



GREENVILLE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

GO - 243

GENERAL ORDERS

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

PURPOSE:

ERT is the acronym for Emergency Response Team. The ERT Team consists of select members from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office, from EMS, fire services and other public safety entities deemed necessary for the mission. Sheriff's Office personnel are trained and equipped to implement law enforcement functions at the scene of a critical incident involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD), toxic industrial chemicals, or acts of terrorism.

DEFINITIONS:

CRITICAL INCIDENT – Any natural or man made event, civil disturbance, or any other occurrence of unusual or severe nature that causes or threatens to cause the loss of life or injury to citizens and/or severe damage to property and which requires extraordinary measures to protect lives, meet human needs, and achieve recovery.

WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) – According to **Title 18 of U.S. Code, § Section 2332A**, a Weapon of Mass Destruction is:

- A. Any destructive device as defined in § Section 921 of this Title (which reads) any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one quarter ounce, or mine or device similar to the above.
- B. Poison gas.
- C. Any weapon involving a disease organism.
- D. Any weapon that is designed to release radiation or radioactivity at a level dangerous to human life.

TERRORISM – The FBI defines terrorism as “The unlawful use of force or violence committed by a group or individual against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civil population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

RESPONSIBILITY:

The primary responsibility of the ERT law enforcement component is to provide security for team members. As the situation dictates and resources permit, the law enforcement element is also capable of advising, coordinating, assisting with and/or conducting the following:

INTELLIGENCE -

- A. Coordinates with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to ensure coordination of crisis management issues.
- B. Obtain critical law enforcement information from the following:
 - 1. FBI Field Office
 - 2. Local law enforcement agencies
 - 3. Local fire and rescue agencies, including Hazmat Teams
 - 4. Local Emergency Operations Centers
 - 5. Intelligence sharing forums
 - 6. Media
- C. Advise the ERT Team Leader of law enforcement related issues and the latest intelligence information.
- D. Assist the local jurisdiction in obtaining the needed resources for successful law enforcement operations.
- E. Assist the ERT Team leader in ensuring the safety and security of the ERT Team:
 - 1. Determine a safe mobilization area.
 - 2. Map out the safest and most direct route to the incident scene from the established mobilization area.
 - 3. Prepare and implement the security plan for the team command post.
 - 4. Assist ERT personnel who are delayed in reaching the incident site.
 - 5. Monitor the manner in which the background checks of ERT Team members are conducted.

SITE SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF EVIDENCE:

- A. Perimeter security
 - B. ERT personnel identification
 - C. Evacuation procedures
 - D. Traffic flow
 - E. Evidence identification and collection that includes mapping of evidence locations, collection of contaminated evidence
-

when rendered safe, collection of non-contaminated evidence, chain of custody procedures, and evidence safety.

ERT TEAM MEMBERS:

Team membership is voluntary and members appointed by the Sheriff are on "On-Call" in addition to their normal primary duties.

Deputies assigned to the team are selected using the following criteria:

- A. Performance Ratings while in field assignments.
- B. Physical fitness and agility.
- C. Interview board conducted by team members.

ERT ACTIVATION:

In the event the Sheriff's Office Communications Center is notified of a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incident, a chemical spill, or an incident involving mass casualties, center personnel will immediately notify the following ERT Team members:

- A. Greenville County ERT Team Leader who will immediately notify and forward event information to the Greenville County Emergency Management Office.
- B. Greenville County Sheriff's Office ERT Team Commander.

At the direction of the Sheriff's Office ERT Team Commander, Communications is to coordinate notification of all Greenville County ERT Team members through dispatch, who will contact each team member and provide at a minimum the following information:

- 1. Type of incident.
- 2. Staging area.
- 3. Name of commanding officer in charge.


Hobart Lewis, Sheriff