

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 106-06 PAGES: 4

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2004

SUBJECT: WINONA COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (E.R.T.)

1.0 ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION:

This team is made up of personnel from Law Enforcement agencies within Winona County and is activated on an as needed basis. The ERT can be utilized in situations including but not limited to: hostage situations, barricaded suspects, high risk warrant execution and other high risk situations.

2.0 PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITY:

2.1 The purpose of the ERT is to effect a disciplined response to critical incidents by a team of officers, trained in the use of specialized equipment and tactics. The ERT is organized to resolve incidents where the personal safety or welfare of citizens or officers is deemed at critical risk as a result of threatening or aggressive action by an individual or group.

2.2 The primary concern in all critical incidents is the protection of human life. Whenever possible, efforts will be directed toward peaceful negotiation rather than violent assault. However, many critical incidents, such as barricaded suspects, snipers, hostage situations and high risk searches and arrests require a tactical plan.

2.3 The ERT shall assess each incident to which it responds and determine the degree of force necessary to resolve the incident. In deciding the appropriate level of force, the safety of all persons who may be involved must be considered.

3.0 CHAIN OF COMMAND:

3.1 The ERT will come under the command of the Deputy Chief of Police or the County Chief Deputy, depending on the jurisdiction of the operation. The Deputy Chief or Chief Deputy may delegate the operational authority to any officer, hereinafter referred to as the ERT Leader.

3.2 Assistant Team Leaders can also be established.

4.0 ERT LEADER:

The ERT Leader shall be appointed by the Deputy Chief of Police and Chief Deputy of Winona County. The ERT Leader, regardless of rank, is totally in charge of all ERT members at the scene of an emergency. He/she will be supervised by the Chief Deputy and/or Deputy Chief of Police. The Team Leader is responsible for all other members of the ERT, equipment and training.

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 106-06 PAGES: 4

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2004

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5.0 ERT LEADERS RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES:

5.1 Upon being summoned to situations where ERT involvement is deemed the most appropriate course of action, the responsibility to resolve the problem with accepted tactical procedures will rest with the Team Leader. The Team Leader will be in charge of the immediate scene and inner perimeter. Other ranking officers present will coordinate their support activities with the ERT Leader.

5.2 The ERT Leader will make the most efficient use of all resources available to him from within and without the Department(s) and do so with a minimum disruption of police services in the remainder of the City/County.

5.3 The Team Leader will submit reports to the Deputy Chief or Chief Deputy detailing the ERT activities and actions taken. The Team Leader will keep abreast of current operational methods and include them in an ongoing training program for ERT members.

5.4 The ERT Leader will monitor vacation schedules of ERT members through their supervisors.

6.0 PATROL AND INVESTIGATIVE COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES:

6.1 During a time of an ERT operation, patrol and investigative command and supervisory officers are responsible for the deployment of support staff and the security of the general area of the emergency. They are to assist the ERT Leader whenever possible. At no time are they expected or allowed to countermand a proper order or directive of the ERT Leader relating to matters dealing directly with the emergency or its inner perimeter.

6.2 If a member of the patrol or investigative command or supervisory staff believes the ERT Leader is acting in a reckless or unsafe manner, he or she is to contact the Deputy Chief of Police or County Chief Deputy, who can take appropriate action.

7.0 RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER OFFICERS:

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 106-06 PAGES: 4

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2004

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ERT members will function under the direction and control of the ERT Leader only when an emergency response has been called. All other police personnel at the scene will function at the direction of their supervisors, who will coordinate activities with the ERT Leader. The follow-up investigative procedures will continue to be performed by the appropriate division.

8.0 SELECTION AND RETENTION OF ERT MEMBERS:

8.1 Selection and removal of ERT members will be done by the Deputy Chief and Chief Deputy in consultation with the ERT Leader. ERT members must attend all ERT training sessions; any absence will require ERT Leader approval.

8.2 All members must hold an above average service rating and maintain good physical conditioning. All members must also be able to qualify with their service weapons in their departmental qualifications.

8.3 Failure to comply with any of the above requirements is just cause for removal from the ERT.

9.0 PROCEDURES FOR CRITICAL INCIDENTS:

9.1 The primary responsibility of patrol officers responding to a critical incident is to clear the area of bystanders and seal avenues of escape. Officers confronting a sniper, armed barricaded person, or hostage situation shall first provide for their own safety and the safety of others. Officers will notify the LEC Dispatch of the situation and request other officers be dispatched to secure the area.

9.2 A supervisor shall go to the scene and determine the status of the incident. He/she will determine whether the ERT is to be called. If the supervisor determines that the ERT is to be called, he/she should direct Dispatch to initiate the ERT call-up procedure. Dispatch will contact the Chief Deputy or Deputy Chief depending on the jurisdiction of the incident. Call-out of ERT members will begin with the Team Leader and continue down the list. Dispatch shall keep a list of ERT members that were called and whether they will be responding or not. Dispatch should advise ERT members to respond to the LEC Conference Room in the basement, unless directed otherwise.

10.0 SUPPORT AGENCIES (NOTIFICATION OF BY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER):

WINONA POLICE DEPARTMENT

NUMBER: 106-06 PAGES: 4

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 27, 2004

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Emergency response from essential support agencies such as Ambulance and Fire Departments may be requested at the direction of any officer at any time. The Fire Department will be requested to stand by on the scene, at the direction of the ERT Leader, if chemical munitions are intended or likely to be used in an ERT operation. All responding support agencies must be informed of the nature of the incident and given specific response instructions coordinated with the on-scene staff.

11.0 ERT WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT:

The upkeep of weapons and equipment used by the ERT will be the responsibility of the ERT Leader. Individually issued or purchased equipment shall be maintained by that ERT member to whom it was issued. Any faulty equipment should be brought to the ERT Leader or an Assistant ERT Leader, who should take the necessary action to repair or replace it.

12.0 CRITICAL INCIDENT CRITIQUE:

Any incident involving an ERT response will be critiqued as soon after the incident as possible. The critique participants will include ERT members and any supervisors that were present.

13.0 UNITY OF COMMAND:

If, while assisting another agency, the ERT Leader is significantly interfered with in the execution of his or her responsibility to safely and effectively resolve an emergency situation, he or she may withdraw the ERT and relinquish total command of the inner perimeter to the ranking officer. In such an instance, the ERT Leader is required to report such an occurrence immediately to the Deputy Chief or Chief Deputy.