

ACTION PRACTICE FOR DE-ESCALATORS, PEACEKEEPERS, AND SECURITY

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| <p>SUGGESTED ROLE PLAYS:</p> <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Group comes marching in. Marshals use their hands and voices to move crowd toward rally site. <input type="checkbox"/> Crowd moves along but a small group of 3 people want to "stay right here," because they want a better view of the stage. <input type="checkbox"/> Hecklers. <input type="checkbox"/> Moving march lagging behind line in front; moving too quickly; passing heavily populated corner. <input type="checkbox"/> Outsiders grab demonstrator's sign. <input type="checkbox"/> Group of demonstrators begin chanting "fuck the police." <input type="checkbox"/> Police unexpectedly stop march. <input type="checkbox"/> Group of demonstrators decide to change route of march. <p>Rally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hecklers. <input type="checkbox"/> Rally dispersal. <input type="checkbox"/> Man faints. <input type="checkbox"/> Disrupters demand to speak. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrators demand to be allowed into press area. <input type="checkbox"/> Media people disruptive by insisting on interviewing speakers and demonstrators during rally in front of stage. <p>Vigil or Picket Line</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrator joins picket line with a sign unrelated to your action <input type="checkbox"/> Police inform vigil they must be a moving picket line. <input type="checkbox"/> Silent vigil disrupted by inquisitive passerby; hostile passerby. <p>Civil Disobedience Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Untrained demonstrators want to join the action. <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstration supporters taunt police. <input type="checkbox"/> Passerby wants to know what is going on; outraged passerby; sympathetic passerby. <input type="checkbox"/> Police pull someone taking action by hair or use club under their neck to move them. Police horses step on demonstrators. | <p>Suggested Quick Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Person approaches march saying they represent forty people and asking how to join. <input type="checkbox"/> Someone seizes a bullhorn and begins shouting provocative slogans. <input type="checkbox"/> Someone faints during the march. <input type="checkbox"/> Bricks are tossed over demonstration toward police. <input type="checkbox"/> March is stalled, people are impatient and cold. <input type="checkbox"/> During march, five demonstrators attack an isolated policeman. <input type="checkbox"/> Marchers harrass peacekeepers, calling them "cops", "pigs." <input type="checkbox"/> Someone seizes a bullhorn and begins provocative slogans. <input type="checkbox"/> During the rally, 15 people begin chanting "Fuck the Cops!" to a group of nearby police. Hundreds pick up the chant. <input type="checkbox"/> During the rally, five demonstrators begin a fistfight. <input type="checkbox"/> A small group breaks away from rally with the intent of breaking into a city administration building. <input type="checkbox"/> Silent vigil interrupted by media insisting on interviews. <input type="checkbox"/> Police charge into a picket line without warning. <input type="checkbox"/> Police begin to club action participants <input type="checkbox"/> Affinity group breaks with the action plan by running toward police barricade. <p>Suggested Situation Analysis Scenarios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A large march of 1,000 is moving down the street. The demonstration has been warned that it will not be allowed to reach its goal. Suddenly tear gas is released at the front of the march; the gas drifts through the line of march, frightening people more than debilitating them, and panic begins to grip some people. What action can peacekeepers take? <input type="checkbox"/> Diagram speakers' stage and peacekeepers placement. How can peacekeepers be placed to help insure that speakers will not be disrupted by individuals or small groups wishing to take over the platform? <input type="checkbox"/> Diagram an attack on a vigil. Indicate placement of peacekeepers, vigilers, police, passersby, attackers. A legal rally and a civil disobedience action take place side by side. Diagram how peacekeepers keep groups separated, and create an atmosphere that is supportive of each group. |
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By Matt Guynn. Adapted and updated from the 1981 War Resisters League Organizing Manual (Ed Hedemann, editor) , with thanks to the Friends Peace Committee, which published the original source, "Marshals Handbook," written by Levering, Noell, Shivers, Terdiman, and Willoughby. "Suggestions for Peacekeepers" and "Prep and Practice" ideas came primarily from that handbook.