

Policy Type: **Executive Limitations**



Policy Title: **Active Attacker Incidents**

Policy Statement

Readiness in the event of an active attacker is critical to ensuring the safety of the community. The Board is committed to ensuring that the Police Service is expertly prepared to address such incidents with adequate equipment, training, and processes in place to restore safety and order, and support victims and members involved in the incident.

Policy Application

In this Policy,

“active attacker” means an individual who appears to be engaged in, attempting to engage in, or about to engage in an attack where there is reason to suspect that,

- (a) the attack will be sustained,
- (b) the attacker will cause serious bodily harm or death to other individuals, and
- (c) the attacker will continue to attack more individuals if the attacker is not stopped;

1. The Chief of Police shall comply with Ontario Regulation 393/23 – Active Attacker Incidents and ensure that:

a) Police officers be deployed immediately to an incident involving an active attacker and follow response priorities in the following order:

- i. to stop the active attacker.
- ii. to preserve life.
- iii. to restore order.

b) Assistance be provided to victims of an active attacker and their families as soon as possible, including the provision of referrals that are appropriate in the circumstances to emergency services, health care professionals, victim support agencies, social service agencies and other appropriate governmental, non-governmental or community organizations.

- c) if necessary, an area be established for the purpose of providing victims and their family members and friends with information on survivors and death notifications, away from the incident location and, to the extent possible, in a location that is not accessible to persons who are not victims or their family members or friends, or to the media.
- d) If necessary, in the circumstances, a separate area be established for the media.
- e) Every police officer who performs community patrol functions be issued medical supplies and equipment in accordance with the Regulation;.
- f) consider the following factors in determining the number of semi-automatic rifles to make readily accessible:
 - i. The policing needs of the community.
 - ii. The geographic characteristics of the police service's area of policing responsibility.
 - iii. The extent to and manner in which incidents involving an active attacker are effectively responded to in similar communities in Ontario.
 - iv. The extent to which past responses to incidents involving an active attacker by the police service have been effective.
 - v. Best practices respecting responses to incidents in other jurisdictions involving an active attacker.
- 2. The Chief of Police shall take reasonable steps to develop partnerships with external service providers to facilitate the provision of assistance to victims following an incident involving an active attacker, including concluding arrangements to facilitate the provision of appropriate referrals to health care professionals, victim support agencies, social service agencies and other appropriate governmental, non-governmental or community organizations. Whenever possible, assistance shall be provided from a centralized location or common virtual platform.
- 3. The Chief of Police shall publicize how victims of an incident involving an active attacker can access the services that are being provided under an arrangement concluded under paragraph 2.
- 4. The Chief of Police shall take reasonable steps to conclude arrangements to ensure a coordinated response with emergency medical services and fire departments to incidents involving an active attacker.
- 5. The Chief of Police shall take reasonable steps to ensure that, at least every two years, members of the police service, including communications personnel, participate in scenario-based active attacker response training and exercises together with emergency medical services and fire departments. The development of training and exercises shall be informed by applicable best practices, and by recommendations for improvements contained in reports prepared following any active attacker incidents.

6. The Chief of Police shall ensure that the Police Service has the ability to issue public alerts in order to provide information to the public about incidents involving an active attacker, including the nature of the incident and any steps that the public should take, using,

(a) an emergency alert system that delivers alerts through television, radio and wireless devices; and

(b) social media notifications.

7. The Chief of Police shall ensure that the police service has means of communicating non-urgent information respecting an incident involving an active attacker to the public on request, and shall ensure that the public is made aware of those means.

8. The Chief of Police shall establish procedures for responding to incidents involving an active attacker, which must address the following:

- a) Communications in relation to incidents involving an active attacker
- b) Responses by the police officers who initially respond to the incident
- c) Responses by off-duty police officers who wish to assist in responding to the active attacker
- d) Responsibilities for exercising command in response to the incident
- e) Responses by police officers who are acting as a team to make contact with the active attacker
- f) Rescue efforts
- g) Responding to incidents involving an active attacker at schools and any other locations the Chief of Police believes are at an elevated risk of such an incident occurring, or where the physical location may result in the potential for mass casualties.

9. The Chief shall ensure that the wellbeing of members is prioritized following an active attacker incident and that the necessary supports for members are in place.

Reporting

1. If the members of the Police Service respond to an incident involving an active attacker within the area of policing responsibility of the Police Service, the Chief of Police shall prepare a report reviewing and evaluating the Service's response to the incident, which must include the following:

a) General information regarding the incident, including the nature of the incident, the date, time, duration and location of the incident, including whether the incident began in one location and ended in another, and the nature or characteristics of the location in which the incident occurred.

b) Specific information regarding the active attacker, including information regarding any weapons, ammunition or explosives owned or used by the attacker, any criminal history or history of violence, whether the attacker shared information about the incident or plans for the incident, and the tactics used by the attacker during the incident.

c) The type of police service and other first responder personnel involved in responding to the incident, and their role in the response.

d) Details on the response to the incident, including the use of communication, intelligence, tactics, and equipment.

e) An analysis of the outcome of the incident, including elements of the response that were effective and elements that were not effective, and recommendations for improvements, including matters to be addressed through changes to procedures and training.

f) The impact of the incident and the police service's response to the incident as it related to, as applicable, victims, the community, the police service and its members, another police service and any other first responders.

2. If members of the Police Service respond to an incident involving an active attacker outside the area of policing responsibility of the Police Service, the Chief of Police shall support the preparation of the report by the Chief of Police in which the incident occurred. A joint report may be prepared in the event the incident occurred in multiple jurisdictions.

3. The Chief of Police shall prepare the report within 120 days after,

- the day of the incident, if there is no Special Investigations Unit investigation into the incident; or
- if there is a Special Investigations Unit investigation into the incident, the day on which public notice in respect of the incident is given under section 33 of the *Special Investigations Unit Act, 2019* or a report is published in respect of the incident under section 34 of that Act.

4. If the Chief of Police is unable to complete the report within the timeframe above, the Chief of Police shall notify the Board of the status of the report every 30 days, until the report is complete.

5. The Chief of Police shall provide the Board the report within 30 days after the Chief of Police approves the report. The Board shall publish the report on the internet, subject to the following:

a) The Board shall consult with the Chief of Police respecting any proposed redaction.

b) When consulted, the Chief of Police shall advise the Board respecting the proposed redaction. If the Chief of Police was required to consult with the chiefs of police of other police services in preparing the report, the Chief of Police shall consult with them respecting the proposed redaction before advising the Board.

c) The Board shall not redact any information in the report that would be required to be disclosed in response to a request for access under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* or the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, as the case may be.