



## **Policy PoP-ER-01**

# **Emergency Response**

Approved 22 May 2025

### **Purpose**

1. **Emergency Response** relates to the actions of specialized police officers with skills, equipment, and tactics beyond those of regular patrol officers, in reaction to perilous public safety incidents where the risk of loss of life is elevated and such specialized police response is warranted.
2. The purpose of this policy is to describe how the Board will ensure that the provision of **Emergency Response** in Halton Region is reasonably Adequate & Effective for our Community. This policy falls under the general terms of policy **PoP01 – Provision of Adequate & Effective Policing**, and addresses:
  - 2.1 preliminary perimeter control and containment;
  - 2.2 tactical unit services;
  - 2.3 incident commanders;
  - 2.4 crisis negotiators; and
  - 2.5 forced entry explosive technicians and explosive disposal technicians.

### **Requirements**

3. The Chief of Police shall ensure that in all cases where **Emergency Response** is applied, the preservation of life is the top priority, and that unintended consequences are proactively mitigated through procedural directives, training and supervision.
4. The Chief of Police shall maintain the following **Emergency Response** capabilities using members of the HRPS:
  - 4.1 **preliminary perimeter control and containment**, available at all times within a reasonable response time;



- 4.2 a **tactical rescue unit** consisting of a minimum of 18 full-time tactical officers (some of which shall be available at all times within a reasonable response time) and at least three supervisors (at least one of whom shall be available at all times within a reasonable response time) for the purposes of:
    - a. containment;
    - b. apprehension of an armed barricaded person;
    - c. forced entry, and
    - d. hostage rescue;
  - 4.3 **critical incident commanders**, at least one of whom shall be available at all times;
  - 4.4 a minimum of three **crisis negotiators**, at least one of whom shall be available at all times; and
  - 4.5 **forced entry explosive technicians and explosive disposal technicians**, at least one of whom shall be available 24 hours a day and within a reasonable response time.
5. In regard to each of the **Emergency Response** functions identified in para 4 above, the Chief of Police shall establish HRPS procedures consistent with Ministry of the Solicitor General Regulations, that address:
- 5.1 selection of personnel for these roles;
  - 5.2 initial and ongoing training for persons in these roles, including training on de-escalation and strategies for engagement with a person in crisis, aimed at reducing harm and preventing loss of life;
  - 5.3 equipment to be available/used;
  - 5.4 the circumstances when each function would be deployed; and
  - 5.5 the maintenance of records.



6. Regarding **preliminary perimeter control and containment**, the Chief's procedures shall also:
  - 6.1. define operational responsibility for an incident where preliminary perimeter control and containment is being established;
  - 6.2. address the deployment of other emergency response services, including receiving assistance from other agencies; and
  - 6.3. outline the duties of an officer involved in the establishment of preliminary perimeter control and containment, including compliance with the requirement of section 9(1) para 5 of the Adequacy Standards Regulation, pending the deployment of a tactical unit;
7. Regarding **tactical unit services**, the HRPS procedures shall also address:
  - 7.1. the circumstances in which tactical unit services will be deployed, including the process for obtaining the service and reporting relationships, and further delegate to the supervisor or incident commander the responsibility for determining how many tactical officers are required to be deployed at an incident;
  - 7.2. processes for engagement with individuals who may be in crisis, with the goal of reducing harm and preventing loss of life; and
  - 7.3. ensuring that explosive forced entry is only performed by a police explosive forced entry technician.
8. Regarding **crisis negotiator**, HRPS procedures shall ensure that a crisis negotiator, when so acting, will not perform any incident management role other than crisis negotiation.
9. Regarding **forced entry explosive technicians and explosive disposal technicians**, HRPS procedures shall also address the initial response to occurrences involving found or suspected explosives.
10. The Chief of Police shall ensure that, whenever the temporary **Emergency Response** assistance by other police services is required, such assistance is expeditiously arranged in consideration of associated risks and costs.



## Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

11. The Chief of Police shall provide reports at the **next public Board meeting** (or sooner in the case of ***Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance*** – policy PoP02) whenever:
  - 11.1 there has been an active shooter incident;
  - 11.2 temporary assistance of ***Emergency Response*** functions identified in para 2 to and from the HRPS has been provided (outside of any S14 agreements), and their costs; and
  - 11.3 any time or place where the HRPS is not complying with this policy, including the reason for non-compliance.
12. The Chief of Police shall **annually** report:
  - 12.1 A general overview of the deployments of these ***Emergency Response*** functions (e.g. how many call outs, what type of events, event outcomes, etc.);
  - 12.2 the aggregate temporary assistance ***Emergency Response*** functions to and from the HRPS, by partner agency, as well as the associated costs and the status of cost recoveries; and
  - 12.3 an assessment of the ***Emergency Response*** capacity, training, equipping and supervision relative to forecasted requirements.

## Verification

13. The Board shall verify quality by:
  - 13.1 monitoring the adequacy and effectiveness of these ***Emergency Response*** functions, and public reaction to their performance, on an ongoing basis; and
  - 13.2 verifying the Adequacy & Effectiveness of ***Emergency Response*** functions by:
    - a. annually reviewing the reports on policy compliance and forecasted needs provided by the Chief of Police in para 12 above,
    - b. bi-annually reviewing of the associated HRPS procedures, and
    - c. considering any changes in:



- i. the policing needs, values and expectations of the Community;
- ii. the geographic and socio-demographic characteristics of the Community;
- iii. the extent to and manner in which these policing functions are effectively provided in comparator (Big 12) communities;
- iv. the effectiveness of past provision of each of these policing functions in the Community, relative to Community needs, values and expectations; and
- v. best practices regarding each of these policing functions.

### **Direction Adjustment**

14. Based on the results of its Verifying Performance, the Board may direct any of the following corrective actions necessary to re-establish reasonably Adequate & Effective Emergency Response:
  - 7.1. direct the Chief of Police to take corrective action within the HRPS;
  - 7.2. adjust its policy requirements;
  - 7.3. adjust its Strategic Plan;
  - 7.4. adjust the Budget; and/or
  - 7.5. adjust Assistance Agreements.

### **References:**

- Community Safety & Policing Act s10, s37, s38(2)
- Adequate and Effective Policing (General) Regulation 392/23
- Training Regulation 87/34
- Active Shooter Regulation 393/23
- Policy PoP-01 - Provision of Adequate & Effective Policing
- Policy PoP-04 – Quality Assurance
- Policy PoP-02 - Matters of Immediate Strategic Significance policy
- Ahmed Inquest Recommendations Q2024-26