



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

Subject:	Ground Search for Lost or Missing Persons
Policy Number:	ER-007
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 394/23 – Major Case Management and Approved Software Requirements*
- *Missing Persons Act, 2018*
- *Ontario Regulation 182/19 – General*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board (the “Board”) acknowledges the importance of effective coordination in ground searches for lost or missing persons. The Board is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of the community through structured search management and collaborative efforts involving police services, emergency service providers, and trained volunteer organizations.

POLICY APPLICATION

1. It is the policy of the Board with respect to ground searches for lost or missing persons that the Chief of Police (the “Chief”) shall:
 - a. promote, through partnerships with other police services, emergency service providers and volunteer groups, the coordination of ground search services in the jurisdiction served by the St. Thomas Police Service (the “Service”);
 - b. develop procedures governing ground search operations for lost or missing persons;
 - c. ensure that search coordinators and team leaders have the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform these functions; and
 - d. ensure that all equipment listed under “emergency ground or waterway search” in Schedule 1 – Required Equipment and Other Resources of Ontario Regulation 392/23 – Adequate and Effective Policing (General) is available to members involved in ground search services