DUBLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**

**SECTION: E-004 HOMELAND SECURITY**

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**STANDARD COVERED *CHIEF KEITH MOON***

**5.33, 5.34**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidelines in the planning for and response to acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and man-made hazards within the jurisdiction.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The perception of the inherent dangers and threats facing the country and the potential consequences they could have has changed significantly in recent years. These threats cross a broad spectrum of contingencies from acts of terrorism to natural disasters to other man-made hazards, both accidental and intentional. Because all carry the potential for severe consequences, national and state emergency management leaders have decided that these threats must be addressed with a unified effort.

In the State of Georgia, regional ‘All Hazards Councils’ were formed to bring together community leaders and key consequence managers to develop preparedness, response, and recovery strategies for all potential hazards - natural, man-made, and acts of terrorism. GEMA divides the state into eight separate regions with the division being based on existing capabilities, the presence of critical infrastructure, and established working relationships. These regions each provide a regional focus for improving information sharing, facilitating cooperation, the sharing of resources, conducting training and exercises, preparing regional response plans, and providing mutual aid. Dublin and Laurens County is a member of GEMA Area 3, which represents the 24 counties and 80 cities located in eastern middle Georgia.

In 1996 key leaders of Laurens County created The Dublin-Laurens Emergency Management Agency. The agency was created to represent the governing officials of the county and cities therein on matters pertaining to emergency management, to assist county and city officials in organizing county and city departments for emergency operations, to develop/maintain a Dublin-Laurens County Emergency Management Plan, and, of course, to plan for and coordinate emergency responses within the county.

The county EMA has created a focus group of key people representing local government, civic, business, and industry. This group, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, meets on a regular basis to address local emergency planning and host exercises relating to hazards, disasters, and terrorism. These events are scheduled on a regular basis, and range from small ‘table-top’ to ‘mass casualty’ exercises.

**III. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Dublin Police Department, as a part of the City of Dublin, to be a part of local and regional emergency plans, and in the event of terrorism or other disaster/emergency, respond by following all directives and plans as provided by local, regional, and state entities. The department as a whole, and selected personnel as designated by the Chief of Police, will participate in all local emergency planning functions, including meetings and events.

STD 5.34

In accordance with US Federal Government Homeland Security Presidential Directive Number 5, the department, as a part of the City of Dublin, has adopted the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as a functional tool to manage local incidents such as a response to a terrorism event.

**IV. PROCEDURES**

A. As a law enforcement agency, our department is technically not trained to perform hazard assessment and mitigation. However, as a part of the local response effort, there are things we can do to address local situations in a mitigation effort. These include:

1. Continuing to identify and assess the vulnerability of high-risk targets, if any.

2. The development of special security procedures for high-risk targets in coordination with

 appropriate authorities, if needed.

3. Following guidance received from the Laurens County Emergency Management Agency.

On an ‘as needed’ or annual basis the Chief of Police or his designee(s) will meet with local and county officials to identify and assess potential terrorist targets within the jurisdiction.

STD 5.33a

In addition, the department Operations Officer will act as a liaison with the Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC). GISAC’s primary mission is to serve as the state’s focal point for the collection, assessment, analysis, and dissemination of terrorism intelligence relating to Georgia and provide up-to-date information in regular reports.

STD 5.33b

In order to better understand fusion centers and GISAC, all department personnel will complete the ‘Privacy, Civil Rights, and Suspicious Activity Reporting’ course online at the GPSTC website.

B. Note that in response to the events of ‘9/11,’ federal and state government authorities have disagreed about which terrorism risk formula is most appropriate for estimating risk and to what extent it should guide homeland security. Nevertheless, few officials have argued that the probability of a terrorist attack is equivalent in all regions of the country. Reports by the Department of Homeland Security (2002) and the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks generally concur about the country’s main vulnerabilities and high-risk targets. The reports stress three types of potential targets:

1. Large urban centers.

2. Critical parts of the infrastructure such as nuclear power stations and major chemical plants.

3. Symbolic targets such as state and national monuments and government buildings.

While the City of Dublin does not rank as an urban center, nor do we have critical parts of the national infrastructure or symbolic targets, we do have local facilities that are considered vital due to the fact that their incapacity or destruction would severely threaten the city’s ability to provide essential services to the general public. Such facilities include, but are not limited to:

Public safety and government buildings Public water supply infrastructure

Hospital and medical treatment centers County 911 Communications building

Electrical power stations Petroleum/gas storage and distribution sites

Telecommunications equipment infrastructure

Additionally, there may be other potential targets that could have a severe impact on the jurisdiction should terrorists select them for attack. These include but are not limited to, schools, commercial and business enterprises, shopping centers, churches, cultural facilities, historical sites, highways, bridges, and other activities that may have special symbolic significance of a political, religious, racial, or environmental nature.

Potential targets will be identified and assessed based on several factors, including, but not limited to:

The level of target visibility Criticality of the target to the city

Target value to potential threat element (PTE) PTE access to the target

Target threat of hazard Site population capacity

Potential for collateral mass casualties

Information garnered from local assessments will be shared with local government officials and the county Emergency Management Agency for planning purposes, hazard mitigation, and security measures.

**V. THREAT OR EVENT**

A. In the event of a local threat warning, the Chief of Police (or his designee) will:

1. Coordinate with local leadership and county EMA.

2. Institute procedures found in SOP Section E001 and County EMA Emergency Operations Plan.

3. Assess the situation and determine the level of response needed/necessary.

4. If given, notify each potential target of threat; review security measures.

5. Establish heightened patrol at target locations.

If the threat subsides, potential targets identified as part of the threat (if given) will be notified that the department will return to normal patrol operations.

B. In the event of an emergency/disaster/terrorist incident, the Chief of Police, designee, or ranking officer will establish communications with all local responders and agencies, and institute procedures found in SOP Section E001 and the EMA Emergency Operations Plan. Once higher-level authorities assume command and control of the event/incident, the department will then basically be a law enforcement asset assigned to support the event under regional and local emergency plans.

**VI. SUMMARY**

Homeland Security starts at the individual and local levels but is managed by higher governmental levels. The department is and will continue to be a part of local and regional emergency plans, and in the event of terrorism or other disaster/emergency, respond by following all directives and plans as provided by local, regional, and state entities.