



NIAGARA REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Police Service Board Report

PUBLIC AGENDA

Subject: Annual Report – Explosives Forced Entry and Explosive Disposal
January 1 to December 31, 2024

Report To: Chair and Members, Niagara Police Service Board

Report Date: 2025-04-17

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 478-2024 – Explosives Forced Entry and Explosive Disposal.
- The Chief is required to make an annual written report to the Board with respect to explosives.
- The Explosives role is the responsibility of the Explosive Disposal Unit (EDU).

Financial Considerations

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

Analysis

In accordance with By-Law No. 478-2024, the Chief shall make a written report to the Board on or before August 30 of each year in respect of police explosive forced entry and disposal. 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 explosive forced entry and explosive disposal;
- d) confirmation of training in accordance with section 4.4 above;
- e) confirmation that required equipment and resources have been provided to Members who perform explosive forced entry and explosive disposal services in accordance with section 4.5 above; and

- f) a summary of the circumstances in which forced entry and explosive disposal services have been deployed.

The following is a detailed response to the above-noted requirements:

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

General Order (GO) 136.06 – Explosives Disposal Unit, sections 3.5 – 3.16 and 3.24 detail the circumstances, procedures, responsibilities, and operational authorities for activation and deployment of the EDU for Explosive and Explosive Forced Entry (EFE) occurrences. Further direction for EDU support to the Emergency Task Unit (ETU) for forced entry occurrences are found in GO 089.08 – Emergency Task Unit.

Initial response duties, responsibilities, and procedures to be followed by the Communications Unit, patrol members, and supervisors to occurrences involving found or suspected explosives, improvised explosive devices, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive (CBRNE) devices, military ordnance, or at the scene of an explosion or bomb threat, are found in GO 136.06 sections 3.17 – 3.33.

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

The policy and procedures detailed in GO 136.06 meet or exceed the requirements of By-Law 478-2024. Operationally, the procedures are strictly followed. The responsibilities and procedures for initial responders are similar to those of other frequently encountered crisis type incidents. The commonality in approach ensures maximum safety and efficiency in execution.

The Service currently has six fully trained, deployable officers who serve part-time as Police Explosive Technicians (PETs). Additionally, all the members are trained for EFE and for response to CBRNE incidents. The Service currently has two Explosive Detection Dogs and handlers that are certified by the Canadian Police College (CPC) as Explosive Detection Dog Handlers.

- c) *“...confirmation of the development and maintenance of the Manual on forced entry and explosive disposal...”*

The comprehensive manual or Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the EDU is a living document. The EDU uses the CPC manuals from PET, EFE (TPET: Tactical Police Explosives Technician: certified to conduct EFE, and Post Blast (PEPB: Police Explosives Post Blast) courses for its operational reference manual. All material is readily accessible to EDU members. The following items are contained in the SOP:

1. Mandate, functions, and members responsibilities – GO 136.06;
2. Call-Out Procedures – GO 136.06;

3. Command and Control – GO 136.06 and GO 089.08;
4. Reporting Relationships – GO 136.06 and GO 089.08;
5. Operational Procedures and Training - GO 136.06:
 - Each member has access to the manuals and aide memoires for procedures and equipment;
 - CBRNE SOPs are under development in conjunction with the “Niagara CBRNE Team” (police, fire, ambulance); and
 - Training is detailed in a yearly plan.
6. Provision and Use of Equipment:
 - PET, TPET, PEPB, PEPB standards/ procedures (CPC); and
 - Aide memoires - manufacturer’s instructions.
7. Debriefing Process – GO 089.08 Emergency Task Unit; and
8. Recording and reporting use of police forced entry explosives and explosive disposal services:
 - Forced Entry: as per general occurrence reporting including Use of Force Reports, and ETU debrief report; GO 034.12 - Report Submissions; GO 053.26 - Use of Force; GO 089.08 – Emergency Task Unit.
 - Explosive Disposal Services: as per GO 034.12, Canadian Bomb Data Centre (CBDC) Form 876, Incident Report-Explosives. Note: as of April 1, 2016, CBDC has been closed. EDU is currently transitioning to reporting incidents through Canadian Explosives Technicians Association (CETA).
 - Storage, tracking, and recording of explosives for court, forensic analysis, destruction of seized, found, surrendered explosives; Versadex entry tracking; Canadian Centre for Forensic Science – submission procedures GO 035.13 – Evidence and Property Management.
 - Destruction of Explosives – Reference Manuals, Explosive Regulatory Division Regulations.

