

"Keep Orlando a safe city by reducing crime and maintaining livable neighborhoods."

**ORLANDO POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE
1504.3, SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (SWAT) TEAM**

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PURPOSE: To establish the staffing and operating procedures of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team.

1. PHILOSOPHY

The SWAT Team is a volunteer group staffed by members from various units of the Department. Deadly force will not be used except as authorized by current directives.

PROCEDURES

2. STAFFING

The SWAT Team Commander shall be a command officer appointed by the Chief of Police upon staff recommendations. If the deputy team commanders are of the same rank as the SWAT Team Commander, they shall be subject to the command and direction of the team commander.

The SWAT Team maintains two groups:

- a. Each group will be directed by a team supervisor with snipers and observers assigned to it.
- b. Each group will be capable of independent action if appropriate.

3. ACTIVATION OF THE SWAT TEAM

The SWAT Team shall be activated in the following circumstances:

- a. A contained person who is holding others against their will and is threatening the lives or safety of others.
- b. A contained person who is believed to be or claims to be armed and refuses to surrender.
- c. A contained person who is armed and is threatening to take his or her own life, and has the apparent ability to do so, and refuses to surrender.
- d. A sniper or terrorist is involved in any incident.
- e. Any time a command officer believes a SWAT response is in the public's or the Department's best interest.

The SWAT Team may be activated by any member of the rank of lieutenant or higher or by any acting watch commander. Activation of the team may be accomplished by contacting the High Risk Incident Commander and requesting that the

team respond. Upon approval from the High Risk Incident Commander, the initiating member will contact the Communications Division to activate the callout. The Communications Division has an established system for the call out of the SWAT Team members and will make the appropriate contacts upon request.

4. RESPONSE AND COMMAND

Team members summoned on a call out will respond to the scene of the incident unless otherwise directed.

Normally, no team unit will be utilized unless commanded by a team commander. Upon arrival at an incident, the team commander will establish liaison with the watch commander for briefing and assignment.

The watch commander is in overall command of any incident unless relieved by higher authority.

The SWAT Team is commanded by and receives orders from the SWAT Team Commander, deputy team commander, or ranking SWAT Team supervisor on the scene.

5. TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT

The SWAT Team trains monthly and conducts annual readiness exercise. 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.

Special equipment and firearms will be issued by the Department. Only issued or approved equipment will be used. The team commander or designee shall ensure that all special equipment assigned to the SWAT Team is inventoried and inspected for operational readiness the first month of each quarter. A report of the inventory/inspection shall be made by memorandum and maintained by the team commander.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The SWAT Team 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 selection process will be as follows:

- a. Letter of intent from each applicant.
- b. Supervisory endorsements.
- c. Copies of last three evaluations.
- d. Discipline history.
- e. In good standing per bargaining unit contract.
- f. Successful completion of each of the following:
 1. Obstacle course
 2. Marksmanship course
 3. Agility course
 4. Interview

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 for the new member.

7. HAZMAT

The purpose of this section is to provide guidelines for HAZMAT operations in support of SWAT operations.

HAZMAT – abbreviates Hazardous materials, or substances in quantities or forms that may pose a reasonable risk to health, property, or the environment.

The goals of the SWAT HAZMAT Team are as follows:

- Provide SWAT operators the ability to execute SWAT tasked missions safely in structures confirmed or reasonably suspected of being contaminated with hazardous materials/chemicals.
- Ensure team members are provided with the proper equipment necessary to safely enter a hazardous/dangerous environment.
- Maintain quarterly training in HAZMAT operations so operators can function with their equipment with high proficiency.

Structure -The SWAT HAZMAT Team members or operators will report directly to a SWAT HAZMAT Team Leader (TL) or a SWAT Deputy Team Commander (DTC). The team will consist of thirteen (13) operators, including the TL. There may be more than one TL apart of the HAZMAT Team. There may be additional members or operators brought on the team in anticipation of vacancies, to have new operators with HAZMAT operations attend a forty (40) hour certification course to replace out-going members.

7.1 AUTHORIZATION AND PROCEDURES

- a) SWAT HAZMAT is a tactical option to be used during SWAT missions where an environment is confirmed or reasonably suspected to be contaminated with hazardous materials/chemicals.
- b) The SWAT Team Command Staff and SWAT HAZMAT Team Leaders are responsible for determining if the SWAT HAZMAT Team will be used for a tactical operation.
- c) Once the determination for the need of the SWAT HAZMAT Team to be utilized has been confirmed, the HAZMAT TL or DTC will devise a plan for the execution of the mission.
- d) The Presence of the OFD HAZMAT Team will be required for all HAZMAT operations for rescue and DECON procedures.

SWAT HAZMAT is not an alternative to OFD or a certified Clandestine Laboratory Team and is not equipped or trained to deal with non-tactical applications such as spills, exposure, leaks and or evidence collection or scene processing.