

Blockades training

What are blockades? (10 min)

- Why might we use them?
- Where/when might we use them?(pts of intervention?)
 - agency decision
 - shut down building/mine/road
 - media moments
- Where/when might we not use them?
 - doesn't mean you can't still escalate your tactic
- What does blockading do?
 - creates spectacle
 - has staying power
 - escalates
 - requires escalated response
 - asks people to make a choice
 - physically stops the thing
- What might be the consequences?
 - higher charges
 - but not always
 - possible threat to physical being
 - puts allies in the position of having to make a choice about the technique
 - requires escalated response

Types of blockades: (20 min)

- body blockades
 - linking arms
 - sitting
 - linking legs
 - carpet
 - human knots
- material blockades
 - u-locks
 - chains
 - lock boxes
 - straight boxes
 - black bears
 - barrels
 - tripods/bi-/mono-

Places to set up a blockade (10 min)

- make sure you have enough people to cover the territory you need to
 - two people in the middle of a wide road to a coal mine office still may allow traffic around them
- scouting is important
 - doors
 - office space/meeting rooms
 - visible location to the public
 - outside of all exits leading into a bank building
- don't lock down to
 - moving vehicles
 - loud machinery
 - objects that aren't fixed
- don't bring
 - drugs
 - weapons
 - notes and phone numbers from meetings
 - personal diary

-anything you don't want the cops to have

Blockade planning (10min)

- Requires a level of secrecy until the moment of deployment
 - this doesn't mean wear your secrecy openly nor to closely
- What is the conduct of the people engaging in the blockade?
 - make agreements about what you are going to do/say
 - think through all possible scenarios
 - make decisions about them (if they do this then we do this)
 - know each others comfort levels really well
- Prepare
 - you may be there a long time
 - have food/water
 - wear diapers in necessary
 - practice, practice, practice
- Role of direct support in a blockade
 - attend directly to needs of blockaders if possible
 - bring food/water
 - sometimes interface with police and deliver info between the two groups
 - possibly be ready to intervene on behalf of the blockaders
- safety of blockaders can be enhanced by
 - having a solid plan
 - know limitations and thresholds
 - having media present
 - having observers nearby

Blockades can be broken up by cops (10min)

- physically
 - pain compliance
 - nerves
 - jaws
 - pepper spray
 - direct removal
- negotiation
 - leave now and we'll let you go
 - reduced charges