



Underwater Search and Recovery Unit

ER-009

Effective Date: 2011/09/23

Reviewed: 2014/02/19

Amended: 2025/03/17

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Regional Municipality of Peel Police Service Board that the 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 conditions under which the Chief of Police is to establish procedures and processes relating to the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (U.S.R.U.).

2. Policy Requirements

It is the policy of the Board that with respect to the services of an underwater search and recovery unit that the Chief of Police shall:

- a. Provide the services of an underwater search and recovery unit using its own members;
- b. Ensure that services be available 24 hours a day and within a reasonable response time;
- c. Ensure complete compliance with the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (O.H.S.A.) , the O.H.S.A. Diving Operations Regulation 629/94, and the Canadian Standards Association (C.S.A.), Competency Standard for Diving, Hyperbaric Chambers, and Remotely Operated Vehicle Operations CAN/CSA.Z275.4-12 and the Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.2-11 and the Occupational Diver Training CAN/CSA-Z275.5-05 (reaffirmed 2012);
- d. Ensure that members are provided with the safest possible working conditions;
- e. Ensure that the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit members are trained in accordance with the *Occupational Diver Training CAN/CSA-Z275.5-05* (reaffirmed 2012);
- f. Ensure that members of the U.S.R.U. comply with all legislation and operate with the highest regard for safety of its members and the public.
- g. Establish procedures that set out the circumstances in which the service shall be deployed;
- h. Ensure that the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit members comply with the OHSA, and *Diving Operations Regulation* as amended;
- i. Ensure that the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit members are qualified to perform their specific tasks in accordance with the *Competency Standard for Diving, Hyperbaric Chambers, and Remotely Operated Vehicle Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.4-12* as amended;
- j. Ensure that the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit members perform their tasks according to the *Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.2-92* as amended;
- k. Develop and maintain a reference file on all diving hazards that is available to each member providing this service;

- I. Establish a selection process for the unit;
- m. Ensure the ongoing training of members who provide this service;
- n. Ensure that the police service's major incident commanders receive training in their responsibilities and the capabilities of the underwater search and recovery unit; and
- o. Ensure that appropriate equipment, in accordance with the Ministry's designated equipment and facilities list, is used/available to the members who provide this service.

3. Measurement Methods

The Chief of Police shall regularly review the procedures and process of Underwater Search and Recovery Unit as required to ensure the compliance with Board policies and legislative requirements.

4. Reporting

The Chief of Police shall report on an exception basis. This applies to those circumstances where within the unit have 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/or the police service.

5. Authority/Legislative Reference

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

O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General), ss. 10(1) 9. and 24(1) 2.

Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)

OHSA Diving Operations Regulation 629/94

Canadian Standards Association (C.S.A.) Competency Standard for Diving, Hyperbaric Chambers and Remotely Operated Vehicle Operations -CAN/CSA-Z275.4.12

Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations – CAN/CSA-Z275.2-11

Occupational Diver Training- CSA-2275.5-05 (reaffirmed 2012)

Board Minute #69/11

Board Minute #18/14

6. Linkage to Appropriate Police Service Procedure/Directive

I-B-405 (F) – Underwater Search and Recovery Unit