



ESCALATION OF FORCE

SAPS NATIONAL INSTRUCTION

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1 NEGOTIATION

Police must first attempt to negotiate with the crowd if there is a serious safety risk.

2 DEFENSIVE MEASURES

If the risk continues, they may put defensive measure in place, such as forming a barrier, escorting in a safer direction, or blockading.

3 FIRST WARNING

They then give a public warning in at least two official languages that action will be taken against protesters if the defensive measures fail.

4 PREPARATION TO USE FORCE

Police must then bring forward the 'reserve' section of the police who are responsible for offensive measures - they do this as a deterrent, so they should be seen to be preparing to use force.

5 SECOND WARNING

Police must then give a second public warning in at least two official languages for people to disperse peacefully, giving a reasonable time frame.

6 ATTEMPT TO DE-ESCALATE

If protesters have not dispersed after receiving these two warnings, the commanding officer may authorise the police to disperse members using the minimum possible force under the circumstances.

7 USING MINIMAL FORCE

The police can take immediate action against anyone trying to do serious injury to another person or do "serious" damage to property, but using minimum possible force.

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www.protestguide.org.za/national-instruction