



<b>Policy Name:</b>	<b>PERISHABLE AND HAZARDOUS GOODS</b>		
<b>Policy #:</b>	OP 5.1.5	<b>Last Updated:</b>	2022-04-07
<b>Issued By:</b>	SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU	<b>Approved By:</b>	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		<b>Review Frequency:</b>	AS REQUIRED

**RELATED POLICIES**

*OP 4.18.1 Clandestine Drug Laboratories*

*OP 4.7 Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear Incidents*

*OP 4.34.13 Bomb Threats / Improvised Explosive Devices*

*OP 5.1 Seized Property*

*OP 5.2 Retention of Property for Court Purposes (Form 5.2)*

**1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. To provide Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members with information and guidance on the seizure and handling of perishable property.
- 1.2. To provide SPS Members with information on the proper procedure to handle and store dangerous goods after they are seized.

**2. SCOPE**

- 2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Employees.

**3. POLICY**

- 3.1. Members may encounter incidents whereby they may be required to seize perishable items or hazardous goods.
- 3.2. Members must follow the proper handling and storage procedures for any seized perishable items or hazardous goods to ensure the safety of the public, Members, and civilian staff.

## 4. PROCEDURE

### Perishable Goods

- 4.1. Where Members encounter incidents involving perishable goods, Members must photograph the perishable goods using an SPS-issued camera, and document the description and special markings on the perishable goods. Members may then return the goods to the owner.
- 4.2. If the owner of the perishable goods is unknown, Members will transport the goods to the Property Office for temporary storage in the designated refrigerator or freezer. If the perishable items cannot be stored in the refrigerator or freezer, Members must contact their Supervisor and advise them of the circumstances. The Supervisor may approve the safe and appropriate disposal of the goods. Members must document the disposal of the perishable goods and the reasons for the disposal.
- 4.3. If the owner of the perishable goods is known but unavailable, Members must contact the owner at the earliest possible opportunity.
- 4.4. Members must follow the general property procedures (refer to OP 5.1 *Seized Property*) when dealing with seizures of perishable property.

### Dangerous Goods

- 4.5. Members seizing property that may be dangerous must first determine that the property may be safely handled and stored at the Property Office.
- 4.6. If dangerous goods must be seized as evidence, Members must have them photographed with an SPS-issued camera in case they cannot be safely stored at the Property Office. Members must also determine that it is safe to photograph these items as they may be sensitive to flash photography, which may cause an explosion.
- 4.7. If Members determine that the items can be safely handled, the materials cannot be stored inside the SPS Property Office. Any seized dangerous goods will be stored in a designated "C CAN" (shipping container) located outside of the Property Office. Members must follow the general property procedures (refer to OP 5.1 *Seized Property*).
- 4.8. All dangerous goods must be entered into the PRIME-BC General Occurrence (GO) property module and a property tag sticker describing the dangerous material must be attached to the item. These items must be clearly marked as "DANGEROUS".
- 4.9. Members must not transport any dangerous goods in their police vehicles. Members may be required to call Surrey Fire Service for assistance for a safety assessment and assist with transporting dangerous goods on behalf of the Members.

- 4.10. Where Members have located dangerous goods that are suspected to be chemical or chemical waste materials associated to a suspected clandestine drug lab, Members will contact a Clandestine Drug Lab trained Member for assistance. Depending on the circumstances, the RCMP Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement and Response (CLEAR) Team and the City of Surrey bylaw or building inspectors may be required to attend. The CLEAR Team will assist with making arrangements to have the chemicals or waste materials safely removed and transported to a safe destruction facility (see OP 4.18.1 *Clandestine Drug Laboratories*).
- 4.11. If the substance requires the collection of sample(s) for laboratory analysis, Members will request the assistance of the Surrey Fire Service, RCMP CLEAR Team, RCMP Disposal Unit or trained SPS personnel to ensure proper handling of the substance to obtain the sample(s).
- 4.12. Members must NOT bring dangerous goods to court as an exhibit.

#### **Compressed Gas Cylinders**

- 4.13. Members are to avoid seizing compressed gas cylinders unless absolutely necessary. If Members must seize compressed gas cylinders, they are not to transport them in their police vehicle and they cannot be stored at the Property Office. Members will contact Surrey Fire Service for assistance with transportation and storage of the cylinders.
- 4.14. Upon seizure of compressed gas cylinders, Members must follow the general property procedures (refer to OP 5.1 *Seized Property*) and the detention of property procedures (refer to OP 5.2 *Retention of Property For Court Purposes (Form 5.2)*).

#### **Seizures of Unknown Powders**

- 4.15. When seizing unknown powders (e.g., Fentanyl), Members must be extremely careful to ensure their personal safety and avoid disturbing the powder and contaminating the scene (see OP 4.7 *Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear Incidents*).
- 4.16. Depending on the amount or volume of unknown powder being seized, Members may double or triple bag the powder for safe transportation and storage. For seizures of large amounts of unknown powders, Members must use specifically designed airtight UN certified pails to safely transport to and store the powder at the Property Office. UN certified pails will be made available upon request by the Property Office to the investigating Member.

#### **Reporting Requirements**

- 4.17. All Members must create a PRIME-BC GO report and enter all the seized property into the PRIME-BC GO property module. Property tag stickers must be attached to all seized property.
- 4.18. In the PRIME-BC GO report, Members must include the names, work location, rank, identification/employee number of any non SPS Member who handled or transported the items. If the items are not being stored at the Property Office, Members are to instruct the non-SPS

Member of the intended disposition of the item (e.g., compressed gas cylinder to be transported to the City of Surrey works yard for destruction).

## APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Dangerous Goods” means materials defined in the *Hazardous Waste Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 63/88 as dangerous goods that are no longer used for their original purpose, and meet the criteria for Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, or 9 of the transportation of dangerous goods regulations. The classes are:

- Class 2 Gases - compressed, deeply refrigerated, liquefied or dissolved under pressure
- Class 3 Flammable and combustible liquids.
- Class 4 Flammable solids; substances liable to spontaneous combustion and substances that emit flammable gases when in contact with water.
- Class 5 Oxidizing agents; organic peroxides.
- Class 6 Poisonous (toxic) and infectious substances.
- Class 8 Corrosive substances.
- Class 9 Miscellaneous products, substances or organisms that are considered to be dangerous to life, health, property or the environment when transported and are prescribed to be included in this class.

“Employee” means a sworn Member or Civilian Employee appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“GO” means General Occurrence Report submitted in the PRIME-BC records management system.

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

“PRIME-BC” means the Police Records Information Management Environment, the provincial police records management system.

“Seized property” means any property that comes into the possession of a Member during an investigation, and is not considered found property, relinquished property or property for safekeeping.

“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**

*Hazardous Waste Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 63/88