

Lisa's Blockade Training notes

Agenda

Deconstructing Blockades
Discussion of Preparation and Practice
Safety
Hands on Demonstration

What Does a Blockade Mean?

Form of direct action to interrupt business as usual
Creating physical spectacle to draw attention
Heightening crisis
Show depth of commitment and urgency
Asking society to make a choice

Where is the best place to do it? – brainstorm

Entry way, access points, corridors
Choke points
Intersections
Point of production/destruction
Inside buildings – doors, revolving doors,

When?

Decisions are pending
Spotlight on issues
Spotlight needs to be on issue
Moments of opportunity
Global day of action - anniversary
When opposition holds events – Shareholders
Political leaders meetings – press conferences
Media moments – when things are open
Blockade is a wild card and we don't play it unless we have to. Need to escalate, form of increased pressure

Who? Is blockading?

People directly affected
People of passion, conscious
People with privilege
People who can – are able bodied.
Trained, people who are prepared, practiced with contingency plans

Why?

It works!
Demonstrate power
Gives hope
Sends powerful message

II. Preparation and Practice – need to be security minded

Action Security

How do you operate with integrity to protect plan?

Defining

People will try to stop – level of conduct

Affinity Groups, consensus

Wobbly saying – CD is western world not illegal. 1st amendment right

Stick to story, never confess, never turn in a friend (build trust)

Agent of Repression – Ward Churchill

War at Home – Brian Glick

When an Agent knocks – CCR

Fear is their biggest weapon, Truth is ours. We have our rights.

Harrassment and Intimidations How to deal

- Pain compliance holds Support system and post action trauma work
- Pepper Spray
- Rubber Bullets
- Tear Gas
- Concussion Grenades

Pain Compliance – Place where nerves are close to bone or limbs in reverse direction.

General – relax, breathe, short term pain Verbally respond – your're hurting me, stop. You don't have authority , not flight risk

Demonstration Holds Deal

Wrist Back, elbow forward, thumb in center lean gently back

Finger Digits keep tucked, in pocket

Under cheek bone on neck neck down, tighter jaw

Eyeball Gouge Protective Glasses

Neck Tuck and cover

Hair

Pepper Spray – toxic solvent that attaches to skin. Goggles, bandanas and vinegar or lemon

Gas Mask – can have scary, negative image, militants, dehumanizing – but can paint, decorate...and enables you to stay in the struggle!!!

Physical protection, relax, support, video

Action Safety

How to minimize people getting hurt on blockades (also have medic, media, and water)

Water and food – before and during

Relationship to Police

Dress Right

Have good gear – practice with it!!!

Support Team

Video documentation

Media – if desired

Art of Blockading

Never lock down to: moving vehicle or equipment, loud, noisy, heavy machinery

Objects that aren't fixed

Never drugs or weapons

Prepare for time – diapers, catheter

Appropriate Tools – image we create

Body Blockades

Body Blockade Techniques – what are we projecting? Can whatever stuff we use, communicate through the picture. A picture related to the issue we are organizing on. IE – oil barrels painted no blood for oil. Or locked boxes in school desks – fund education not war....

1. Forming line – same clothing, sticker? open

- Hand in hand
- Link arms
- Lock wrists

2. Sitting – has more power, harder to move, less confrontational

- Back to Back
- Back to Front
- Line: open legs, saddle up, arms linked
- Legs linked
- Carpet

3. Circles - inward and outward

4. Body knot - knees up, arms up and cross, down and through leg to partners wrist

5. Spiral Twist – long line linked, front starts to turn into a circle. Line creates order and safety

6. Swarming – larges numbers of people quickly occupy space at strategic locations.

Tech Blockades

Create layers of defenses, prepare for theirs. Have strong support system. Tend to physical needs. Prepare for time.

1. U-Locks: use for neck, bikes, door handles

- Started with anitnuke and earth firster's, known as necktie
- Break through with diamond saw, Jaws of life. When cutting out...Talk to them about safety. Neck is fragile. Position into safe and sustainable position. Lock to doors, office furniture, equipment. Keep key on you and with a support person.
- Scouting Notes: measure, choose right tools for target.

- Practice, simulate, rehearse, Timing, speed can be crucial

Positions

Back to back joins.

U-lock extender – extra lock in link.

Human Octopus

Axels, underneath cars, steering wheels, window frames, gates, doors,

2. Cables – kryptonite Cable Lock

Goal for wrapping around waist and object.

Wrap – figure 8 with Two People

Cobra Lengths – encased kryptonite cable

3. Lock Boxes: hit the seas in 1986 with Greenpeace.

3-4 inch steel pipe (schedule 40 thickness) (fits snugly)

Pin welded through center

15 inch length of chain around wrist with nut and bolt – 1 in 5/16 diameter w/ lock nut

Spring clip with open gate, cheap carabineer work with thumbs

Straight Boxes , Black Bears are angled. More range of motion. Cold glove pump fingers to keep circulations going

4. Concrete Barrels – box inside, willed with concrete.

5. Tripods – three poles – 20-40 feet. Lashed together at one ends. Stand Up, climb and sit.

Wrap Up - jail, medical, action planning etc dealt with in other trainings or need to put a few basics in here!!