



1.7 Major Incidents

1.7.10 (i) Initial Response

(Effective: 2004.04.21)

1. It is recognized that patrol members will be the initial responders to any potential critical incident that may culminate in an ERT operation.

The Field Supervisor, in assessing the situation in terms of its seriousness, will give consideration to, but will not be limited by, the following factors:

- a. whether or not regular patrol members are fully capable of and qualified to handle the situation;
 - b. whether or not the situation is presently volatile;
 - c. whether or not the suspect(s) is armed, if so, the type of weapon(s) they have in their possession;
 - d. whether or not there is now, or will be, some obvious violent resistance to patrol officers in the performance of their duties;
 - e. whether or not specialized equipment is needed;
 - f. whether or not specialized knowledge of tactical operations is needed; and
 - g. whether or not the suspect is known to be at a certain location, the validity of the information and the basis of the intelligence.
2. After evaluating risk, if the Field Supervisor concludes that the situation has the potential to develop into a critical incident and the specialized services of ERT are required, they shall request the attendance of ERT personnel via the Dispatcher or Central Dispatcher monitoring the incident. The Duty Officer will be advised immediately by the Central Dispatcher of all potential ERT deployments to critical incidents. Upon being advised of such an incident, and, if in agreement with the Field Supervisor as to the requirement for ERT personnel, the Duty Officer will be in overall command of the incident and the management of all personnel and resources within both the inner and outer perimeters of a contained area.
 3. After assuming command of an incident utilizing ERT personnel, the Duty Officer, in consultation with the Tactical Team Supervisor, shall assess the appropriateness of requesting a Critical Incident Commander. The criteria for consideration should include, although not be limited, to:
 - a. level of risk of danger to public and police;
 - b. anticipated time frame;
 - c. other events occurring in the city;
 - d. complexity of the event; andthe level of compliance and propensity towards violence demonstrated by the suspect(s) involved

Note: if the incident meets the criteria of an ERT operation, refer to Section [1.13.2 \(i\)](#) of the Regulations and Procedures Manual.



4. Once on scene, responding Tactical Team and Crisis Negotiator personnel will advise the Field Supervisor of their arrival. Tactical Team personnel will commence containment of the inner perimeter. The Field Supervisor, or designate, will advise E-COMM and other responding members of the arrival of the Tactical Team members and of the establishment of the inner perimeter.
5. In the event that Tactical Team personnel arrive on scene prior to other responding members, they are to commence efforts to contain the inner perimeter of the scene. E-COMM as well as the Field Supervisor en route to the scene are to be advised of their actions.
6. The Tactical Team Supervisor, after consultation with the Duty Officer or the Critical Incident Commander, will ensure the appropriate number of ERT members are called to the scene, including an off-duty call out of additional personnel if necessary.
7. During an ERT Operation, the primary objective within the inner perimeter will be the apprehension, utilizing specialized personnel, of the suspect(s). All ERT personnel assigned to duties within the inner perimeter shall be under the supervision of an ERT Supervisor, or in the absence of an ERT Supervisor, the Squad Leader or a senior member of the Tactical Team. In the event that Patrol members, or any members other than ERT personnel are used to contain the inner perimeter, those members shall be under the direction of the ERT Supervisor.
8. The Field Supervisor shall remain responsible for the logistics and supervision of all activities and personnel within the outer perimeter of a critical incident.