

	MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
	Subject EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT)	Policy Number DH-8
		Effective Date 09-19-08
Related Information Policy GJ-8, <i>Tactical Support at Jails</i> Policy DH-9, <i>Special Response Team (SRT)</i>	Supersedes New Policy	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to establish guidelines to enhance the safety and security of jail facilities, staff, inmates, and the general public by using specially trained detention officers to respond to jail emergencies.

POLICY

It is the Policy of the Office to maintain an Emergency Response Team (ERT) at each jail facility comprised of specially trained, equipped, and selected detention officers. The ERT should be used when an incident rises to the level where conventional jail resources are unable to maintain or regain control, or when the safety and security concerns of an incident presents the potential of posing such a significant risk that the skills and equipment of the ERT would be the most effective option available.

DEFINITIONS

Emergency Response Cart: A device designed to store emergency response equipment for the ERT that is to be stored in a designated area as determined by the division commander.

Team Leader: An ERT detention sergeant who is responsible for organizing, coordinating, and supervising the activities of an ERT deployment.

PROCEDURES

1. **Emergency Response Team (ERT) Activation:** The division commander, or his designee, may activate the ERT for incidents including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A. Jail safety and security.
 - B. Cell extractions.
 - C. Special Response Team (SRT) assistance.
 - D. Medical emergencies.
 - E. Major and minor fires.
 - F. Major power failures.
 - G. Riots or multiple inmate disturbances.
 - H. Escapes or attempted escapes.

- I. Hostage situations (containment only).
2. **SRT Notification:** The on-duty SRT supervisor should be contacted when the decision has been made to activate the ERT to cooperatively determine if the incident is within the scope of the ERT's training and abilities and to determine if a response by the SRT is recommended. If the SRT is activated and responds to the incident, authority to command the incident will be transferred to the on-duty SRT supervisor. The ERT supervisor will work jointly with the SRT supervisor, or his designee, to provide security, crowd control, or other duties related to the incident.
3. **Training:** Officers selected to be part of the ERT shall successfully complete an ERT training course prior to performing any duties of an ERT officer.
 - A. Division commanders shall ensure that ERT officers attend at least eight hours of proficiency training annually, which shall normally be administered at each facility by a Field Training Officer (FTO).
 - B. When activated, the ERT shall consist of no fewer than seven trained detention officers and an ERT trained sergeant who shall be the team leader. ERT officers and sergeants must be proficient with all of the duties and responsibilities of the ERT to include each of the following designated positions.
 1. Shield operator.
 2. Upper left quadrant.
 3. Upper right quadrant.
 4. Lower left quadrant.
 5. Lower right quadrant.
 6. Camera operator.
 7. Less lethal systems operator.
 - C. ERT sergeants must be proficient with their duties and responsibilities as the team leader.
4. **Equipment:** Equipment for the ERT shall be maintained by each facility and located in a designated area as determined by the division commander.
 - A. Each jail facilities emergency response cart shall include, but not be limited to, the following equipment:
 1. Riot helmets with face shields.
 2. Protective vests.
 3. Elbow and knee pads.
 4. Protective gloves.
 5. Slash resistant forearm sleeves.
 6. Spit masks.

7. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
 8. Paper/Jump suits.
 9. Video camera.
- B. Additional equipment such as handcuffs, leg irons, containment shields, gas masks, and flashlights may also be necessary to ensure the successful outcome of an incident.
5. **Documentation:** Once activated, the team leader shall ensure that any appropriate documentation is completed as necessary such as *Disciplinary Action Reports (DARs)*, *Use of Force Forms*, *Jail Commander Notifications Forms (JCNFs)*, and an *Incident Report (IR)*.