

Armoured Rescue Vehicle

Original Implementation Date	June 2025	Approved by	BOPC
Date of Last Revision	June 4, 2025	Approved by	BOPC
Effective Date of Last Revision	June 5, 2025	Approved by	BOPC

1 - Title

Armoured Rescue Vehicle

2 - Purpose

The Halifax Board of Police Commissioners is committed to overseeing the delivery of fair, effective, efficient, equitable and accountable policing services in keeping with community values, needs, and expectations of all community members.

3 – Scope

This policy applies to all sworn and unsworn members of HRP as outlined in the Department Order #: 04-09 and to the Chief of HRP.

4 - Definitions

In the context of this document:

Police Act or Act means the *Police Act*, S.N.S. 2004, c. 31 as amended

Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) means a specialized, heavily fortified vehicle used by law enforcement agencies to safely transport personnel, evacuate injured or endangered individuals, and respond to high-risk incidents such as active shooter situations, hostage rescues, or other similar incidents. Designed to provide ballistic protection and withstand hostile environments, an ARV is typically equipped with reinforced armor, bullet-resistant glass, tactical communication systems, and may include medical or extraction tools to support rescue and tactical operations.

Board means the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

Critical Incident Commander (CIC) means an HRP sworn officer who has successfully completed the Canadian Police College's Critical Incident Commanders Level II course and maintains valid accreditation. The CIC's role is to command, assess, coordinate, and manage critical incident program resources in response to a Critical Incident.

Chair means Chair of the Board of Police Commissioners

Chief Officer means the Chief of Halifax Regional Police

Chief Superintendent means the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP, Halifax District

Chiefs means the Chief of Police of HRP and the Chief Superintendent of the RCMP

Council means Halifax Regional Council

HRD means the Halifax Regional Detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

HRM means the Halifax Regional Municipality

HRP means the Halifax Regional Police

Legislative Assistant means representative of the Municipal Clerk's Office

Member(s) means a member of the Halifax Board of Police Commissioners

5 - Distribution

Policies may be distributed to all Board of Police Commissioners, CAO, Municipal Clerk, HRM Councillors, the Chiefs and their respective departments, Nova Scotia Association of Police Governance and posted on HRM website with link to HRP website. This list may be expanded as required.

6 - Roles and Responsibilities

General

- 6.1 The chief officer shall establish a policy with respect to the Halifax Regional Police's use of an Armoured Rescue Vehicle. This policy shall align with the mission, vision and values, as outlined in HRP's Strategic Plan, and the Principles of Policing, as outlined in the Police Board By-law.
- 6.2 The chief officer shall ensure that the ARV is only used when necessary to ensure the safety of the public and sworn members.

Mission, Vision and Values

- 6.3 The chief officer shall ensure that HRP's policies regarding an Armoured Rescue Vehicle align with the mission, vision and values, as outlined in HRP's Strategic Plan¹, and the Principles of Policing, as outlined in HRM's Police Board By-law P-100.

Deployment

- 6.4 The chief officer shall ensure that the operational deployment of the ARV requires the approval and on scene oversight of a qualified Critical Incident Commander. Any request for deployment shall include the date, time, location, and reason for the deployment.

¹About Halifax Regional Police, accessed May 26, 2025, <https://www.halifax.ca/safety-security/police/about-halifax-regional-police>

6.5 The chief officer shall ensure the ARV is operated with a duty of care to the general public.

Approved Uses

6.6 The chief officer shall ensure that a list is created of approved and non-approved uses for the ARV.

Training

6.7 The chief officer shall ensure authorized ARV operators successfully complete an approved ARV operator qualification program. To maintain valid ARV operator qualification, all authorized ARV operators must participate in regular training and exercising to ensure proficiency in ARV operations. This training shall include regular training and exercising with the RCMP to ensure effective interoperability between the HRP and RCMP.

Use by Other Police Services

6.8 The chief officer shall ensure that the policy includes a process to determine whether requests for use of the ARV by other police services will be considered, and if so, under what conditions such requests will be accepted.

Maintenance and Storage

6.9 The chief officer shall ensure that the ARV is regularly inspected and maintained to ensure it is in proper working condition. Any issues shall be reported and addressed promptly.

6.10 The chief officer shall, where possible, ensure that planned scheduled maintenance of the ARV does not conflict with planned, scheduled maintenance of the RCMP Tactical Armoured Vehicle.

6.11 The chief officer shall ensure the ARV is stored in an access controlled, secure location that protects the structural integrity of the ARV platform to optimize ARV operational response and readiness.

Reporting Requirements

6.12 The chief officer shall report biannually to the board the following information:

- a. The total number of deployments since the last reporting period;
- b. The location, rationale, and outcome of each deployment; and
- c. Any use of the ARV that does not comply with the principles set out in this policy or any related policy established by the chief officer.

Public Posting of Policy

6.13 The chief officer will make available a copy of the chief's relevant policy documents to the Chair, as well as any updates or revisions to that policy, as they become officially released or issued.

7 - Policy Review

This policy should be reviewed every four years and when the Act is amended.

8 - Contact

Office of the Municipal Clerk

9 - References

None