

EMERGENCY DEPLOYMENT TEAMS

Section 1: Purpose

To ensure a uniform response to Emergency Deployment Team call-outs for critical incidents within the City of Boston.

Section 2: General Considerations

The Emergency Deployment Team (EDT) is used to assemble a large group of police officers when an immediate response is required. The EDT may be used for, but not limited to, demonstrations, missing children, major fires or explosions, terrorist assaults, security for large crime scenes, etc. Since the call-out of the EDT usually occurs during times of critical incidents, a swift but safe response is imperative. While an immediate response is expected, officers are reminded that regardless of the emergency, they must adhere to M.G.L. c. 89 § 7B (Operation of Emergency Vehicles).

EDT call-outs will be governed by Rule 200 - Critical Incident Management by using the Incident Command System (ICS).

Section 3:

The Duty Supervisor of each shift will, before roll call, choose three officers from that District to be part of the EDT. One Patrol Supervisor from each Area will also be selected for the EDT. District Commanders in each Area will design a schedule so that one supervisor from that Area is assigned to the EDT each tour. The Supervisor and Police Officers assigned to the EDT will be so noted on that shift's batting order. The Operations Division Dispatch Center Duty Supervisor will review the batting orders from each District to make sure each District and Area has fulfilled its requirements as it relates to the EDT. Dispatchers shall contact each EDT officer assigned to their channel to confirm their EDT status for that shift.

Section 4:

During times when the District Commander or the Night Commander is not available and the Incident Commander has requested an EDT call-out, the Operations Division Dispatch Center Duty Supervisor shall determine if an officer above the rank of sergeant is needed as the platoon commander. If so warranted, the Operations Division Dispatch Center Duty Supervisor shall ensure the dispatch of a lieutenant from a district other than the district of incident occurrence. The responding lieutenant shall arrive and assume control as the EDT platoon commander. Normally, a lieutenant would not be needed when the EDTs are activated for traffic control or lost children incidents. However, a lieutenant shall be required to respond to all call-outs for

critical incidents and actual or anticipated large crowd disturbances.

Section 5:

An Incident Commander is authorized to request an EDT call-out. The Incident Commander should do so by notifying the Dispatcher to activate the EDT. The Incident Commander requesting the EDT should immediately choose a safe staging area and identify safe routes for officer response. The staging area should be outside the inner perimeter and particular attention should be paid to wind direction and topography, when relevant to the situation.

Section 6:

Officers and Supervisors responding to a call-out for an EDT shall respond to the staging area with their Emergency Deployment Team equipment. Whenever a Police Officer assigned to the EDT is unable to immediately respond to an EDT call-out, the officer will immediately notify the Dispatcher. The Dispatcher will immediately notify the Operations Division Dispatch Center Duty Supervisor, who will assign another unit to respond. For this reason, ALL District Patrol Supervisors and response units assigned to motor vehicles will carry their Emergency Deployment Team equipment in their assigned police vehicle. All other sworn personnel shall have this equipment available to them in the District.

Section 7:

Emergency Deployment Team Equipment shall consist of: High Visibility Vest, a ballistic vest, gas mask, 36" baton, and riot helmet with face shield, protective work gloves, dust mask, nitrile gloves, gear bag and any other equipment issued or authorized by the Police Commissioner. Emergency Deployment Team Equipment for all shift personnel shall be inspected every Sunday by the District Duty Supervisor at each roll call. This inspection shall be recorded in the administrative detail book.

Michael A. Cox
Police Commissioner