d) *“...confirmation of training in accordance with section 4.4 above...”*

The Service ensures the training of PETs and EFE technicians meets or exceeds the By-Law, GOs, and Adequate and Effective Policing requirements through the yearly training plan. Unit members participate in approximately 36 days of local maintenance training per year. Our technicians are required to attend the CPC every 3 to 5 years for recertification. Every year, different members attend advanced technical courses. Lessons learned are brought back and incorporated into local training for the benefit of all. The Service maintains professional memberships in the CETA and International

Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators. Our members regularly attend conferences and seminars to remain cognizant of current and emerging tactics, trends, and technologies.

EDU members are the core representatives for the Service with CBRNE Niagara, a joint committee of police, fire, and ambulance for response to incidents involving chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear or explosive materials.

Emergency Services Units are continuing to have members certified in CBRNE and related qualifications. During monthly training, EDU continues to work the job specific skills/equipment necessary to perform operations in all environments. These skills include EFE and render safe procedures.

- e) *“...confirmation that required equipment and resources have been provided to Members who perform explosive forced entry and explosive disposal services in accordance with section 4.5 above...”*

The personal protective equipment available to EDU members meets the requirements as specified in section 8 (2) of Schedule 1 of O. Reg. 392/23. All members are properly equipped by their home units with vests and helmets meeting the National Institute of Justice Standards 0101.06 and 0106.01. In addition, the EDU has 2 explosive blast shields designed for explosive entry.

- f) *“...a summary of the circumstances in which forced entry and explosive disposal services have been deployed...”*

EFE was not operationally deployed during the reporting period. A total of five full EFE training scenarios were planned with ETU; however, due to call volume, only three were completed. In addition, each tactical officer was provided with opportunities to initiate explosive charges outside of full scenario environments.

On a daily basis, the EDU assists other units of the Service and the public in an advisory capacity for bomb threats and other explosive, firework, and firearms-type incidents. The Unit attended 21 calls in 2022, and 17 calls in 2023. During 2024, the Unit recorded 22 deployments. Highlights are as follows:

- Fireworks or military ordnance – seized & destroyed (11);
- Found explosives (1);
- Improvised explosive devices (1);
- Bomb threats (4);
- Hoax (1);
- Special FX (1);
- CBRNE – Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear/Explosive – suspicious powders/chemicals (2); and
- Post Blast investigations (1).

Alternatives Reviewed

Not applicable.

Relationship to Police Service/Board Strategic Priorities

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

Relevant Policy Considerations

Board By-Law 478-2024 – Explosives Forced Entry and Explosive Disposal
GO 136.06 – Explosives Disposal Unit
GO 089.08 – Emergency Task Unit
Adequate and Effective Policing Regulation ER-006 - Explosives

Other Pertinent Reports

8.14 – 2024.05.23 – Annual Report – Explosives – January 1 to December 31, 2023.

This report was prepared by Blair Palmer, Sergeant, Explosive Disposal Unit; reviewed by Matt Whiteley, Staff Sergeant, Emergency Services, Matt Hodges, Inspector Emergency Operations and Darrin Forbes, Superintendent, Emergency Services. Recommended by Todd Waselovich, Deputy Chief, Operational Services.



Submitted by:

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Chief of Police

Appendices

Not applicable.