



# 11-04 Protests and Demonstrations

**Status:** Amended

**Issued:** R.O.2024.10.01

**Replaces:** R.O. 2022.07.06

## Rationale

The purpose of this Procedure is to assist officers in carrying out their function at protests and demonstrations while maintaining a role of complete neutrality.

## Supervision

- Supervisory Officer attendance mandatory when a protest or demonstration is in progress.
- Officer in Charge notification mandatory when a protest or demonstration is in progress or is about to take place

## Procedure

Citizens have the legal right to demonstrate peacefully. However, they are not entitled to infringe on the rights of land owners in the lawful use and enjoyment of their property. The role of the police at these types of incidents must be one of complete neutrality and action should not be taken until the situation has been carefully assessed. Police officers should only become involved at protests and demonstrations when there is a breach of the peace or a violation of provincial and/or federal law, or when there is strong suspicion that such a breach or violation may occur.

### Police Officer

1. Upon receiving information that a protest or demonstration is in progress or is about to take place shall
  - notify the communications operator of the
    - location
    - size, temperament and composition of crowd
    - reason for assembly
    - need for immediate assistance
  - confirm with communications operator that a supervisory officer is attending
  - notify the Officer in Charge of the division concerned
2. Upon arrival at the scene of a protest or demonstration shall
  - become familiar with the circumstances surrounding the incident
  - prevent any breach of the peace

- ensure persons and vehicles have access to the premises concerned and are not intimidated or interfered with
- maintain a position of impartiality in dealing with all parties involved

### Supervisory Officer

3. Upon receiving notification of a protest or demonstration in progress shall
  - proceed to the scene and assess the situation
  - advise the Officer in Charge
  - detail a sufficient number of police officers to the scene
  - emphasize to personnel assigned the need to act in an impartial manner

4. [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]

### Officer in Charge

5. Upon receiving notification of a protest or planned demonstration shall ensure
  - a supervisory officer attends the scene
  - the Unit Commander is aware of the situation
  - Corporate Communications has been notified
  - the applicable eReport numbers are forwarded to Corporate Communications, as soon as possible
6. In the event of a violent demonstration or protest, and in the absence of the Unit Commander, shall notify the Officer in Charge – Toronto Police Operations Centre.
7. In the event of a major protest or demonstration that may entail the use of a large number of police officers shall notify the Staff Superintendent – East Field / West Field.

### Staff Superintendent

8. When notified of a major protest or demonstration that may entail the use of a large number of police officers shall
  - take charge of the incident
  - notify the Deputy Chief – Specialized Operations Command and Deputy Chief – Community Safety Command of all the particulars

# Supplementary Information

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## Governing Authorities

**Federal:**

- Criminal Code

**Provincial:**

- Highway Traffic Act
- Liquor Licence and Control Act
- Trespass to Property Act

## Associated Governance

**Toronto Police Service Board:**

- Board Policies
  - Mass Detention Centres

**Toronto Police Service Procedures:**

- 11-01 Emergency Management & Public Order Response
- 11-08 Use of Mounted Section
- 15-01 Incident Response (Use of Force/De-Escalation)

**Forms:**

- eReports

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