

ARMOURED RESCUE VEHICLE (ARV)

1. GENERAL

- A. The Halifax Regional Police Armoured Rescue Vehicle (ARV) is specially designed to deal with high-risk situations.
- B. This vehicle shall be utilized in situations requiring the maximum protection for Halifax Regional Police members and the general public, and any other emergency or authorized event.
- C. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance regarding the operation of the ARV for members of Halifax Regional Police.

2. POLICY

- A. Deployment of the ARV shall be pre-approved by the Critical Incident Commander after consultation with a member of HRP's Senior Leadership Team or the Duty Officer if the situation arises after hours.
- B. Once approval for deployment has been given, the Senior Manager shall inform the Chief and Deputy Chief as soon as practicable.
- C. Only officers who have successfully completed an approved ARV operator qualification program and approved by the Emergency Response Team Sergeants will operate the vehicle.
- D. The driver is to remain with the vehicle while it is operationally deployed.
- E. The driver of the ARV is at all times responsible for the safe operation and maintenance of the vehicle during a tactical operation. During a tactical operation, the driver will determine if the route of ingress/egress is feasible and if the vehicle can or cannot be driven through certain terrain.
- F. Although the ARV is equipped with 360 degree emergency lights and sirens, it is not designed or intended for high-speed operations. The maximum speed at which the ARV shall be operated is 50 km/h in the city and a maximum of 100 km/h (if permitted by speed limit) on any highway unless responding to an emergency situation.
- G. The ARV shall never form part of any concession during crisis negotiations and will remain in possession and control of Halifax Regional Police members at all times.

PERMITTED ARMOURD RESCUE VEHICLE USES

- H. The ARV will serve as a general rescue vehicle as well as an Emergency Response Team vehicle for the following types of calls:
 - i. Citizen/officer rescue
 - ii. Barricaded subject
 - iii. Hostage-taking
 - iv. Active shooter(s)

- v. High-risk warrant services
- vi. VIP details
- vii. Tactical training
- viii. High-risk prisoner escorts
- ix. Any other high-risk situation where there is a reasonable belief a weapon is present and the utilization of the ARV could prevent death or injury to the public or members of the Service
- x. Any other situation if authorized by the Chief of Police or designate, including but not limited to, disaster recovery assistance.

PROHIBITED USES OF THE ARV

- I. The ARV is not to be used for parades, community events, general patrol duties, or any other non-emergency situation.
- J. The ARV is not to be used for crowd control.

STORAGE AND MAINTENANCE

- K. The ARV shall be stored in the designated secured site identified by the Chief of Police, or designate, while operable.
- L. The ARV shall be locked at all times when stored and the keys or tools to make it function shall be stored away from the ARV in a separate secured location.
- M. The NCO I/C, Emergency Response Team or designate shall designate a member of the Team to perform weekly inspections of the ARV and the equipment contained therein to ensure it is maintained in a state of readiness.
- N. The NCO I/C, Emergency Response Team or designate shall ensure that any repairs, malfunctions and/or service issues are reported the Manager, Fleet Services.
- O. Prior to the ARV being taken for maintenance or training purposes, the Inspector Support Division or the Duty Inspector shall be notified. When the ARV is being used for training, the Inspector Support Division shall be informed of the type of training and where it is being conducted.
- P. Whenever possible, planned, scheduled maintenance shall not conflict with planned, scheduled maintenance of the RCMP Armoured Rescue Vehicle.

REQUESTS FROM OTHER POLICE AGENCIES

- Q. Requests from other police agencies for the use of the ARV during emergent circumstances shall be directed to, and considered by, a Senior Officer. Dependent upon the circumstances surrounding the request, the deployment of other HRP members with the ARV, in addition to the ARV operators, shall be considered.
- R. When deployed to another police agency, two qualified ARV operators will be assigned to transport and operate the ARV during the deployment. This procedure shall be adhered to during the ARV deployment and supercedes any procedure and/or policy of the requesting agency.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- S. The Chief of Police shall report biannually to the Board of Police Commissioners the total number of deployments and the location, rationale and outcome of each deployment, and any use of the ARV not in compliance with this policy.

3. DEFINITIONS

- A. **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
- B. **Critical Incident Commander** means an HRP sworn officer who has successfully completed the Canadian Police College's Critical Incident Commanders Level II course and maintains valid accreditation.

Effective Date of Last Revision	July 4, 2025
Policy Owner	Inspector Lindsay Hernden

By Order Of:



Don MacLean
Chief of Police