

Direct Action Crash Course

Presented by:
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of
The BlackOUT Collective

Zoom-Keeping Items

When joining the meeting, please set your username to:

<First name><Last name><Name of Organization><pronouns>

Kindly set the microphone button () to mute so others could hear the speaker. If you would like to ask a question, please type question in the chat box.

We will be facilitating the conference call and aim to let the trainers address all questions during the call. However, if time does not permit, we will take note of your question and relay it to the trainers after the call.

The Ruckus Society

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

****Handout****

DIRECT ACTION: The strategic use of immediately effective acts to achieve a social or political end and challenge an unjust power dynamic.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE: Refusal to obey civil laws in an effort to change an unjust governmental policy or legislation.

THE RUCKUS SOCIETY promotes the use of direct action that is:

- creative
- strategic
- nonviolent
- directed at a clear decision-making target
- builds people's power

BlackOUT Definition of Direct Action

Direct action is a tactic used to make an immediate intervention that stops business as usual. The purpose is to cause a crisis of conscience for the public, and a crisis for the state, the elite, and/or corporations. It is transformational in nature for those using the tactic, and aims to transform the practitioner, material conditions, target, and the relationship of the oppressed to power.

Tips for Joining a Direct Action

- **Go with a buddy or crew & make a plan**
- **Tell someone you trust where you will be**
- **Do a quick risk assessment**
- **Keep an eye on your people**
- **Trust your gut**
- **Have an exit plan**

Security, De-escalation and Defense

Safety Tips

- Create action agreements before you go
- Avoid bringing any unnecessary tech
- Memorize 1-2 numbers of folks you trust in the event that you are separated from your group (and without your phone) and/or arrested.
- Bring your COVID-19 safety gear
- Bring a bag with supplies you might need (first aid kit, portable charger, water, gloves, masks, ID, etc)

Situational Awareness

Being aware of what is happening around us at all times:

- Sketchy folks - insignias / symbols / keywords
- Potential bottleneck points
- Exits

Observe, Orient Yourself , Decide + ACT!

What should I expect?

Chaos!

Distraction and intimidation tactics by law enforcement meant to escalate situations

What should I bring?

ID

\$20 cash

COVID-Safe Mask and Other PPE

Water

Your buddy!

Safety Tips - Counter Protest

- Ignoring is possible! - Stay on message and on mission
 - Know that the police in any spaces are not on our side.
 - Remember action agreements
 - If there is a threat or actual violence
 - ID threat; Isolate/move threat from activists and/or
 - Move others to safety; in Secure location support as needed (physical/medical, emotional trauma, etc)
 - If you end up in "Fight":
 - Distract, Disrupt, Disarm
 - DATTS--(Down and To The Side) move 'off center' of line of damage/bullet/knife/the X
- Improvise defensive materials/ disruptive items

Street Safety

Always have an exit plan! (*When am I done and ready to go?*)

If you find yourself detained as a result of kettling, or any other law enforcement tactic, remember:

Am I under arrest or I am free to go?

It is illegal for you to lie to the police. It is not illegal for police to lie to you. (so don't lie!)

(Actually) Don't say anything or simply say "I will not speak without my lawyer present."

Questions?

What are you still curious about?

How do you think you can implement some of these things into your work / participation in our movements?

The BlackOUT Collective

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