** persons who call is of extreme importance regarding this type of incident and may be critical information that is needed to aid in the officer's ongoing investigation and if the case goes to court.