



GENERAL ORDER

**DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT
DURHAM, NC**

NUMBER:

1054

BIOLOGICAL & CHEMICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Effective Date: **02/20/2017**

INTRODUCTION

The Durham Police Department will respond to incidents involving confirmed or potential chemical weapons, biological weapons, radiological weapons and nuclear or explosive weapons (CBRNE). The Biological & Chemical Emergency Response Team (BCERT) is a unit that is specifically trained to respond to CBRNE types of incidents. The Team will be comprised of at least one full-time officer, designated as the BCERT Team Leader and a sufficient number of reserve BCERT officers to safely and effectively respond to incidents. Reserve BCERT status will be a specialized assignment under G.O. [1020 Specialized Assignments](#).

RESPONSIBILITY

The BCERT officers must be trained and certified to respond to incidents involving confirmed or potential CBRNE incidents. The BCERT Team Leader will administratively report to the Special Operations Division Commander but tactically coordinate with the on-scene Incident Commander.

The BCERT Team Leader will serve as the Reserve BCERT program coordinator. When a vacancy is identified, the Team Leader shall notify their chain of command of the vacancy and coordinate the selection process.

Reserve BCERT officers are required to participate in an on-call rotation and meet all training and certification requirements in accordance with SOP Manual [3.4 BCERT](#). Additionally they will be required to maintain all necessary certifications and participate in scheduled training activities.

Members will be expected to respond to incidents that may include:

- Threats or suspected use of CBRNE material;
- Suspicious packages;
- Release of a toxic or incapacitation agent(s) involving mass evacuations;
- Approved requests for assistance to other agencies.

SELECTION

Members will be selected in accordance with G.O. [1020 Specialized Assignments](#), to include the following selection criteria:

- Completion of three years of continuous service as a regular sworn officer with the Durham Police Department, calculated from the date of release from the Police Training Officer program to the date of the application deadline; and
- Attainment of an overall rating of meets or exceeds expectations on the last three annual Employee Performance Appraisals immediately preceding the application deadline; and
- Having a record of no disciplinary suspensions for a period of one year, calculated from the date of the disciplinary action to the date of the application deadline; and
- Must live within a 25 mile radius of Police Headquarters.

Members meeting the above criteria must participate in a competitive process that includes the following components. Each component will be weighted as indicated below and tallied to compile an overall score to generate a ranked list for selection to the team.

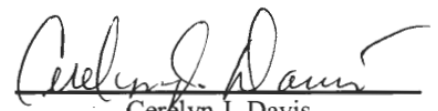
- A Physical Abilities Test to ensure the candidate can function in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and is not claustrophobic – 50%
- An Oral Board comprised of current members and other departmental personnel – 50%

Officers selected for assignment to the team will be required to submit to a hazmat physical at least biannually. Officers selected for assignment to the team will be in a probationary status for a period of six (6) months from the date of selection. During the probationary period prospective team members are subject to release from team assignment without cause and may voluntarily forfeit team assignment without cause. The probationary period may be extended beyond six (6) months by the Division Commander based on recommendation of the team leader.

EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS

BCERT on-call members will have assigned vehicles. They must carry and maintain all their uniform and equipment items in operational readiness in the vehicle at all times. For this reason, the security system (if equipped) in the vehicle must be activated whenever the vehicle is left unattended.

Reserve BCERT members, if they are assigned a take home vehicle for their primary assignment, will continue to use that vehicle for BCERT activities. If the member does not have a vehicle in their current assignment, the Special Operations Division will provide a vehicle during their on call period.


 Cerelyn J. Davis
 Chief of Police