



10.17 Threats Against Persons and Security Emergencies SOP

Section 1 - Purpose and Objectives

(1) To guide CFA members responding to an incident with confirmed, suspected or unexpected threats against persons or to a security emergency.

(2) To identify the role of CFA at incidents that are suspected of involving threats against persons or a security emergency.

Section 2 - Scope

(3) This procedure applies to all CFA members.

Section 3 - Procedure

(4) Victoria Police is the control agency for threats against persons and security emergencies. CFA may be requested as a support agency.

- a. The directions of the Victoria Police Incident Controller shall be followed including, when any fire or other hazard, which is normally the responsibility of CFA, is present.

Victoria Police may refer to the Victoria Police Incident Controller as the Police Forward Commander.

(5) Where threats against persons or a security emergency develops mid-response, when operationally practicable, withdraw and transition control immediately to Victoria Police.

(6) CFA members are not to attend any incidents involving threats against persons or a security emergency without police attendance.

Requests to attend

(7) FireCom shall notify the State Duty Officer/District Duty Officer where a request from Victoria Police has been received or as soon as it becomes apparent that brigades are responding an incident involving threats against persons and/or a security emergency.

(8) The State Duty Officer/District Duty Officer shall coordinate the initial response of CFA resources.

Response

(9) All CFA members shall respond on CFA appliances to the rendezvous point (RV) nominated by the Victoria Police Incident Controller.

(10) All appliances shall respond Code 3 (silent approach), unless otherwise directed. Refer to 12.02 Drive under emergency response conditions SOP.

On scene

(11) Prior to arrival on scene, the CFA Agency Commander shall confirm:

- a. liaison with the Victoria Police Incident Controller; and
- b. the location of the hot, warm and cold zones.

(12) Upon arrival on scene, the CFA Agency Commander shall:

- a. establish a safe and appropriate staging area;
- b. when required, establish and communicate the rendezvous point; and
- c. when operationally practicable, deploy CFA members and equipment.

(13) CFA members should:

- a. not work in isolation;
- b. consider secure communications;
- c. be briefed on zones, tactics and strategies ahead of any deployment into warm or cold zones;
- d. never enter a hot zone, if members find themselves in a hot zone refer to clause 13;
- e. never communicate with the offenders of the incident or discuss the fire or incident with non-emergency service personnel; and
- f. if/when necessary, withdraw to a safe area.

(14) If CFA members suspect or identify a developing threats against persons or security emergency mid-response, or, find themselves in the hot or warm zone without police attendance, CFA members are to:

- a. undertake continuous dynamic risk assessments, with consideration of safety advice from Victoria Police;
- b. remain in vehicles (if available and operationally practicable) for safety and immediate response;
- c. if safe to do so, withdraw to a position of safety or the cold zone (where established); and
- d. communicate the situation to the CFA Agency Commander as soon as practicable.

(15) When a bomb is detected or suspected at the incident, refer to 10.05 Bomb Incidents SOP.

(16) CFA members may be required to assist the Health Commander at a medical triage point (where established).

(17) CFA members with appropriate Personal Protective Clothing/Protective Equipment and training, may be required to support Ambulance Victoria in cold zones and Victoria Police in warm zones for:

- a. immediate lifesaving first aid intervention;
- b. casualty extraction to the cold zone; and
- c. fire rescue and suppression capabilities.

(18) For relevant radio/duress signals refer to [09.15 Mayday and Hostile Acts Radio Signals SOP](#).

(19) For incidents at a secured facility (e.g adult detention centre or youth justice precinct) where a siege or riot is confirmed or suspected, refer to 10.16 Secured Facility Response.

(20) All media enquiries must be referred to Victoria Police.

Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Victoria Police	Control Agency for threats against persons (Class 2) and security emergencies (Class 3).
CFA Agency Commander	Support the directions of the Victoria Police Incident Controller. Establish an agency functional command structure to suit the circumstances. Participate in and contribute to team meetings. Ensure the timely flow of information. Work within the control structure for the emergency.
CFA Fire Warm Zone Commander	Determine CFA involvement in security emergencies' Medical Rescue Teams (MRT) based upon DRAs. Support the directions of and represent the CFA Commander in the warm zone. Work within the Significant Security Emergency Rescue Team Command (SSE RTC). Manage specialist and rescue duties.
Crew Leaders	Crew leaders should check in with their crew after a violence-related incident.
CFA Members	Treat safety of themselves and other personnel as paramount.

