



CRYSTAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Policy Manual

TITLE: West Metro SWAT Team

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PURPOSE

West Metro SWAT is comprised of member officers from the Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale police departments. The main purpose of SWAT is to handle potentially dangerous situations in a manner that will minimize the amount of risk for police officers and citizens.

SUPERVISION

The administration of the team is made up of the Chief Law Enforcement Officers from the member departments. One-member agencies will assign a member of the police department administration to serve as the SWAT Senior Commander.

The Tactical commander of SWAT will be the Commander or Assistant Commander of West Metro SWAT.

During a SWAT incident, the highest-ranking officer of the police department where the incident is occurring will be the Incident Commander. Tactical plans will be prepared by the tactical commander and communicated to the Incident Commander prior to implementation unless this notification would cause a delay that could reduce safety for team members or other persons.

Crystal officers must adhere to all Crystal police department policies when functioning as a part of the West Metro SWAT Team.

ACTIVATION OF SWAT

Situation where the SWAT team may be activated include, but are not limited to:

1. Barricaded armed suspect;
2. Hostage Situation;
3. High risk arrests and search warrants;
4. Lower risk search warrants where the training and experience of SWAT members would improve safety for all parties involved (reference Policy 4.10 -Search Warrants).
5. To provide support in an unusual police action;
6. Any other situation that would call for special training and/or equipment.

In situations where SWAT may be used, the shift supervisor or OIC will make the request by contacting one of the following individuals:

- Patrol or Investigative Lieutenant
- Deputy Chief of Police

- Chief of Police

A shift supervisor may request SWAT activation through dispatch on standby status pending notifications of the above administrator(s).

Supervisors may deviate from this notification process and activate the SWAT team immediately in situations that are uncertain, rapidly escalating, and highly dangerous, or when experiencing an active and evolving incident involving gunfire, armed and fleeing suspects, or elevated risk to officers where delaying SWAT activation may place officers or civilians in increasing danger.

Supervisors are encouraged to contact on-duty SWAT team members from any of the participating jurisdictions for consultation on the incident, to pass on information, and to determine if activation of the SWAT team is appropriate.

Once it has been determined that SWAT will be activated, a supervisor shall contact Hennepin County Dispatch and have West Metro SWAT paged out. Supervisors shall provide dispatch with a staging location for SWAT members that is a safe distance from the target location, or location of the incident.

Any time SWAT is activated inside or outside of the City of Crystal, the Deputy Chief or Chief of Police shall be advised.

MUTUAL AID

Requests for SWAT mutual aid will be evaluated by the Commander and Assistant Commander of the SWAT team. The SWAT Commander will communicate with command staff representatives of the member cities to determine if a SWAT mutual aid deployment is appropriate.

PROCEDURES AT SCENE

SWAT team actions on scene shall be governed by the terms of the SWAT Standard Operating Procedures Manual. All SWAT operators and negotiators shall follow the orders of the established tactical command. All officers on scene are expected to comply with applicable statutes and individual department policies when operating on the SWAT team.

REPORTING

Any and all staff who participate in a SWAT deployment must complete an individual incident report documenting any observations and actions taken during the incident. Staff must also complete any additional necessary reports (i.e. Use of Force, etc.)