



KINGSTON POLICE SERVICE BOARD

Underwater Search and Recovery Units (ER-005)

Adopted: May 28, 2026 (Res. 26-74)

Reviewed:

Revised:

Expires: Indefinite

Rescinds:

Legislation: O. Reg. 392/23: Adequate and Effective Policing (General), 2019;
O. Reg. 629/94: Diving Operations

Policy Statement

The Kingston Police Service Board (the Board) is committed to providing effective and timely emergency response services. The purpose of this policy is to ensure the Kingston Police Service (the Board) has access to specialized underwater search and recovery services through formal agreements with other jurisdictions.

Board Policy

Pursuant to *Ontario Regulation 392/23 - Adequate and Effective Policing (General) – Emergency Response* and *Ontario Regulation 629/94: Diving Operations*, it is the policy of the Kingston Police Service Board with respect to Underwater Search and Recovery Units that:

- a) Underwater Search and Recovery Unit support services are available 24 hours a day and within reasonable response time through the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Framework Agreement;
- b) The OPP will be designated as the primary responder and shall be requested first if the services of an Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) are required;

- c) The deployment of the USRU shall be authorized only by the Chief of Police; and
- d) The Chief of Police, in consultation with the OPP, will;
- I. Establish and maintain written procedures that set out the circumstances in which the underwater search and recovery unit will be deployed, including the process for obtaining the services and reporting relationship;
 - II. Establish and maintain written procedures for the deployment of other emergency response services, including the steps for obtaining the services and the reporting relationship;
 - III. Ensure that the underwater search and recovery unit members comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA), and Diving Operations Regulation, or where amended;
 - IV. Ensure that Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) members are qualified to perform their specific tasks in accordance with Competency Standard for Diving Operation CAN/CSA-Z275.4-02 or where amended;
 - V. Ensure that the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU) members perform their tasks according to the Occupational Safety Code for Diving Operations CAN/CSA-Z275.4-02;
 - VI. Develop and maintain a reference file on all diving hazards that is available to each member providing this service;
 - VII. Establish a selection process for the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU), including ensuring that members who provide this service meet the requirements of local policies and procedures;
 - VIII. Ensure that appropriate equipment, in accordance with the *Diving Operations Regulation* and the ministry's designated equipment list, is used/available to Members providing Underwater Search and Recovery services;
 - IX. Ensure the ongoing and joint training of embers who provide this service; and
 - X. Ensure that the police service's major incident commander(s) receive training (joint, if applicable) in their responsibilities and the capabilities of the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit (USRU).

"original signed by Chair"

"original signed by Board Administrator"