
Purpose

This policy sets forth guidelines governing the activation of the Headwaters SWAT Team.

Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to utilize the Headwaters SWAT team when situations present a significant risk to public safety.

Procedures

I. Situations warranting SWAT team consideration:

- a. The situation is beyond the normal capability of the regular on-duty personnel. For example, the suspect is armed with superior weapons and has a tactical advantage.
- b. Information has been developed that the location will be barricaded against entry.
- c. Information has been developed that a suspect(s) has a history of violent assaults or confrontation or is a member of a militant group.
- d. Any situation that requires additional manpower in order to achieve a peaceful resolution. For example, domestics involving weapon usage, hostage situations or the possibility thereof.
- e. Civil disturbances involving large numbers of participants or groups which, by the nature or size of their organization, would excessively tax the reserve of available duty personnel.

The circumstances enumerated above are representative of those warranting a request for S.W.A.T. assistance. There are undoubtedly others. Personnel should not hesitate to contact the S.W.A.T. Commander or Team Leaders for advice relative to assistance available.

II. Initial response

- a. First Officers at the Scene Must:
 - i. Assume positions to contain the incident and to prevent the escape of the suspect(s).
 - ii. Provide first aid to injured victims/citizens if it is safe to do.
 - iii. Advise supervisory or O.I.C. on duty concerning their request that S.W.A.T. be called out.
- b. The supervisor or OIC must;
 - i. Evaluate the incident and determine if the team is needed. If there is any doubt, activate a call-out, as it is wise to have the S.W.A.T. available in any event.
 - ii. Determine if the situation allows for a warrantless entry or if a search or arrest warrant is need.
 - iii. If a warrant is need, assign an officer to immediately begin drafting a search warrant.
 - iv. Establish an encrypted 800 talk group and request the dispatcher initiate a S.W.A.T. call-out.

- v. Ensure a secure perimeter has been established around the scene to prevent ingress and egress by anyone.
- vi. If needed, begin evacuating citizens in danger. These persons should be taken to a safe place and interviewed if possible. They may have information about the incident.
- vii. Consider the use of the Code Red System but, realize that it may create more of a crowd management issue.
- viii. Family members or friends of the suspect should not be allowed to contact the suspect(s) at this point.
- ix. Obtain as much information as possible about any possible suspect(s) including name, physical description, military background and mental state. A record check should be made to determine whether or not the suspect has a warrant. Files should be checked to determine any background information, including prior arrests or other involvements.
- x. Obtain, if possible, information regarding all locations involved. A diagram of these locations should be prepared showing entrances, exits, windows, inside rooms, adjacent buildings, and any additional information about the locations that may prove useful to the Team, i.e. dogs, security alarms. etc.
- xi. Set up a command post and staging area. Responding officers and team members will report to this area. In some cases, Team members will arrive before some of the Team equipment. They will assume inner perimeter positions and gather information.
- xii. Brief the SWAT Commander or Team Leader upon their arrival so a unified response can be initiated.

III. Conclusion of the situation

Once the SWAT team has arrested the suspect or the situation has ended, the on duty supervisor is responsible for the following:

- a. Assuming command of the scene and informing all supporting agencies such as the ambulance service or fire dept if they are needed or may clear the scene.
- b. Ensuring that the search warrant is properly executed and all evidence is collected.
- c. Communicate with all people that were evacuated that it is safe to return.
- d. Contact the owner of the home or business where the situation occurred to inform them of any damage or need to secure their property.
- e. If the subject taken into custody is the owner, the supervisor should attempt to secure the property the best they can.
- f. Ensure all responding officers complete reports in the records management system if necessary.
- g. Communicate with the in-coming supervisor to make them aware of the situation.
- h. Flag the report for administration notification.

Reference or Revision Date(s):

A. REVISION DATE(S):