
Emergency Response Team

401.1 ORGANIZATION

Agency Content

The ERT Commander shall be responsible for:

- (a) Supervising team operations and training.
- (b) Evaluating team exercises and operations.
- (c) Coordinating the team's operations with other Divisions, Sections, Units or agencies.
- (d) The ERT Commander will provide both the Criminal Investigations Division and Patrol Division with an up-to-date listing of ERT members (name, phone & pager numbers) so that personnel may be summoned upon activation.

The ERT Commander shall appoint other Command officers to serve as ERT Unit Commanders. Officers appointed as Unit Commanders should possess at a minimum:

- (a) Sound judgment.
- (b) Demonstrated leadership ability.
- (c) Organizational abilities.
- (d) Prior experience conducting training activities (e.g., Instructor Development School, Field Training Officer, etc.).

The ERT Commander shall appoint as many officers as authorized by the Chief of Police to serve as team members. Team members shall perform various specialized tasks as directed by Command personnel based upon the demands of each particular situation. The ERT Commander shall organize personnel into tactical, counter-sniper, hostage negotiation, and Hazardous Devices Units as authorized by the Chief of Police. Team members may be activated to operate in a variety of squad configurations, based upon the needs of the Department, the type of incident, and scope of operations.

401.2 UNIT COMMANDERS

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Unit Commanders shall be directly responsible to the ERT Commander for the activities of subordinate members. At the direction of the ERT Commander Unit Commanders shall:

- (a) Formulate action plans.
- (b) Develop and implement tactics.
- (c) Brief and supervise team members and execute operations.

The ERT Unit Commanders shall be responsible for the administration of their respective Units, and shall:

- (a) Conduct periodic inspections of team equipment.
- (b) Prepare team budget requests.

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- (c) Maintain team records.
- (d) Establish procedures for team operations.
- (e) Select team personnel.

401.3 ACTIVATION AND DEPLOYMENT

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Activation of the ERT, or an ERT specific Unit, shall be by the direction of the Chief of Police or his/her designee.

The senior most Command Officer on the scene of an incident may request ERT activation based on the circumstances present.

- (a) If the incident and circumstances require an ERT specific Unit, the senior most Command Officer may request that specific Unit's activation.
- (b) If the situation clearly warrants activation of an ERT specific Unit, an ERT Unit Commander or his/her designee may activate his/her respective ERT Unit and shall notify the ERT Commander of the circumstances requiring activation.

Team Members, upon receiving a notification, shall respond immediately and appropriately:

- (a) Unless otherwise directed, respond to the command post.
- (b) Dress in uniform and ensure that all equipment is operational.
- (c) Assemble in the designated staging area for briefing.

Upon completion of the operation team members shall assemble in a designated area for an immediate debriefing of the incident. All team members shall prepare all appropriate reports, specific to the incident that the Team member was involved, to detail the Team members actions. All reports will be submitted to the Unit Commander.

In the event of a Department – Wide “Emergency Mobilization” of personnel ERT members shall respond as directed.

401.4 ERT MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS AND APPOINTMENT

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Team members must possess the following minimum qualifications:

- (a) Permanent civil service status as a police officer.
- (b) For the CERU, CRU, Hazardous Devices Unit, Syracuse Police Peer Support Unit and SWAT, a minimum of three years of police experience, or commensurate training and experience, and a minimum of one year as a Syracuse Police Officer.
- (c) For the Public Order Unit, at a minimum, successful completion of the Department's Field Training Program.
- (d) Satisfactory completion of personnel performance evaluation(s).
- (e) A record of sound judgment decisions in field and tactical situations.

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- (f) SWAT applicants must be able to successfully pass the SWAT application process to include: physical agility, firearms test, reality-based evaluations, and background investigation.

Unit Commanders shall interview applicants for positions within the team, evaluate the applicants past performance evaluations, and assess the applicant's qualifications. The interviewers shall make recommendations for appointment to the ERT Commander.

The ERT Commander, with approval of the Chief of Police, shall appoint members to the team.

401.5 EQUIPMENT

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The specifications of uniforms and equipment for the Emergency Response Team shall be as directed by the ERT Commander and as authorized by the Chief of Police or his/her authorized designee. The Department shall issue the special assignment uniforms and equipment to ERT members. This may consist of, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Portable radios with or without earphones.
- (b) Cell Phone.
- (c) Flashlight.
- (d) Gas mask.
- (e) Tactical/Ballistic vest.
- (f) Ballistic helmet.
- (g) Specialized side arm.
- (h) Rifle.
- (i) Shotgun.
- (j) Less lethal munition.
- (k) SCBA, chemical /fire protective clothing.
- (l) Binoculars/spotting scope/range finder.
- (m) Ballistic body suits, vests, and shields (Hazardous Devices Unit).
- (n) Reduced static and fire resistant uniforms (Hazardous Devices Unit).
- (o) Specialized protective equipment and shields (Public Order Unit).
- (p) Duty uniform (Camouflage and Black).
- (q) Cold weather gear.
- (r) Gun belt and Holster.
- (s) Eye protection.
- (t) Appropriate gear containment.
- (u) Simmunitions/PPE gear.

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Team members shall be responsible for the care and maintenance of specialized equipment issued to them. Members shall request the replacement or repair of uniforms and equipment that is worn, damaged or unserviceable, in writing via their Unit's Commanding Officer.

401.6 UNIT COMMANDER AND TEAM MEMBER TRAINING RESPONSIBILITIES

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The Unit Commanders shall be responsible for the training activities of the team and shall:

- (a) Establish training objectives.
- (b) Approve training curriculums.
- (c) Schedule training courses and exercises.
- (d) Arrange or approve training sites.
- (e) Evaluate training programs.
- (f) Maintain training records.

Team members will not be excused from their training commitments except for court appearances, illness or injury, military duty, or with prior approval from their Unit Commander.

- (a) Team members that are unable to attend a training date shall notify their respective unit Commander in writing, prior to such training date.

Upon authorization of the Chief of Police, an ERT member shall be released from their regular duty assignment for training.