Advice For Covering High Conflict News Events

Preparing for the event:

- Know your First Amendment rights as citizens, they also inform your rights as journalists
- Draw from the art of negotiation, strive to verbally de-escalate tense situations
- Follow a buddy system. Work with others to make safety a priority & for recording back-up.
- Build advance relationships during times of calm and use them during times of crisis.
- Have a plan beforehand (for instance a meeting location, scheduled check-ins with others, etc)

During the event:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintain Situational Awareness</th>
<th>Remain Calm Know Your Exit Routes</th>
<th>Keep Recording or Have a Buddy Do So</th>
<th>Articulate Your Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keep Dialogue Respectful</td>
<td>Attempt to De-Escalate Confrontation</td>
<td>Avoid Arrest if Possible Know Contact Numbers</td>
<td>Change Storage Media to Prevent Seizure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above are takeaways (with links) from a symposium: First Amendment Issues in Public Spaces, presented by the National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) and the University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication with financial support from the Sinclair Broadcast Group on January 22, 2016.

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