

# St. Joseph, Missouri Police Department



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SUBJECT: Special Response Team		
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		DISTRIBUTION: B (Sworn Members- Communications Center)

## I. POLICY:

The Special Response Team (SRT) responds to high-risk situations requiring specialized tactics and coordination. The purpose of the team is to accomplish its objectives with minimal risk to officers and citizens. After authorization by the Chief of Police, the Commanding Officer of the Special Response Team will assume control over the police action. The Special Response Team shall also maintain its own Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

## II. PROCEDURE:

- A. The primary duty of the Special Response Team is to affect the resolution of difficult police incidents, outside the realm of the uniform police response. Such incidents include those that require practiced and developed skills, tactics, and specialized equipment that give the Department the best chance for success and safety.
  1. Police incidents that meet the criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - a. Hostage rescue;
    - b. Barricaded suspects;
    - c. Sniper situations (See also SRT Manual);
      - In these active shooter situations, field members are required to attempt to neutralize the suspect to safeguard human life
    - d. Service of high-risk search and arrest warrants (See also SRT Manual);
    - e. Providing surveillance and stake-out services on high-risk situations;
    - f. Providing dignitary protection services;
    - g. Threatened suicides with armed subjects (See also SRT Manual); and
    - h. Protection of officers during riot situations.
- B. **Selection:**  
The selection of SRT members shall be made in accordance with the provisions outlined in the General Order governing Additional Duty/Specialized Assignments

and the SRT Operating Procedures Manual. The SRT shall consist of the following positions (beginning with the highest ranking authority to the lowest):

1. SRT Commander;
2. SRT Team Leader;
3. SRT Assistant Team Leader;
4. SRT Sniper; and
5. SRT Member.

**C. SRT Operations Manual:**

The Special Response Team Commander shall maintain a SRT Operating Procedures Manual that includes operational plans approved by the Chief of Police. The manual shall be reviewed and updated annually.

**D. SRT Activation:**

1. SRT call-out to a critical incident will supersede all other non-emergency call-out situations within the police service (i.e. need for an Evidence Technician, etc.). The Communications Center will activate the SRT group call up, or electronic notification at the direction of the SRT Commander.
2. A Watch Commander/Shift Supervisor will attempt to contact the SRT Commander or his/her designate when a dangerous situation (as those listed above in II.A.1) has developed.
  - a. The SRT Commander or his/her designate shall have the authority to determine whether the SRT is put into actual use. If assisting with a search warrant for another unit, a Threat Assessment Form will be completed to help determine if SRT is used.
  - b. The Chief of Police and Patrol Commander shall be notified upon SRT activation.
3. Requests for the SRT by outside agencies should be directed through the same SRT Chain of Command, with authorization for such use being decided by the Chief of Police or his/her designate. Emergency mutual-aid requests for the SRT may be initiated by the highest ranking on-duty Supervisor. This Supervisor will notify the Chief of Police and the Patrol Commander of the SRT activation as soon as possible.

**E. Command Responsibilities:**

1. The on-duty Watch Commander/Shift Supervisor will be the Incident Commander in an emergency call-out situation, unless relieved by higher authority. The SRT Commander will assume command of the inner perimeter/operation upon arrival at the scene (see also the Special Order governing Hostages/Barricaded Subjects).
  - a. The Incident Commander and field supervisor will be responsible for the following activities:
    - a1) Coordinating assignments of all responding police units;
    - a2) Establishing inner and outer containment perimeters;
    - a3) Ensuring that field personnel make every effort to secure and stabilize the area prior to the arrival of the SRT;
    - a4) Evacuating citizens and injured parties (if this can be done safely prior to the arrival of the SRT);
    - a5) Establishing a Command Post/Staging Area in the best possible strategic location;

- a6) Putting emergency medical and fire units on standby status; and
  - a7) Maintaining a liaison with any news media at the scene.
  - 2. The SRT Commander or his/her designate will be the final authority on all tactical decisions, and may implement the tactical option upon approval of the Incident Commander or when the point of compromise has been reached. The point of compromise is defined as that point where the team has been visually compromised, put in immediate danger, or come under "gun fire".
- F. Documentation/Use of Force:**
- 1. A police report is required in all actual police operations, including when high-risk police tactics are deployed. The report on the high-risk police tactics is the responsibility of the officer who actually used the tactic.
    - a. A high-risk tactic is defined as police tactics that have an increased potential of causing injury than conventional police tactics.
    - b. If lethal force is used by a SRT member, it must comply with the guidelines under the General Order governing Use of Force.
    - c. The proper introduction of chemical agents to the incident shall be at the discretion of the SRT Commander or his/her designate.
- G. Post-Incident Procedures:**
- 1. Following the conclusion of an incident, the SRT shall turn over responsibility for any further investigation to other appropriate personnel (i.e. Detective Division).
  - 2. SRT members should not be utilized in the investigation of an incident in which they have been involved.
  - 3. The SRT Commander or his/her designate shall ensure that all appropriate police reports concerning SRT incident activities have been prepared and forwarded to the appropriate personnel.
- H. Training:**
- 1. SRT members will participate in mandatory training sessions as stipulated in the SRT Operations Manual. Such training will include appropriate legal updates.
  - 2. SRT members are expected to exhibit a high degree of physical fitness and proficiency with all types of weapons/equipment used. There will be regular assessments of all team members to measure both physical fitness and firearms proficiency (see provisions outlined in the SRT Operations Manual).
- I. Equipment:**
- Special equipment needed to provide tactical officers with proper protection is listed in the SRT Operations Manual.

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Chris Connally                      Chief of Police

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Date