



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Major Incident Command
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-01-27

Recommendation(s)

That the Niagara Police Service Board (Board) receive this report for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to advise the Board that the Niagara Regional Police Service (Service) is in compliance with By-Law 482-2024 as it relates to Major Incident Command.
- The Chief is required to make a written annual report to the Board with respect to Major Incident Command.
- This report will set out the particulars with respect to the procedures required, compliance with the procedures, the Major Incident Command Manual, and deployment of Major Incident Commanders.

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications relating to the recommendations contained within this report.

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law 482-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of Major Incident Command. The report shall include:

- a) a summary of the procedures as required by this By-Law;
- b) the status of Service compliance with the said procedures;
- c) confirmation of the development and maintenance of the Manual on Major Incident Command; and
- d) a summary of the circumstances in which Major Incident Commanders have been deployed.

This Board Report will outline each of the above and confirm our compliance with the By-Law.

a) *“...a summary of the procedures as required by this By-Law...”*

The Service is required to have trained Major Incident Commanders available within a reasonable response time to provide their services, 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. The written procedures for the deployment of a Major Incident Commander (with respect to incidents that are tactical in nature) are set out in General Order (GO) 235.04 entitled Major Incident Command, which was approved by the Chief of Police on July 26, 2024. This policy provides clear direction with respect to all aspects of Major Incident Command and is consistent with the language and direction found within the Adequacy and Effective Policing Regulations and the Policing Standards Manual.

b) *“...the status of Service compliance with the said procedures...”*

The Service is in compliance. The Service has a total of four Senior Officers who have received Ministry accredited training with respect to Major Incident Command. The Inspector in charge of Emergency Services acts as the Primary Major Incident Commander for those incidents that call for a tactical response. Other Senior Officers who have received training in this area provide support as needed on a part-time basis. The Inspector of Emergency Services maintains a current list of members qualified to act as Major Incident Commanders. Copies of the list are also available to the Duty Office and Communications Unit.

c) *“...confirmation of the development and maintenance of the Manual on Major Incident Command...”*

Previously, the Service relied only upon the Canadian Police College Training Manual for Incident Commanders, to serve as its Manual with respect to Major Incident Command. This was supplemented by a number of Service GOs and the Regional Municipality of Niagara Emergency Plan. GO 235.04, when taken in conjunction with Major Incident Command Training Manuals and other supporting GOs, has been written in such a way as to better reflect the requirement for the Service to develop and maintain a Major Incident Command Manual. These reference materials are maintained in the Command Post.

d) *“...a summary of the circumstances in which Major Incident Commanders have been deployed...”*

In 2024, the services of a Major Incident Commander were used on 72 occasions. This number, in part, can be attributed to an improved process that requires the engagement of key personnel across command areas, ensuring a consistent approach to safely resolving all critical incidents.

Incidents Led by a Major Incident Commander:

Year	Number of Incidents
2022	61
2023	58
2024	72

The following is a summary of the circumstances in which Major Incident Commanders were deployed from January 1 to December 31, 2024:

January 2024 (5 Incidents):

- 1 – High-Risk Search Warrant
- 4 – High-Risk Arrests

February 2024 (6 Incidents):

- 3 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – Armed/Barricaded Person
- 1 – High-Risk Arrest
- 1 – Missing Person

March 2024 (3 Incidents):

- 2 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – Support to Other Unit

April 2024 (4 incidents):

- 1 – Suicidal Person
- 1 – High-Risk Warrant
- 1 – Support to Other Unit
- 1 – Missing Person

May 2024 (8 Incidents):

- 5 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – Hostage Rescue
- 2 – Armed/Barricaded Persons

June 2024 (7 Incidents):

- 4 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – High-Risk Arrest
- 2 – Suicidal Persons

July 2024 (9 Incidents):

- 3 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 3 – High-Risk Arrests
- 1 – Armed/Barricaded Person
- 1 – Support to Other Unit
- 1 – Missing Person

August 2024 (8 Incidents):

- 6 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – Armed/Barricade Person
- 1 – Support Other Unit

September 2024 (7 Incidents):

- 4 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – High-Risk Arrest
- 1 – Armed/Barricade Person
- 1 – Suicidal Person

October 2024 (4 Incidents):

- 2 – High-Risk Arrests
- 1 – High-Risk Warrant
- 1 – Armed/Barricaded Person

November 2024 (6 Incidents):

- 3 – High-Risk Search Warrants
- 1 – High-Risk Arrest
- 2 – Armed/Barricaded Persons

December 2024 (5 Incidents):

- 1 – Armed/Barricaded Person
- 3 – High-Risk Warrants
- 1 – High-Risk Arrest

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

To comply with the provisions of Board By-Laws and to maintain compliance with Adequate and Effective Policing.

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 482-2024 - Major Incident Command
GO 235.04 – Major Incident Command

Other Pertinent Reports

8.13 – 2024.02.22 – Annual Report – Major Incident Command – January 1 to December 31, 2023.

This report was prepared by Matt Hodges, Inspector, Emergency/Tactical Services, and reviewed by Darrin Forbes, Superintendent, Emergency Planning. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

Luigi Greco #9366
Acting Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.