

## Campus Event Response Team

### Overview:

As stated in its “Principles Guiding Speech and Assembly,” the University of California Riverside is committed to the belief that free speech, expression, and peaceful and lawful assembly are rights that must be protected, valued, and encouraged. The campus is equally committed to ensuring the safety of people and property and the maintenance of operations.

The Campus Event Response Team (CERT) assists event organizers in planning safe and successful gatherings, rallies, protests, demonstrations, or other events and, if necessary, to work with them toward the resolution of any incidents that might arise. The team operates within a framework of established goals, objectives and guidelines.

### Goals & Objectives of the Campus Event Response Team and Campus Leadership

- To uphold the *Principles Guiding Speech & Assembly for the University of California, Riverside*.  
<http://police.ucr.edu/pgsa122012.pdf>
- To (if necessary) clearly communicate any lawful restrictions placed on the rights of speech and assembly in regard to time, place, and manner.
- To (if necessary) alert UCPD of exigent circumstances or potential safety issues that may threaten life or property.
- To (if necessary) identify a range of options, commensurate with the situation at hand, for dealing with rallies, protests, and other gatherings that become disorderly or unlawful based on university policy or law. Options include engaging in dialogue with participants, use of alternative dispute resolution techniques, and other approaches that do not require the use of police force.
- To (if necessary) communicate with the campus leadership to set the overall direction and establish responsibility for decisions made to mitigate civil disobedience.
- It should be noted that a variety of events and circumstances related to safety may rapidly occur that require an immediate police response. Hence, it is not the intent of this policy to delay anyone or any member of the CERT from notifying or involving UCPD immediately.
- The CERT will meet twice annually to review these goals and objectives, even in the absence of a protest response.

### Campus Event Response Team:

- Student Affairs
- Business and Administrative Services
- Labor Relations
- UCPD
- Ad hoc members, to include faculty and student leadership

## **Process & Communications:**

The CERT includes representatives from the campus administration and staff that respond, communicate and/or coordinate resources to assist in the successful outcome of such events. Upon receiving credible information, any member of the CERT can activate the team to meet and put in place the process and communication guidelines described in this section.

- Unless exigent safety concerns are present, the non-law enforcement section of the team (Student Affairs, Labor Relations and/or Strategic Communications) will act as the immediate liaison for organizers of protests, demonstrations or other events.
- The CERT will attempt to develop an understanding of the scope, location, date/time of the event, and the goal of the organizer(s).
- Based upon a variety of factors (i.e. whether participants are students, staff or non-affiliated) a team member or members will be assigned as the main contact person(s) for the protests or demonstration organizer(s).
- If possible, the appropriate member(s) of the CERT will attempt to establish dialogue with organizer(s) as soon as reasonably possible, to develop a common understanding of how the event can occur in a safe and peaceful manner. If dialogue can be established prior to a demonstration, CERT members will inform protesters of the availability of alternative avenues for communication of their concerns or proposals.
- As reasonably possible on the days leading up to the event, the CERT will share updates and coordinate resources necessary to help achieve the proper goals and objectives. This includes pre-incident coordination with the Chancellor's Office and/or EMPG designee (leadership).
- On the day of the event, the assigned contact person(s) will observe the event and provide timely updates to the UCPD and the EMPG designee regarding the status of the protest.
- If necessary and safe to do so, the contact person will attempt to advise/remind the event organizer whenever their actions begin to interfere with or disrupt the University's mission or business.
- In circumstances involving the temporary or extended disruption of University mission or business, the non-law enforcement members of the CERT will attempt to engage in a mediation function through dialogue with protest organizers in an effort to identify a range of response options. These options will be commensurate with the situation at hand, for dealing with rallies, protests, and other gatherings that become disorderly or unlawful based on university policy or law. Options include but are not limited to, the use of alternative dispute resolution techniques, and other approaches that do not require the use of police intervention or force. However, a variety of events and circumstances related to safety may rapidly occur that may require an immediate police response. Hence, it is not the intent of the CERT to delay anyone or any member of the CERT from notifying or involving UCPD first and immediately for a response.
- If necessary, UCPD will respond to keep the peace or monitor the situation and assist with communicating lawful restrictions or commands. Unless an exigent circumstance is present, UCPD will seek direction from EPMG (if activated) to set the overall scope and direction of police actions. UCPD will clearly articulate risks associated with decisions regarding law enforcement actions. When appropriate, UCPD will promptly inform the campus community at large about material developments in ongoing protests.

- UCPD will immediately address exigent circumstances or safety issues that threaten life or property. If force is used – only reasonable force can be utilized to affect an arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.
- Team member(s) may be assigned to video record footage of protest events to develop an objective and complete record of the event.
- Following a demonstration that reaches a threshold (to be determined by the Chancellor, Campus Event Response Team, and the Police Chief if it is a police matter), a post-event response summary will be created. The post-event response summary and related communication will be reviewed with Campus Counsel and the Police Chief to ensure that information within the summary or related communication does not jeopardize an on-going investigation or violate protected privacy issues.
- UCPD post- event response summaries will be reviewed on a periodic basis with the CERT and the Office of the President. As a general guideline, a review can be initiated by UCPD or requested by any member of the Campus Event Response Team, the Executive Management Policy Group or the Office of the President.

### **Decision-Making:**

The Chancellor and Executive Management Policy Group (EMPG) Executive Committee has executive level oversight and is responsible for strategic, financial, operational and policy level decision making. Members of the EMPG will assist the Chancellor with the decision-making process. The EMPG will support the implementation of the decision as well as the necessary communications. Dependent upon the circumstances and as determined by EMPG Executive Committee or Chancellor, additional staff or faculty maybe called upon to assist. UCPD is responsible for tactical decision making.

### **Executive Management Policy Group:**

- Chancellor
- Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost
- Vice Chancellor of Business & Administrative Services
- Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Assistant Vice Chancellor of Strategic Communications
- Campus Counsel
- EMPG Coordinator

# Campus Event Response Team

## Sections

### Non-Law Enforcement

- Observe the event
- If necessary communicate restrictions regarding time, place, and manner.
- Alert police of exigent circumstances or potential safety issues that threaten life or property.
- If necessary and safe to do so, engage in dialogue with participants, use alternative dispute resolution techniques/options, and other approaches that do not require the use of police intervention or force.
- If necessary, get direction from EMPG to set the overall direction and responsibility of decision making.

### Executive Management Planning Group

- Sets the direction and is responsible for policy level decision making.
- Provides support and implementation of actions.
- Establishes clear message and communication about why actions were taken.

### Law Enforcement

- If necessary, UCPD will respond to keep the peace or monitor the situation.
- If necessary assist with communicating lawful restrictions or commands.
- Unless an exigent circumstance is present, UCPD will seek direction from EMPG to set the overall scope, direction and responsibility of police actions.
- Clearly articulate risks associated with decisions regarding law enforcement actions.
- Immediately address exigent circumstances or potential safety issues that threaten life or property. If force is used – only reasonable force can be utilized to effect an arrest, to prevent escape or to overcome resistance.

Communication