

4.14.5.4 COORDINATED POLICE ENTRY

There are only three lawful methods upon which officers may enter a place or premises: Consent, Exigent Circumstances, and Coordinated Tactical Entry with an Arrest and/or Search Warrant.

- 1) Consensual Entry – Officers may enter a place or premises based on the consent of a person who appears to have authority over the premises. The consent must meet the following provisions:
 - a) The consent must be given voluntary, without intimidation or without exchange for anything (ie reduction of charges, etc.), as well as knowingly and intelligently given.
 - b) The consent need not be in writing but written documentation will assist the officers in proving the consent was voluntary. Body Worn Camera footage will aid in this documentation.
 - c) Officers may not enter a place or premises in an instance where a co-occupant having equal authority to the space is present and objecting to the entry.
 - d) The scope of a consensual entry/search rests with the consenting party who controls both how long the entry and search may last as well as what locations within the place or premises may be searched.
 - e) Officers should not rely on the consent of a juvenile under the age of 15 years.
- 2) Exigent Entry – An officer may enter a place or premises based on probable cause and/or emergency circumstances when any of the following circumstances exist:
 - a) When officers are in hot pursuit of a fleeing suspect.
 - b) Imminent destruction of evidence.
 - c) When there is a need to prevent a suspect's escape.
 - d) Where there is a risk of danger to police or others inside or outside the place or premises.
 - e) Where there is an objectively reasonable basis for believing an occupant is seriously injured or imminently threatened with such an injury.

Once the exigency has subsided, officers should secure the scene and obtain a search warrant. The fact an area is a crime scene does not create automatic exigency. There is no crime scene exemption for a warrant requirement.

- 3) Coordinated Tactical Entry – A coordinated tactical entry is a planned, announced entrance by uniformed officers of a place or premises, to effect the apprehension of persons known or suspected to be wanted or engaged in illegal activity and/or to search for and secure contraband or evidence. Due to the serious nature of executing entries into a place or premises, the decision to conduct a coordinated tactical entry must be thoroughly vetted, and after the evaluation of potential risk to all involved parties, the execution of the warrant service is deemed necessary.
 - a) Any proposed coordinated tactical entry resulting from an investigation conducted by the Bowling Green Police Department will receive its authority from a Deputy Chief (or designee). Additionally, an Assistant Chief (or higher in rank) must be present at the scene of any coordinated tactical entry involving members of the Bowling Green Police Department.
 - b) A written Operation's Plan must be completed for all coordinated tactical entries utilizing the Bowling Green Police Department's Operations Plan template. This written plan will identify the specific mission and execution plan, the intelligence obtained, the description of the targeted suspect(s) and/or evidence and probable location, and the specific tasks assigned to each member of the responding team. The Deputy Chief (or designee) will approve the Operation's Plan prior to conducting the coordinated tactical entry.

- c) Planning Coordinated Tactical Entries should entail consideration for the following items:
- 1) Time: Choose the most advantageous time for the police and the least advantageous time for the target subject(s).
 - 2) Manpower: Determine the manpower need by considering the number of suspects, nature of the crime, type of building and number of exits, and the nature of the neighborhood.
 - 3) Special Equipment: Necessary equipment is dictated by each situational circumstances.
 - 4) Medical Assistance: Necessary medical assistance is dictated by the situational circumstance. Consideration may be made to have medical assistance on stand-by or notified.
 - 5) Data: Prior to execution of the warrant, all available data bases (ie. PVA, TLO, utilities, etc) should be checked to ensure the place or premises matches the suspect named in the investigation. When possible, the lead investigating officer will accompany the team to the doorway to ensure the correct place or premises is entered.
- d) Knock and Announce – Prior to considering a forced entry into a place or premises, officers must knock at the portal of entry and announce their identity and purpose. If the following circumstances exist, the officer must seek judicial approval for a “no-knock warrant” by outlining the factors existing in the affidavit:
- 1) The officer’s purpose is already known to the occupant.
 - 2) When the personal safety of the officer or others would be jeopardized by the announcement.
 - 3) When the delay caused by the announcement may enable the suspect to escape.
 - 4) When a prisoner has escaped and retreated to his home.
 - 5) When the announcement may cause evidence to be destroyed.
- e) Upon completion of the coordinated tactical entry, the Assistant Chief on scene shall complete an after action review. He shall review, evaluate and render his findings of the entire incident including any after action reviews completed by the Commander of the Critical Response Team. His evaluation and recommendation(s) shall be submitted via memorandum through his chain of command to the Chief of Police.
- f) Upon completion of the coordinated tactical entry and service of the warrant(s), all damaged property shall be documented and photographed. Attempts shall be made to re-secure the entryway(s) compromised by the tactical entry if there is no one on scene to release the property.

(Remainder of page reserved.)