



Roll Call Training Bulletin

Produced by: Captain Bryce Heinlein
Prepared by: Officer Jeff Kuhlmann, PSU

Katherine Lester, Chief of Police
Volume 121

Enforcement Guidelines – 500 ft. Buffer Zone K-12 Schools

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INTRODUCTION:

On October 19th, 2022, the Sacramento City Council voted to add **schools** to its list of critical infrastructure, (SCC 8.140.030) prohibiting people experiencing homelessness from camping or using camp paraphernalia within 500 feet of K-12 schools. These facilities are now part of the critical infrastructure ordinance that prohibits encampments near certain sensitive sites like daycares, hospitals, fire stations, police stations, jails, courthouses, levees, and bridges.

DEFINITIONS:

Camp: Under the City Code to place, pitch or occupy camp facilities; to live temporarily in a camp facility or outdoors; to use camp paraphernalia. A camp may be comprised of one person.

Camp facilities: Under the City Code includes, but are not limited to, tents, huts, vehicles, vehicle camping outfits or temporary shelters.

Camp paraphernalia: Under the City Code includes, but is not limited to, bedrolls, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks or cooking facilities and similar equipment.

Encampment: Per the Citywide Homelessness Response Protocol, is a place where one or more persons experiencing homelessness are living outside, in tents, in makeshift structures, or in vehicles.

Life necessities: No court has provided a complete list of items constituting life necessities. However, some items have been identified as life necessities: medications, medical equipment, identifying papers, family heirlooms, toiletries, tents, tarps, sleeping bags, blankets, food and clothing.

Level 1 Encampment – Per the Citywide Homelessness Response Protocol is a location inspected and assessed by the Department of Community Response (DCR) as a High Priority. It is either (a) an encampment adjacent or blocking access to an essential location, or (b) an encampment where there is a public health and safety risk. This includes encampments adjacent to a school or along a route that children must take to arrive at the school and encampments adjacent to critical infrastructure.



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ENFORCEMENT:

The enforcement of this ordinance requires a detailed understanding of the procedures necessary to ensure proper response to each case. The procedures emphasize **voluntary compliance** and providing people experiencing homelessness with resources.

A. PRE-PLANNED/SCHEDULED ENFORCEMENT - A City department or employee receives a complaint of a camp or encampment within the 500 ft. buffer zone of a K-12 school.

ENFORCEMENT STEPS:

1. **Contact DCR via 311** - Inform of the nature of the complaint and all relevant details (location and risk factors).
2. If voluntary compliance is not met, DCR shall refer the complaint to SPD Impact Team after reasonable outreach efforts have been made.
3. **Once the complaint is received, the Impact Team shall:**
 - a) Visit the location with DCR and attempt to gain voluntary compliance to relocate and offer services.
 - b) Identify whether the encampment is within the 500 ft. buffer zone of the K-12 school property.
 - c) If voluntary compliance fails, Impact shall:
 - 1) Abate the violation by conducting a custodial misdemeanor arrest for SCC 8.140.030 as the crime is likely to continue.
 - 2) Remove the offending individual(s) and/or items, by booking at the individual's property at SPD Property, especially items considered life necessities. Garbage may be disposed of with coordination with Impact and Forensiclean.
 - 3) Document circumstances in a report surrounding the violation, the measured distance from the school property line and photograph (BWC acceptable) the encampment in place.

B. PROACTIVE ENFORCMENT (non-planned) – A police officer receives a complaint in the field or observes a violation of 500 ft. buffer zone for K-12 schools in the course of their duties shall determine whether the violation meets a Level 1 Encampment.

ENFORCEMENT STEPS:

1. Attempt to gain voluntary compliance to relocate and offer services through SPD Impact or DCR.
2. Identify whether the encampment is within the 500 ft. buffer zone of the K-12 school property.
3. If voluntary compliance is not met:
 - a) Abate the violation by conducting a custodial misdemeanor arrest for SCC 8.140.030 as the crime is likely to continue.



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- b) Remove the offending individual(s) and/or items, by booking the individual's property at SPD Property, especially items considered life necessities. Garbage may be disposed of with coordination with Impact and Forensiclean.
- c) Document circumstances in a report surrounding the violation (risk to public health and safety), the measured distance from the school property line and photograph (BWC acceptable) the encampment in place.