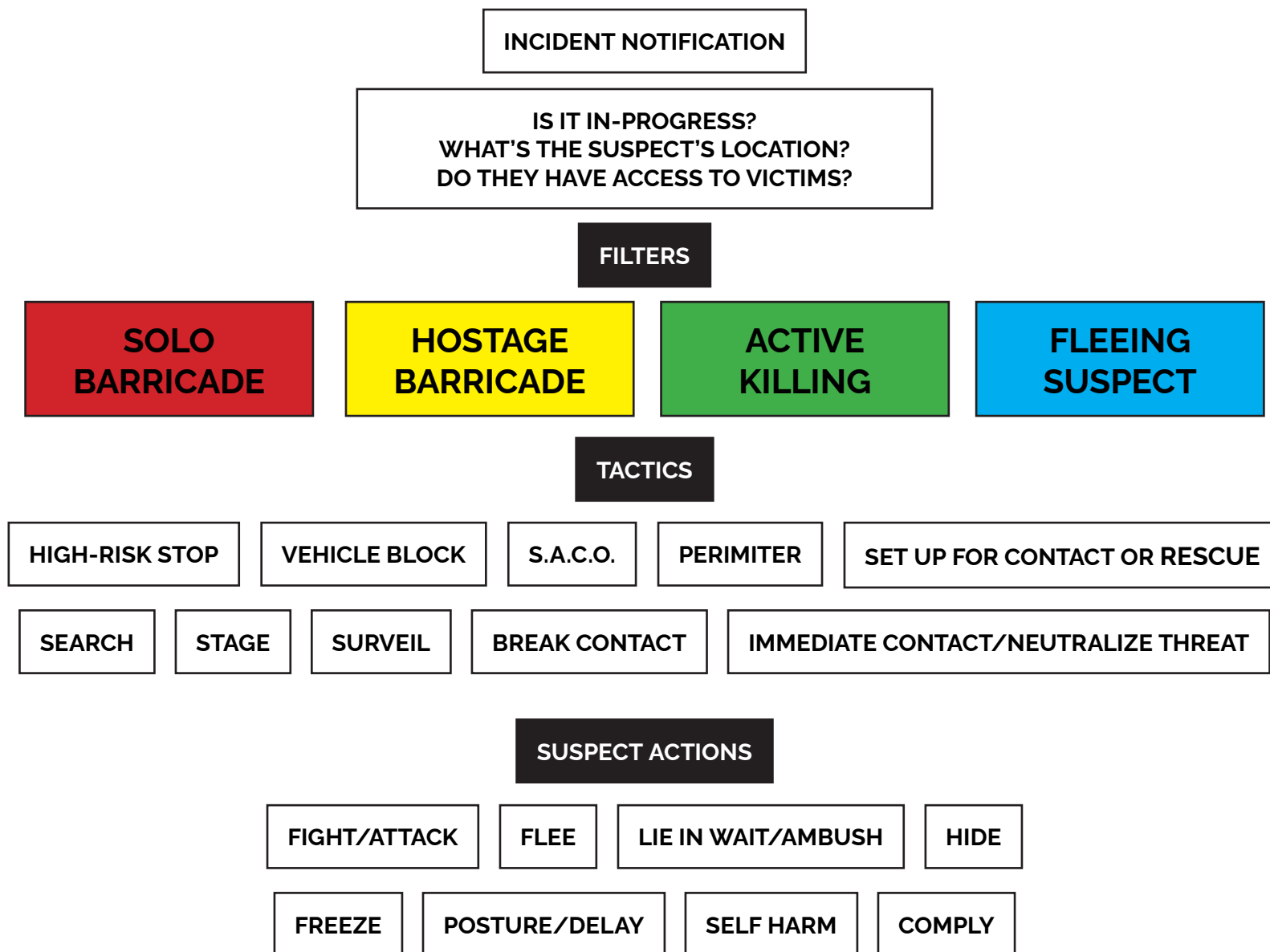


A Systems Approach to In-Progress Incidents





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What Is This?

A Systems Approach to In-Progress Incidents was designed to help officers and supervisors organize rapidly changing information, anticipate developing problems, and coordinate a response using a shared framework.

The system grew out of a training exercise in which experienced officers were given the same in-progress incident but developed remarkably different response plans. The problem was not a lack of experience or tactical knowledge. Each officer had developed an individual way of interpreting the incident, which meant responding personnel could arrive with different priorities, assumptions, and plans.

This framework was created to make some of the mental processes used by experienced officers visible, understandable, and teachable. Its purpose is to help everyone begin by solving the same problem before debating the best solution.

How to Use the System

1. Orient yourself by answering the Three Questions.

Is the incident still in progress? Where is the suspect? Does the suspect have access to victims? These questions identify the information most likely to change the nature and urgency of the response.

2. Identify the Filter that most closely applies.

Consider whether the incident should initially be viewed as a solo barricade, hostage barricade, active killing, or fleeing-suspect problem. These are not formal incident declarations. They are thinking tools that help officers anticipate what the incident could become and begin preparing appropriate options. The applicable filter may change as new information is received.

3. Select from your agency's available Tactics.

Once the problem has been organized, officers can consider which trained and authorized tactical options best fit the circumstances. The tactics shown here were developed around one agency's resources, policies, and operating philosophy. Every agency should determine which options belong in its own system.

4. Anticipate the Suspect's Actions.

Every plan must account for what the suspect may do next. The suspect may fight, flee, freeze, comply, hide, delay, ambush officers, or engage in self-harm. As the suspect acts and the circumstances change, officers must reassess the Three Questions, reconsider the applicable Filter, and adjust their tactics.

This is not a checklist, a substitute for incident command, or an answer for every call. It is a flexible decision-making framework designed to create shared understanding while preserving the judgment officers need in dynamic situations. While you may find this system applicable as it is, you are encouraged to improve upon it or create your own. What is important is that novices are taught to see the world through the eyes of an expert. A shared mental model is one way of helping your officers and supervisors respond to hot calls safely, calmly, and methodically.

Take the Next Step

Learn how to apply it in the field.



Savage Training Group's 16-hour **Critical Incident Response** course uses scenarios and real-event debriefs to teach officers

and supervisors how to bring calm, coordination, and sound decision-making to in-progress crimes and critical incidents.

Learn how to train and implement it.



The 8-hour **Effective Police Training** course shows trainers and agency leaders how to develop realistic scenario-based training

that builds sense-making, adaptability, problem-solving, and decision-making—not merely the ability to perform isolated techniques. Learn how to create and implement this type of system within your own agency.

Please visit
savagetraininggroup.com
to learn more.

