



St. Thomas Police Service

BOARD POLICY

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| Subject: | Underwater Search and Recovery |
| Policy Number: | ER-009 |
| 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)*
- *Occupational Health and Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1*

POLICY STATEMENT

The St. Thomas Police Services Board (the “Board”) is committed to providing effective and timely emergency response services. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the St. Thomas Police Service (the “Service”) has access to specialized underwater search and recovery 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.

POLICY APPLICATION

1. It is the policy of the Board with respect to the services of an underwater search and recovery unit that:
 - a. the Board will ensure that the Service has access to underwater search and recovery 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;
 - b. the Chief of Police will, in consultation with any assisting police service where applicable:
 - i. establish procedures that set out the circumstances in which the underwater search and recovery unit will be deployed, including the process for obtaining those services and the reporting relationships;
 - ii. establish procedures for the deployment of other emergency response services, including receiving assistance from other agencies;
 - iii. ensure that the Service’s major incident commanders receive training where appropriate; and
 - iv. ensure that all equipment listed under “underwater search and recovery units” in Schedule 1 – Required Equipment and Other Resources of Ontario Regulation 392/23 –

Adequate and Effective Policing (General) is available to members performing those functions.