



GROUND SEARCH FOR LOST OR MISSING PERSONS

ER-007

Effective Date: 2000/09/15

Reviewed: 2013/09/13

Amended: 2025/03/17

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Service Board that the policy requirements set out in this document shall form part of the Board Policies and the Chief of Police is hereby directed to comply with these requirements in his/her administration and operation of the Peel Regional Police.

1. Subject

The guiding principles under which the police service is to establish procedures and processes with respect to ground search for lost or missing persons.

2. Policy Requirements

The Board directs that this section of the policy and any police service directive and/or procedure relating to ground search for lost or missing persons be based on the following principles:

- a. That it is in complete compliance with legislative and constitutional requirements, and recognized legal principles;
- b. That members act with full respect for human dignity and according to professional standards of skill, integrity and accountability;
- c. That it maintains both officer and public safety as a priority;
- d. That it ensures members have the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform this function;
- e. That it ensures members are provided with the necessary tools and equipment to perform this function;
- f. That it maintains liaison and develop partnerships with other emergency service providers and trained volunteer groups to promote the co-ordination of ground search services in the Region of Peel; and
- g. That the Chief of Police regularly review procedures relating to ground search for lost or missing persons to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation.

3. Measurement Methods/Systems

The Chief of Police shall regularly assess the effectiveness of existing protocols, community partnerships, training and education to ensure the integrity of the police services' practices and procedures.

4. Reporting

The Chief of Police shall report on those circumstances where ground search operations for lost or missing persons has resulted in an “exceptional” circumstance, or a circumstance which may be detrimental to the police service; and/or has significant issues of potential liability to the Board and the police service.

As part of a separate Annual Report on Adequacy Regulation, the Chief of Police shall report on compliance with this section of the policy.

5. Authority/Legislative Reference

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, ss. 38(1)(g) and 38(2)

O. Reg. 293/32: Adequate and Effective Policing, ss. 9(1) 8., 9(1) 9., 9(1) 10., 10(1) 8., and 24(1) 2.

Board Minute #191/00

Board Minute #63/13

6. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-410(F)