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## Emergency Response Vehicle

### **706.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for the usage, training and storage of the Berkeley Police Department Emergency Response Vehicle.

### **706.2 USE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE**

The Emergency Response Vehicle shall be used as an armored vehicle resource, with the goal of safely resolving incidents where there exists an objective risk to the safety of civilians and/or officers from a person or persons who may be considered armed and dangerous.

The use of the Emergency Response Vehicle will be authorized by the Special Response Team (SRT) Commander or Team Leader unless exigent circumstances exist. If the Emergency Response Vehicle is needed during an in-progress emergency, use of the vehicle may be authorized by the Watch Commander, or, in their absence, a Patrol Sergeant. The Emergency Response Vehicle will only be utilized with supervisory approval, for purposes including, but not limited to, incidents involving potentially armed subjects, Special Response Team callouts, high-risk search warrants, officer or civilian rescues, or authorized training.

The Emergency Response Vehicle shall not be deployed during non-violent demonstrations, including for crowd control and crowd management, absent specific articulable objective facts demonstrating a risk of injury or death to police officers and/or the public. The Emergency Response Vehicle may be staged at pre-designated locations, away from protest sites, to allow for timely response. The vehicle may be used in cases of a declared unlawful assembly, and after a lawful dispersal order, where persons are engaged in criminal behavior that presents an objective risk of injury or death.

The Emergency Response Vehicle may be used for static displays at community events, for engagement and educational purposes.

The SRT Commander will maintain a vehicle usage log which may be provided to the City Council on an annual basis, or as requested.

### **706.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE OPERATION TRAINING**

Periodic briefings and training will be conducted on the operation and deployment of the Emergency Response Vehicle. All Special Response Team members will receive formal training prior to deployment of the Emergency Response Vehicle. A valid class "C" California driver's license is required to drive the Emergency Response Vehicle. Supervisors shall submit Training Time Credit Record forms to document that staff members have received training.

### **706.4 EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Staff has the discretion to deploy the Emergency Response Vehicle in those circumstances where there is an objective risk of injury or death to civilians and/or officers, and use of the vehicle may

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reduce or mitigate said risks by facilitating safe police management of the critical situation and rescue of injured or endangered persons.

When considering deployment of the Emergency Response Vehicle, the authorizing Commander or Supervisor should:

- (a) Assess the situation and based on the objective facts, determine that the discretionary use of the Emergency Response Vehicle may contribute to the safe resolution of a critical incident where there is a risk of injury or death to civilians or officers.
- (b) Whenever practical, create an operational plan for deployment of the vehicle consistent with this policy, current law and the department's Use of Force Policy.
- (c) The vehicle may be used to locate and contain a threat by providing cover for officers, facilitating a rescue of an injured or endangered persons, or as a tactical resource to allow officers to take into custody a person who presents an objective risk of injury or death to civilians or officers.
- (d) When selecting a rescue team, the supervisor should consider experienced personnel, such as current or former Special Response Team Members, Hostage Negotiators and officers who have received Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). In addition, the rescue team should include a Medic or TEMS officer (Tactical Emergency Medical Support), rescue carriers, cover officers and officers equipped with less lethal force equipment. Fire and ambulance personnel should be ready to accept injured persons at the end point of the rescue.

#### **706.5 EMERGENCY AND NON-EMERGENCY REQUESTS OF THE RESPONSE VEHICLE BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

In the event of an emergency request for the Emergency Response Vehicle, the Watch Commander, or in his/her absence, a patrol sergeant, may approve the request for the Emergency Response Vehicle to assist outside agencies for emergency purposes. If time allows, at least two on-duty Special Response Team officers shall deploy with the Emergency Response Vehicle to assist outside agency requests but one is acceptable. This may include additional officers who have received training in advanced first aid. The request for BPD response with the Emergency Response Vehicle by outside agencies, for purposes other than emergencies, shall be authorized by the Special Response Team Commander or Operations Division Captain.

The Emergency Response Vehicle will be deployed in accordance with Berkeley Police Department policies. All Berkeley Police Department personnel will follow Berkeley Police Department policies when assisting outside agencies. The Emergency Response Vehicle will remain in the possession and control of Berkeley Police Department personnel and will not be loaned to other agencies.

#### **706.6 EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE STORAGE**

The Emergency Response Vehicle will be stored primarily at the Berkeley Police Department.

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#### **706.7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance of the Emergency Response Vehicle is the responsibility of the Department Fleet Manager. The Fleet Manager should coordinate with the Logistics Team Leader when scheduling vehicle maintenance or repairs.

Officers from the Special Response Team will routinely check the Emergency Response Vehicle and its equipment, including but not limited to, ensuring the battery is charged, the trickle charger is attached, the engine will turn over, and that the vehicle is in general working order. When reasonable, the vehicle should be fueled after each use. The City of Berkeley Corporation Yard will perform repairs on the vehicle and keep a preventative maintenance schedule.