

Amarillo Police Department

Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS)

(Formerly Titled HICAP)

2018 Revision

Introduction

This program is designed to reduce incidents of crime and traffic crashes in areas of Amarillo that have been identified through data analysis as having increased activity in one or both occurrences. The program uses the model of Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) as a basis for gathering and analysis of data and effective deployment of resources. The program began in August of 2017, and the purpose of this revision is to redefine the zones based on updated data and knowledge gained through training and practice. The revision will also increase the amount of time spent in the identified zones.

Measurements

In order to determine what areas in Amarillo to focus this program on, data was collected to include combined data a five year period from 2013 through September of 2018.

- Part I crimes (excluding shoplifting theft)
- All vehicle crashes

This data was compared to a similar series of data collected for the time period of October 2017 through September 2018.

Findings

Changes in crime patterns were examined:

- Zone 1 continues to have significantly higher crime and traffic crash data than surrounding areas. Crime Analysis has noted that the hot spot includes an area east of Zone 1 for about ½ mile.
- Zone 2 continues to have significantly higher crime and traffic crash data than surrounding areas.
- Zone 3 continues to have crime and crash problems, with the focal point being Amarillo Blvd. from Grand to Hughes.

- Zone 4 showed a slight decrease in crime and crime activity. Officers working zone patrol also report that this area seems to have limited traffic and pedestrian movement in the residential areas. Contacts have been fairly low in these areas.

Recommended Zones and Changes:

Using the model and the proven practices of DDACTS, the following areas in Amarillo have been selected for high visibility traffic enforcement:

DDACTS Zone 1 – This area is within beat 63 and 62 is bordered to the North by SW 3rd Avenue, to the South by SW 10th Avenue, to the East by Crocket Street, and to the West by Western Street.

DDACTS Zone 2 – This area is within beat 53 and includes the area bordered to the North by Interstate 40, to the South by SW 34th, to the East by Georgia Street, and to the West by Western Street.

DDACTS Zone 3 – This area will be a corridor within beat 32, 33, 34, and 35. It is focused almost exclusively Amarillo Boulevard between Hughes Street and Eastern Street. Any stop that originates from activity in the corridor should be included as Zone 3 activity.

HICAP Zone 4 will be discontinued.

Action Plan

The action plan will be high visibility enforcement of traffic laws and ordinances. This revised plan increases the number of hours spent in DDACTS patrol in the three zones.

Officers in marked cars will look for traffic violations, suspicious persons, and criminal activity in the zone. Officers will focus on making traffic contacts with probable cause. Officers will check out on the radio with the police dispatcher.

DDACTS zones include both sides of the streets that border the zone or corridor. Each hour of assignment is defined as one marked police vehicle working in a zone for one hour. Uniform officers will use their regularly assigned channel for the sector. Non-Uniform Officers will use radio channel PD 1 when on DDACTS patrol during the weekdays (7AM to 7PM), and the sector channel on weekends and nighttime after 7PM.

High visibility is key for this program to be effective.

Uniform Division:

The Uniform Division will assign officers to each DDACTS zone to patrol in marked units daily. Each watch will assign 4 hours to each zone daily. Zone patrol should not be interrupted except in case of emergencies.

Motors will assign a minimum of 8 hours per week.

PACE will assign a minimum of 8 hours per week.

Detective Division

The Detective Division will assign officers to DDACTS zones to patrol in uniform and in marked units. The Detective Division will assign a minimum of 10 hours per week.

SWAT

SWAT will assign officers to DDACTS zones to patrol in marked units. The SWAT unit will assign a minimum of 4 hours per week on DDACTS patrol.

Administration

Administration will assign command staff to DDACTS zones to patrol in marked units. The Administration unit will assign a minimum of 4 hours per week.

AECC

AECC police dispatchers will log all activity in iCad as called out by officers. Officers assigned to work a zone will contact AECC and tell the dispatcher that the officer is working a DDACTS zone. Dispatchers will log traffic or pedestrian stops and other related activity with the appropriate code in iCAD, including a sub-event type for activity related to a DDACTS zone.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of program operations will occur at each monthly statistical meeting.

The next major program evaluation will occur in May 2019. This evaluation will look for changes in crime trends:

Revision Start:

This revision will be effective November 1st, 2018.