Safety Note

(21) CFA members should ensure they are undertaking continuous dynamic risk assessments and are able to maintain communications while responding.

(22) CFA member's safety takes priority over first-aid/casualty care.

(23) In the case a serious or notifiable incident occurs, refer to 14.06 Notifications of Injuries and Fatalities SOP.

(24) Refer to 14.02 [Welfare Services - Activation Of](#) SOP for well-being support after any operation involving threats against persons or a security emergency.

(25) All incidents should be reported to CFASafe.

Environmental Note

(26) Nil.

Section 4 - Definitions

(27) Commonly defined terms are located in the CFA [centralised glossary](#). Document-specific definitions are listed below.

Cold zone	In line with SEMP Class 3 Emergencies Sub Plan: the cold zone is the area beyond the perimeter where there is no known threat. This zone is a support area where police and emergency services can stage, plan, triage the injured and manage the evacuated in safety. It may include former Hot or Warm zone areas that police have both cleared and secured.
Warm zone	In line with SEMP Class 3 Emergencies Sub Plan: the warm zone or indirect threat area is an operational area within a hostile event where a potential threat exists but is not direct or immediate. This zone is a transition area that provides a safety buffer between the hot zone and cold zone. Rescue teams treat and remove the injured and those requiring evacuation from the warm zone to the cold zone.
Hot zone	In line with SEMP Class 3 Emergencies Sub Plan: the hot zone is where the offender is likely to be located. This zone is an exclusion area where only police enter to neutralise the threat. It has the highest potential for encountering danger and generally CFA members do not operate in this zone.

Security / Class 3 emergency	A hijack, siege, riot, warlike act or hostile/terrorist act.
Threats to persons / Class 2 emergency	A situation where there is a significant threat of harm to an individual or group. It may involve verbal threats, escalating behaviour, or the potential for violence requiring prompt intervention.
Hijack	An unlawfully or violently seized aircraft, ship, or vehicle in transit which is forced to go to a different destination or used for one's own purposes.
Siege	An operation in which a police or other force surround a building and cut off supplies, with the aim of forcing an armed person/s to surrender.
Riot	A riot is a violent, disorderly outbreak by a group of people, often as protest against authorities, property or other people.
High threat incident	Any scene where imminent danger to life or health of responders exists.
Hostile/terrorist act	An act intended to cause injury and/or death to people, disrupt business or effect publicly for a cause.
Medical Triage Point	Managed by the Health Commander. This is the primary entry point for all injured evacuees from the hot/warm zone.

Section 5 - Related Documents

- (28) 8.04 [Transfer of Control](#) SOP
- (29) 9.15 [Mayday and Hostile Acts Radio Signals](#) SOP
- (30) 9.16 [Management of media at an incident](#) SOP
- (31) 9.27 Staging Area Management SOP
- (32) 9.31 Welfare of CFA members SOP
- (33) 9.37 [Emergency Evacuation Signal](#) SOP
- (34) 10.00 [Specialist Response](#) SO
- (35) 10.05 Bomb Incidents SOP
- (36) 10.27 [Fire Medical Response \(FMR\)](#) SOP
- (37) [J03.10 - Traffic Management](#) JSOP
- (38) [State Emergency Management Plan](#)

Status and Details

Status	Not Yet Approved
Effective Date	To Be Advised
Review Date	To Be Advised
Approval Authority	
Approval Date	To Be Advised
Expiry Date	Not Applicable
Accountable Officer	Jason Heffernan Chief Officer
Responsible Officer	Garry Cook Deputy Chief Officer Operational Response & Coordination
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Enquiries Contact	Specialist Response

Glossary Terms and Definitions

"**CFA member**" - Refers to all CFA volunteers, volunteer auxiliary workers, officers, employees and secondees.

"**Code 3**" - Driving under normal driving conditions obeying the Road Safety Road Rules 2017. This is generally in response to a routine event.

"**Dynamic Risk Assessment**" - The continuous assessment and control of risk in the rapidly changing circumstances of an operational incident. DRA is an intuitive thought process and is typically not recorded.

"**FireCom**" - The callsign for day to day / normal radio communications to CFA vehicles and aircraft.

"**CFA Agency Commander**" - A CFA member with overall management of CFA resources at a fire or incident for which CFA is a support agency.

"**CFASafe**" - CFASafe is a electronic system that is used to report health and safety incidents, hazards and near miss for CFA members, contractors and visitors.