



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Hostage Rescue Team Support
Policy Number:	ER-003
Effective Date:	April 1, 2024
Reviewed:	April 22, 2026
Authorized:	Police Services Board

AUTHORITY/LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE

- *Community Safety and Policing Act, 2019 S.O. 2019, c. 1, Sched. 1*
- *Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General)*
- *Ontario Regulation 398/23 – Alternative Provision of Policing Functions)*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board (the “Board”) is dedicated to ensuring effective and responsive support for hostage rescue team operations in alignment with the Community Safety and Policing Act and Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General).

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the St. Thomas Police Service (the “Service”) has access to specialized hostage rescue team services through formal agreements with other police services.

POLICY APPLICATION

1. It is the policy of the Board with respect to the services of a hostage rescue team that:
 - a. the Board will ensure that the St. Thomas Police Service has access to hostage rescue team services through agreements or other arrangements with one or more police services capable of providing those services on a 24-hour basis within a reasonable response time; and
 - b. the Chief of Police will:
 - i. establish procedures that set out the circumstances in which hostage rescue team services will be deployed, including the process for obtaining those services and the reporting relationships during the incident;
 - ii. ensure that the Service’s major incident commanders and crisis negotiators train with the hostage rescue team provider where appropriate; and
 - iii. ensure that equipment required under the category of “tactical units and hostage rescue teams” in Schedule 1 – Required Equipment and Other Resources of Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General) is available to members supporting such operations.