

**TEXARKANA, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL**

<i>Effective Date</i> February 1, 2008		<i>Amended Date</i> January 22, 2018		<i>Directive</i> 3.10.1	
<i>Subject</i> Emergency Response Team Training					
<i>Reference</i>					
<i>Distribution</i> All Personnel City Manager City Attorney		<i>TPCA Best Practices Recognition Program Reference</i> 3.10.1 Emergency Response Team Training		<i>Review Date</i> July 25, 2023	
				<i>Pages</i> 4	

This Operations Directive is for internal use only and does not enhance an officer’s civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as a creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Operations Directive, if proven, may only form the basis for a complaint by this Department, and only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

SECTION 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to require regular and appropriate training for all SWAT team members.

SECTION 2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that all Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team members receive regular training in accordance with this directive.

SECTION 3 PROCEDURES

A. General Training Procedures

1. The Texarkana SWAT Team will train on a regularly scheduled basis, unless otherwise directed by the Chief of Police. Tactical elements of SWAT will generally train for ten (10) hours each month. Any deviation from the regularly scheduled training date will be made by the SWAT Command Staff, in conjunction with the other division commanders and the Chief of Police. All members of SWAT are expected to attend scheduled training sessions. Any unauthorized absence will be addressed pursuant to the agency policy regarding unauthorized absence. Any team member having a scheduling conflict will contact a member of the Command Staff prior to the training session.
2. In-service training will be conducted by TCOLE certified law enforcement instructors or those deemed to be a subject matter expert on the course of instruction. All firearms training will be conducted under the direct supervision of a TCOLE Certified Firearms Instructor, and may be assisted by other competent team members.
3. A member of the SWAT command staff, or designee will forward SWAT training announcements to all team members, agency supervisors, and administration.
4. Training attendance rosters, including course descriptions will be forwarded to the personnel / training section following SWAT training sessions. When applicable, TCOLE certification will be sought regarding in-service training sessions, with applicable course completion documentation forwarded to agency personnel / training sections.

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5. Unless excused by a member of the SWAT command staff, all Tactical Team members will participate in a regimen of physical training exercises during SWAT training sessions, including but not limited to:
 - a. Calisthenics
 - b. Run / Jog / Sprints.
 - c. Weight Training.
 - d. Obstacle Course.
6. Team members will be enrolled in specialized training to be determined by the SWAT command staff. Team members will attend specialized training, and will conduct themselves in a professional manner consistent with the policies and procedures of the Department.
7. All requests for specialized training will be forwarded from the SWAT command staff to the training coordinator in accordance with department policies and procedures.
8. Officers appointed by the Chief of Police to serve on the SWAT team must attend a basic SWAT school, or equivalent, prior to participation in active operations. This requirement does not preclude an officer from participating in training operations conducted by the team.

B. Physical Assessment

1. All SWAT tactical team members must pass a semi-annual physical assessment on the Concept2 Rower at the 50 percentile according to their age and gender.
2. Tactical members of SWAT who do not successfully complete the approved semi-annual physical assessment will be placed on administrative probation, and will be directed to undergo remedial physical training at the direction of the SWAT command staff, and will be required to successfully complete the physical assessment course within 30 days of the unsuccessful attempt. Failure to successfully complete the course may result in re-assignment or removal from SWAT.

C. TRAINING SAFETY PROTOCOL

1. A member of SWAT will be designated as the Safety Officer during all practical in-service training sessions. The below listed policy regarding weapons will be in effect in all SWAT in-service practical exercise training sessions.
2. A safety officer will be designated by a member of the SWAT Command Staff. The safety officer will be responsible for assisting the command staff in ensuring compliance with all rules regarding weapons / ammunition in training exercises, and for monitoring training exercises for hazardous situations. The safety officer may stop, or terminate a training exercise at any point in the exercise, without question, if he observes a situation that is determined to be a safety hazard with the potential to cause the loss of life, or if there is risk of significant injury. After the exercise has been interrupted, the safety officer, and members of the command staff will address the safety issue, make necessary changes, and the training session will be resumed. Any member of SWAT who observes any unsafe or potentially hazardous condition will immediately report that finding to the Safety Officer, Team Leader, or member of the Command Staff.

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3. During ALL practical exercises, including, but not limited to covert and dynamic building entries and associated team movements, no SWAT team member, or any person participating in the exercise will possess any live ammunition on their person, or equipment. No live ammunition will be permitted within the confines of the training area on non-participants who may be observing SWAT training. Any member of SWAT observing any live ammunition within the confines of the designated training area during a non-live fire practical exercise will immediately report the finding to the Safety Officer, Team Leader, or member of the Command Staff. Any person, article of clothing, or piece of equipment introduced into the training exercise area will be inspected by the Safety Officer and a member of the SWAT Command Staff prior to introduction into the exercise area.
4. Prior to the commencement of the practical exercise, each team leader will personally inspect all equipment, weapons, clothing of personnel assigned to their team to ensure that no live ammunition is in the training area. At the conclusion of that inspection, the team leader will designate a team member to inspect his equipment, weapons, and clothing to ensure that no live ammunition is in the training area.
5. After individual team inspections are concluded, the designated Safety Officer and applicable SWAT Command Staff member will personally re-inspect all equipment, weapons, and clothing of personnel participating in the exercise. All persons within the exercise area will be inspected prior to access being granted. Any person leaving the exercise area will be re-inspected prior to re-admission to the exercise area.
6. At the conclusion of the Safety Officer inspection, a designated team member will personally inspect all equipment, weapons, and clothing of the Safety Officer and any other member of the command staff who has not been subject to safety checks.
7. All live ammunition will be secured in a vehicle, or area of a building where access can be limited / denied by locking.
8. Any violation of the above policy regarding the possession of live ammunition during a training exercise where ammunition is not authorized will result in the immediate removal of the offender from the training exercise. Based on the recommendation of the SWAT command staff, in conjunction with the Chief of Police, the offending member may be subject to the following administrative disciplinary action: Counseling / Reprimand / Suspension / Removal from SWAT / Termination.

D. LIVE FIRE PRACTICAL EXERCISE

1. During any live fire practical exercise, all members of SWAT will follow the direction of the Firearms Instructor / Range Safety Officer without question. Any violation of direction may result in the following administrative disciplinary action: Counseling / Reprimand / Suspension / Removal from SWAT / Termination.
2. At the conclusion of all SWAT training exercises, team members will thoroughly inspect and clean all issued equipment. Any noted defect will be reported immediately to the team leader or member of the command staff. At the direction of the Safety Officer, team members will ensure that their duty weapon is loaded prior to leaving the training area.

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E. FIREARMS TRAINING

1. In accordance with the policy regarding qualification, members of the Police Marksmen Unit will successfully complete their designated course of fire on a quarterly basis with their assigned weapon platform.
2. In accordance with the annual firearms qualification policy, Tactical Team Members will successfully complete the annual qualification course with their assigned duty handgun and other assigned firearms, maintaining a minimum standard of 90 percent for each issued firearm.
3. All Tactical Team Members will successfully complete courses of fire selected by members of the command staff on a quarterly basis. While these courses of fire will not be considered Annual Qualification Courses, the courses will be documented, with records forwarded to the Department Training Coordinator. For purposes of training, quarterly courses of fire may include combat courses, stress courses, and other courses of fire that significantly depart from the annual qualification course.

F. RESPONSIBILITY

1. All members of the Department shall know and comply with all aspects of this directive.
2. All Division Commanders and supervisory personnel are responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions and intent of this directive.