



OWEN SOUND POLICE SERVICE

BOARD POLICY

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**OSPSB GP-016 Active Attacker
Incidents**

1. **Policy Statement:**

Readiness in the event of an active attacker is critical to ensuring the safety of the community. The Owen Sound Police Service Board (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.

2. **Board Policy:**

- a) It is the policy of the Board with respect to active attacker incidents that the Chief of Police will develop and maintain written procedures that address active attacker incidents in accordance with the *Ontario Regulation 393/23* made under the *Community Safety and Policing Act (CSPA)*.

3. **Definitions:**

- a) **Active Attacker** – pursuant to *Ontario Regulation 393/23* made under the *Community Safety and Policing Act* – 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:

- I. The attack will be sustained;
 - II. The attacker will cause serious bodily harm or death to other individuals: and
 - III. The attacker will continue to attack more individuals if the attacker is not stopped.
4. The Chief of Police shall comply with *Ontario Regulation 393/23 – Active Attacker Incidents* and ensure that:
 - a) Members are deployed immediately to an incident involving an active attacker;
 - b) The response priorities in an incident involving an active attacker are to do the following in the following order:
 - I. To stop the active attacker;
 - II. To preserve life; and
 - III. To restore order.
 - c) 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;
 - d) 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;
 - e) If necessary, in the circumstances, a separate area be established for the media;
 - f) Members who perform community patrol functions shall be issued at least one tourniquet and at least one pressure bandage or trauma dressing;
 - g) Members who perform community patrol functions and who may be required to respond to an incident involving an active attacker shall have ready access to the following equipment:
 - I. A battering ram;
 - II. Bolt cutters;
 - III. A Halligan tool; and

- IV. A reasonable number, as determined by the Chief of Police, Patrol rifles (Patrol C8).
- h) 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 this 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; and
 - V. Best practices respecting responses to incidents involving an active attacker.
- i) The equipment listed in Section 4 (g) of this Policy shall be readily accessible in a Police Service vehicle that can be reasonably expected to arrive promptly at the location of an incident involving an active attacker;
- j) The following equipment shall be stored in Police Service vehicles being used by Members performing community patrol functions:
- I. At least one manually-operated tool that can be used to gain entry into a locked or barricaded structure, such as a battering ram, bolt cutters, an axe, a pry bar, a sledgehammer, or a Halligan tool; and
 - II. For each Member performing community patrol functions who is using the Police Service vehicle, body armour that, at a minimum, meets the standards for Type III body armour as classified by the National Institute of Justice's Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor NIJ Standard-0101.06, as amended from time to time.
- k) 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;

- l) Ensure 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:
 - I. An emergency alert system that delivers alerts through television, radio, and wireless devices; and
 - II. Social media notifications.
- m) That the Police Service has means of communicating nonurgent 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;
- n) Reasonable steps to conclude arrangements to ensure a coordinated response with emergency medical services and fire departments to incidents involving an active attacker;
- o) 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;
- p) Procedures are established for responding to incidents involving an active attacker, which must address the following:
 - I. Communications in relation to incidents involving an active attacker;
 - II. Responses by the Police Officers who initially respond to the incident;
 - III. Responses by off-duty Police Officers who wish to assist in responding to the active attacker;
 - IV. Responsibilities for exercising command in response to the incident;
 - V. Responses by Police Officers who are acting as a team to make contact with the active attacker;
 - VI. Rescue efforts; and

- VII. 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, including procedures regarding the following:
- how emergency protocols and resources of schools and the other locations should be accounted for in the response to the active attacker; and
 - liaising with school or other applicable authorities at the scene of the incident.

5. Reporting:

- a) The Chief of Police or designate shall prepare a report reviewing and evaluating the response to the incident, which must include the following:
- I. 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;
 - II. 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;
 - III. The type of Police Service and other first responder personnel involved in responding to the incident, and their role in the response;
 - IV. Details on the response to the incident, including the use of communication, intelligence, tactics, and equipment;
 - V. 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; and
 - VI. 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.

- b) 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;
- c) The Chief of Police shall prepare the report within 120 days after:
 - I. The day of the incident, if there is no Special Investigations Unit investigation (SIU) into the incident; or
 - II. If there is a SIU 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*, as the case may be.
- d) If the Chief of Police is unable to complete the report within the time specified, the Chief of Police shall notify the Board of the status of the report every 30 days, until the report is complete;
- e) The Chief of Police shall give the Board the report within 30 days of its completion;
- f) The Board shall publish the report on the internet; and
- g) Any redaction of the information in the report before its publication by the Board is subject to the following rules:
 - I. The Board shall consult with the Chief of Police respecting any proposed redaction;
 - II. If consulted, the Chief of Police shall advise the Board respecting the proposed redaction. If the Chief of Police was required under Section 5 (b) of this Policy to consult with the Chief 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; and
 - III. 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.

John Thomson
Chair

December 18th, 2024
Date

K. Wardell
Board Secretary

December 18th, 2024
Date