

HOW TO BREAK OUT OF A KETTLE

Please turn over for more strategies

DONT DO THESE:



DO THESE:



WATCH OUT FOR UNION STEWARDS

They have radio systems linked up to the police radio, and will be seeking to squash resistance, different march routes or even just fun times.

Don't let March 26th become another ineffectual Stop the Iraq War march!



COVER YOUR FACE

There's no point in that 'nothing to hide, nothing to fear' attitude. There are police surveillance 'Forward Intelligence Teams', Daily Mail photographers looking for their next spectacle and CCTV all over this march. Even freedom of movement (refusing to march along the TUC route, breaking out of a kettle) can be construed as an offence. If you haven't got a scarf or mask, use your T-Shirt.

HOW TO STOP A KETTLE FORMING

If a crowd seems volatile, the police will hold right back and the first line of the kettle drawn will be some distance away. But if you are all hanging around looking confused and passive they will sneak right in amongst you and the first lines will be dividing lines. This is how it works:

They first divide the crowd up into 'actors' and 'viewers'. Small groups of officers will move into the crowd and start politely encouraging the timid ones onto the pavement. Once the crowd starts moving the way they want, those little groups of cops will get bigger and start joining up. Before you know it, there's two crowds on two pavements with two lines of cops penning them in. To prevent this...

- Don't stand and watch them. Alert others around you of the imminent kettle.
- Don't look like you'll let them get anywhere near you. Scowl.
- Spot gaps in the crowd and fill them.
- Work out which space they want to take and get there with your mates first.
- Get long banners to the front to stop them advancing and filming.
- Protect your escape routes by standing in them.
- Chase those who have turned into spectators off the pavements, and get them back in the crowd and moving around. Chaotic crowds will put them off.

Now having resisted being split up and penned in, they may just let fly with the baton charge. But at least you're now in a stronger position to deal with it and escape. Whatever happens next, don't just stand there waiting for it. If you've managed to get their line drawn far away, you've bought valuable time and space – so use it! Even if their line is right up against you, they still haven't broken down your numbers.

However, it's only a matter of time before the police try and get closer/break you up again. Use the time to get out of there slowly and in one block, *this is the last thing they want* – a large mob moving around freely. Whatever you do, don't stand there waiting for them to try again. You are now in control to go and do whatever you want, so do it.

Have fun and stay dangerous,

Anonymous Anarchist Action

<http://aaa.status.net/>



Text recycled and improved from Earth First's 'Guide to Public Order Situations' and Indymedia's 'Scientific Illustrated Guide to Breaking out of a Kettle'.