

**ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1503.5, EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)**

EFFECTIVE:	07/12/2017
RESCINDS:	1503.4
DISTRIBUTION:	ALL EMPLOYEES
REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY:	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM COMMANDER
ACCREDITATION CHAPTERS:	17
CHIEF OF POLICE:	ORLANDO ROLÓN

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1. ACTIVATION OF THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
2. ERT ORGANIZATION
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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.

PROCEDURES:

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. Upon approval from the High Risk Incident Commander, the initiating member will contact the Communications Division to activate the callout. The ERT Commander will direct the Communications Division to activate the ERT pager call-out system. This pager 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 Emergency Response Team Commander will direct the Communications Division to activate the ERT pager call-out system. This pager call-out system will command all ERT personnel to respond to the station with their gear.

The ERT Commander is responsible for ensuring that ERT personnel are included on the ERT page-group.

Upon arrival, the ERT Commander shall confer with the watch commander. 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.).

2. ERT ORGANIZATION

The ERT is comprised of its commanders, seven squads of line supervisors and officers, a chemical agent team, HAZMAT team and a logistics squad. The HAZMAT team can be used as a booking team in the event ERT is activated for a pre-planned event.

2.1 EQUIPMENT

The ERT Commander or designee is responsible for ensuring that all ERT unassigned equipment (shields, gas guns, and gas munitions) is inspected at least biannually and on all ERT training days. The inspection will be documented on an Emergency Response Team Equipment Inspection Form (Attachment A) and returned to the ERT Commander.

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 sergeant and ERT chemical agent packs are maintained and up to date.

2.2 TRAINING

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

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. Copies of last two evaluations
 3. Discipline history
 4. In good standing per bargaining unit contract
- b. Applicants will be interviewed by the team commander or designee.

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.

3. MULTI-JURISDICTION 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.

ATTACHMENT A

ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
EQUIPMENT INSPECTION FORM

Date: _____

I have inspected the following equipment:

	Count	Condition
Shields	_____	_____
Gas Guns	_____	_____
Gas Munitions	_____	_____

Comments: _____

ERT Commander (or Designee):

Name: _____ (Print) _____ (Signature)