

*"Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods."*

## ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### 1503.6, EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

EFFECTIVE DATE:	3/18/2024
RESCINDS:	P&P 1503.5
DISTRIBUTION GROUP:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION STANDARDS:	17
RELATED LAWS:	N/A
RELATED POLICIES:	N/A
CHIEF OF POLICE:	ERIC D. SMITH

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#### 1. PURPOSE

This policy provides guidance on when ERT should be activated, including assisting other jurisdictions, and the requirements of the ERT.

#### 2. POLICY

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) may be activated to handle large demonstrations, union disorders, riots, and mass arrest situations. The ERT may be used when an event is pre-planned and would tax on-duty resources beyond acceptable limits. The ERT may also be activated to support Patrol Services Bureau mobile field force operations already in progress.

#### 3. DEFINITIONS

N/A

#### 4. PROCEDURES

##### 4.1 ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Prior to activating the ERT, the watch commander will use on-duty resources (Code 11) to attempt to resolve any disturbance and restore order.

ERT may be requested by any member of the rank of lieutenant or higher or by any acting watch commander. Activation of the team shall be accomplished by contacting the High-Risk Incident Commander (HRIC). Upon approval from the High-Risk Incident Commander, the initiating member or the HRIC will contact the ERT Commander or the Communications Division to activate the call-out. This call-out system will command all ERT personnel to respond to the designated staging area with their gear. The watch commander is responsible for apprising the team commander of the nature of the problem. The watch commander will also notify the appropriate chain of command.

The ERT Commander is responsible for ensuring that ERT personnel are included in the ERT call-out system and email distribution group.

Upon arrival, the ERT Commander shall confer with the watch commander or higher authority. All orders for the ERT will go through the ERT Commander. The ERT Commander will direct the Communications Division to establish a 10-33 radio channel which will be maintained for the duration of the operation, if not already established. The watch commander is in overall command of any incident unless relieved by higher authority.

ERT personnel are available to assist with any incident where the potential deployment of a chemical agent may be necessary (e.g., civil disturbances, barricaded subjects, etc.).

### **4.2 ERT ORGANIZATION**

The ERT is comprised of its commanders, six squads of line supervisors and officers, a chemical agent team, and a logistics squad.

#### **4.2.1 EQUIPMENT**

The ERT Commander or designee is responsible for ensuring that all ERT unassigned equipment (munitions and less lethal weapons) is inspected at least biannually. The inspection will be documented and retained by the ERT Chem Team Lieutenant.

The ERT Commander or designee is responsible for maintaining a stock of riot shields at each substation (Primrose, SWCPO, SECPO, NWCPO) and OPH. The ERT Commander or designee is responsible for ensuring that all chemical agents assigned to ERT members are maintained and up to date.

#### **4.2.2 TRAINING**

The ERT will conduct training and readiness exercises quarterly. Training is mandatory. Training, scheduling, and notifications are the responsibility of the team commander or designee. Whenever possible, members will adjust normal work hours to allow for on-duty training. The ERT Training Lieutenant will document each training day and forward all records to the Training Unit.

#### **4.2.3 SELECTION PROCESS**

The ERT will conduct a selection process for new members when there is an anticipated opening. This process will be scheduled at the discretion of the team commander. The process will be as follows:

- a. A Special Notice will be published requesting the following:
  1. Letter of Intent from each applicant with supervisory endorsements
  2. Discipline history
  3. In good standing per the bargaining unit contract
  4. The ability to complete and pass a Police Mountain Bike Certification Course
  5. Commitment to respond to mandatory call-outs and training

The selection process may be modified at the discretion of the team commander or to bring the process within the guidelines of any legal decision. The team commander shall make the final selection of new members.

#### **4.3 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL OPERATIONS**

If an Orlando incident requires mutual aid, the team commander will meet with the respective commanders of the agencies responding and brief them. The team commander will then assign an Orlando officer and radio to that commander for liaison if necessary for communication. The responding commander will be given specific instructions and an area of responsibility.

When the ERT responds to another jurisdiction, the team commander will be briefed by and accept specific instructions from the on-scene commander. If the team commander does not have radio communications with the on-scene commander, he/she will request a radio and/or liaison officer.

The Orlando Police Department ERT shall not respond to assist another jurisdiction unless:

- a. A mutual-aid agreement is in effect between OPD and the requesting jurisdiction, or
- b. Other legal authority allows the action as approved by the Police Legal Advisor and the Chief of Police.

## **5. FORMS AND APPENDICES**

N/A