



HOSTAGE RESCUE ER-003

Effective Date: 2000/09/15
Reviewed: 2013/09/27
Reviewed: 2015/12/02
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 procedures and processes relating to the services of a hostage rescue team are to be established.

2. Specific Definitions

“hostage”

Is any person held by another against their will, by force or threat of force, expressed or implied; and

“barricaded subject”

Is any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily harm or death to hostages, officers, others in the community or to themselves, and who is in a strong hold position.

3. Policy Requirements

The Board directs that this section of the policy and any police service directive and/or procedure relating to the services of a hostage rescue team 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 every reasonable effort is made to effect the safe release of any hostages;
- e. That the police service provide its own hostage rescue team;
- f. That there is 24 hour police response to all incidents requiring the services a hostage rescue team;
- g. That the number of hostage rescue officers deployed is the responsibility of the on-scene unit supervisor, having regard for all existing circumstances;
- h. That it ensures members of the tactical unit are able to perform functions related to containment, apprehension of an armed barricaded person, and hostage rescue;

- i. That it ensures members performing the services of a hostage rescue team have the knowledge, skills and abilities to carry out this function;
- j. That it ensures members are provided with the necessary tools and equipment to perform this function;
- k. That it ensure the police services' procedures for hostage rescue are contained in a manual that is available to each member providing that service; and
- l. That the Chief of Police regularly review procedures on the services of a hostage rescue team to remain current with case law, inquests, inquiry findings, and amendments to related legislation.

4. Measurement Methods/Systems

The Chief of Police shall conduct ongoing statistical analysis, qualitative and quantitative review relating to the services of a hostage rescue team as may be required to:

- a) Ensure the integrity of the police service directive and/or procedure;
- b) Identify emerging trends; and
- c) Collect information with respect to the number of incidents which involved the services of a hostage rescue team.

5. Reporting

The Chief of Police shall report those circumstances where the use of a hostage rescue team 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.

6. Authority/Legislative Reference

Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019, ss. 38(1)(g) and 38(2)
O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing, ss. 9, 10(1) ii., and 24(1) 2.
Board Minute #191/00
Board Minute #63/13
January 29, 2016

7. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-404(F)
I-B-114(F)
I-B-115 (F)