Policy Name:	**EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**		
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Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	**Approved By:**	SURREY POLICE BOARD
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RELATED POLICIES

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To ensure Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members have access to specialized tactical response resources to support them in reaching a safe conclusion to Critical Incidents and other potentially violent situations.

1.2 SPS will enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lower Mainland District Integrated Emergency Response Team (LMD IERT) for the operational use of emergency response team (critical incident) services.

1.3 To ensure the operational deployment of LMD IERT follows the British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This policy applies to all SPS Members.

3. POLICY

3.1 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RCMP, SPS, and other municipal police agencies in the region will govern all aspects of the resourcing, funding, and management of the LMD IERT.

3.2 The LMD IERT Critical Incident Package will consist of (to be referred to as LMD IERT):

3.2.1 Critical Incident Commander

3.2.2 Emergency Response Team (including all physical support resources)
3.2.3 Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)

3.3 LMD IERT will take command of all critical incidents requiring the use of a critical incident package occurring within Surrey.

3.4 SPS will provide an organizational and operational structure within which LMD IERT can provide an efficient and effective multi-jurisdictional resolution to potentially violent and critical incidents.

3.5 The Officer in Charge (OIC) of LMD IERT, will be subject to the command of the OIC of the Lower Mainland District Integrated Teams.

3.6 The OIC LMD IERT is responsible for the operational and administrative management of LMD IERT and all critical incident staff.

3.7 SPS will support Members that possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities to join LMD IERT on secondment.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 LMD IERT is responsible for providing an enhanced response to frontline policing by assisting and assuming command during Critical Incidents and calls for service that present a potential high risk to Member safety and public safety or require technical and tactical skills beyond the perceived scope, abilities, or training of frontline policing.

4.2 LMD IERT will support frontline policing by ensuring highly skilled and well-equipped personnel are available to assist with high risk or dangerous situations, including but not limited to:

i. hostage taking (including kidnapping – see Kidnap protocol);
ii. active deadly threat;
iii. high-risk arrests;
iv. high-risk warrant executions;
v. high-risk witness protection;
vi. armed and barricaded persons;
vii. assisting Police Dog Services;
viii. high-angle and technical rescue; and
ix. shadow detail (assistance with surveillance).

4.3 LMD IERT will also be available to assist SPS to:

i. provide backup support to frontline Members within SPS's jurisdiction;
ii. conduct highly visible enforcement in support of the Lower Mainland Gang Strategy;
iii. participate in community youth initiatives such as youth academies, school lectures and community events; and

iv. train frontline police in officer safety and awareness in high-risk situations such as containment, weapons training and when to activate LMD IERT.

Activation and Deployment for an Emergency Event

4.4 Members or Supervisors requiring the assistance of LMD IERT for an unplanned event, must make their request through the SPS Duty Officer. Request can be made by phone or over the air via the OCC.

4.5 In exigent circumstances, such as in the case of an Active Deadly Threat, a field supervisor may make the request for LMD IERT directly over the air through the Real Time Intelligence Centre (RTIC).

4.6 In all other circumstances the Duty Officer, once briefed, will contact the on-duty LMD IERT commander directly at 778-290-4111.

4.7 LMD IERT will be deployed only after approval by the on-duty LMD IERT CIC.

4.8 The Duty Officer or designate must document communication and de-escalation techniques used prior to the arrival of LMD IERT.

4.9 The requesting Duty Officer or designate must be prepared to brief LMD IERT CIC or designate either by telephone or in person with the most up to date information about:

i. background of the suspect(s) (SOC) if known (including criminal records or history of mental health);
ii. presence of weapons (observed, reported or accessible to the SOC);
iii. presence of injured persons (including the SOC);
iv. presence of other occupants (adults, children or pets);
v. containment of the building or structure including any known access or exit points;
vi. react plans in place;
vii. attempts at communication prior to IERT arrival; and
viii. any other relevant information.

4.10 Upon arrival of LMD IERT, members must follow the directions of the LMD IERT Team leader and the SPS Supervisor at the scene.

4.11 Upon conclusion of the Critical Incident or emergency event, the Supervisor must ensure that the OCC, CSOC, and Duty Officer have been notified and that required reports are submitted.

Activation and Deployment for a Planned Event

4.12 Prior to the planned deployment of LMD IERT, the requesting Member or investigator must first contact the SPS Duty Officer to discuss the investigation.

4.13 At the direction of the Duty Officer, the requesting Member or investigator will forward to the LMD IERT CIC:

i. background of the SOC(s) if known (including criminal records or history of mental health);
ii. access to or presence of weapons (e.g., Canadian Firearms Registry);
iii. presence of other occupants (adults, children or pets);
iv. layout of the premises if known and any access or exit points;
v. status of surveillance activities on premises; and
vi. any other relevant information.

4.14 The above information should, if practicable, be entered onto an RCMP ED6217 Risk Assessment for Warrant Service request form and forwarded to the LMD IERT CIC (contact information on the form).

4.15 If for any reason the LMD IERT are unable to conduct the warrant service, the investigator must notify the Duty Officer.

4.16 Upon conclusion of the Emergency Event, the NCO must ensure that the OCC, CSOC and Duty Officer have been notified and that any required reports are submitted.

Seconded Members to LMD IERT

4.17 Members seconded to LMD IERT are subject to the command of, and accountable to the OIC LMD IERT.

4.18 SPS will post positions for LMD IERT vacancies as they become available and will maintain a roster of potential candidates that are available for selection, in collaboration with SPS Employee Services Section, by the OIC LMD IERT.

4.19 Members seconded to LMD IERT must follow the core values and integrity standards of SPS and must follow related SPS administrative policies.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

"Critical incident" means an event or series of events which pose a potential or actual risk to life, and which by their scope and nature require a specialized and coordinated tactical response.

"Critical Incident Package" means the standard combined resources provided LMD IERT services. This includes the Critical Incident Commander, Emergency Response Team (along with all tactical resources), and the Crisis Negotiation Team (along with a Negotiator Liaison Officer).

"Critical Incident Commander (CIC)" means a commissioned officer or senior NCO who has successfully completed the Canadian Police College Critical Incident Commanders' Course. Their role is to command, coordinate, and manage all resources in response to a critical incident.

"Duty Officer" means the officer in operational command of policing resources in the City of Surrey.

"EHQ" means RCMP E-Division Headquarters.

"LMD IERT" means Lower Mainland District Integrated Emergency Response Team.

"Member" means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

"MOU" means Memorandum of Understanding.

"OCC" means the Operational Communications Centre.

"OIC" means Officer in Charge.

"Planned Event" means an incident in which the suspects are unaware of police involvement, and police can use time to plan the resolution (e.g., execution of a high-risk search warrant).

"Secondment" means an SPS Employee's temporary reassignment to an external agency or unit.

"SOC" means Subject of Complaint (Suspect).

"SPS" means Surrey Police Service.

"Supervisor" means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

British Columbia Provincial Policing Standards, *Addendum 1- Interim Continuation of Policing Standards Established by the Former British Columbia Police Commission (BCPC)*, section D13 *Tactical Operations*.