

# SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

## STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

<b>SOG #:</b>	6.425	<b>Effective Date:</b>	9/1/2022
<b>Title:</b>	Tactical Paramedic Response	<b># of pages:</b>	1
<b>Category:</b>	EMS Special Operations	<b>Classification:</b>	Red

1. **PURPOSE:** The purpose of this guideline is to ensure that all members of the South Portland Fire Department understand our response to a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) activation.
  
2. **PROCEDURES:** A Special Weapons and Tactics activation is a law enforcement matter. The team includes Tactical Paramedics from the South Portland Fire Department (SPFD) and other local fire departments. These Tactical Paramedics are the on-scene emergency medical services (EMS) providers and will assist law enforcement agencies to the best of their capabilities and training within the mission and scope of the South Portland Fire Department.
  - **ACTIVATION:** When an event that requires the activation of the SWAT, a text page will be sent out for Tactical Paramedics to respond. The priority will be for **off duty** Tactical Paramedics to staff this team, on duty Tactical Paramedics shall only respond as a last resort and at the Duty Chief's discretion, depending on current FD operations and staffing levels. A spare ambulance, if available, may be used by the Tactical Paramedics. Unless there is a specific hazard concern, Fire/EMS apparatus will not be assigned to the event, but can be available if situation/information changes.

During activations of the SWAT, the Fire Department Duty Chief and responding Tactical Paramedics shall meet at Central Station for the team briefing. In conjunction with the SWAT, they will perform a medical threat assessment. This assessment will identify the need for additional resources, locate appropriate staging areas, identify ingress and egress routes, and establish who will have command of the EMS resources. A communication plan with Dispatch, including designating an operations radio channel if necessary, will also be included.

- **OPERATIONS:** In an active shooter type situation, once the threat is eliminated, the scene is no longer a hot zone. The Tactical Paramedic will be responsible for the initial evaluation and field stabilization of injured SWAT officers as well as other police officers and civilians until they can be safely evacuated to the cold zone and care is assumed by the local EMS.
  - i. A Tactical Paramedic will accompany an injured SWAT member to the hospital whenever possible. Only tactical paramedics will transport canine officers to veterinary hospitals.
  
- **SAFETY:** Tactical Paramedic and EMS provider safety is of the utmost importance while providing supportive emergent medical care for law enforcement officers and

laypersons. It is imperative that every effort is made so that EMS providers are not put in harm's way.

- i. During initial operations for most incidents, only Tactical Paramedics will be permitted on the immediate scene. At all times they should either have a designated security officer or function as a component of an extrication team. Tactical Paramedics are not authorized to work independently. Appropriate ballistic protection and tactical personal protective gear is required for Tactical Paramedics while responding to and on the scene.
- **SCOPE OF PRACTICE:** Tactical Paramedic providers should practice under the medical direction of a physician trained and experienced in tactical medical care. The Medical Director should oversee training, determine clinical competencies, authorize the scope and competencies for medical procedures, and direct a quality assurance programs
    - i. Tactical Physicians who are members of the Tactical EMS Division are expected to practice medicine within the scope of their training and Maine law. Such practice may deviate from this Protocol as deemed appropriate by the Medical Director. This Protocol is primarily for the Tactical Paramedics, and is not intended to restrict or otherwise limit a Tactical Physician's scope of practice.
    - ii. The tactical medic is responsible for the documentation of all activities including patient care reports (PCR's), patient refusals, a medical threat assessment, and a fire report that shall be completed after each activation. All patients who are treated by SWAT Tactical Paramedics are to have a PCR completed in a timely manner and a copy is to be submitted to the Medical Director for review and internal Q/A. All work related injuries require a PCR.

### 3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:



James P. Wilson  
Fire Chief