

Policy Name:	ESCAPE OF PRISONERS		
Policy #:	OP 7.2	Last Updated:	2022-03-03
Issued By:	COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

AD 9.18 Security and Confidentiality of Records and Information

OP 7.5 Responsibility for Prisoners

OP 4.19 Duty to Warn

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To ensure that the safety of the public, Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members and prisoners are a priority.
- 1.2. To provide direction for Members on the procedures in the event of a prisoner escape.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all SPS Members.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. SPS is responsible for the well-being and protection of persons in its custody (see *OP 7.5 Responsibility for Prisoners*).
- 3.2. A prisoner escape must immediately be reported by the Member who lost custody of the prisoner to the Operational Communications Centre (OCC), the District NCO, their Supervisor and the Duty Officer.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. Any prisoner escape must immediately be reported by the Member who lost custody of the prisoner to the OCC with a complete description of the escaped prisoner, mode and direction of travel, original charge and propensity for violence, if known.
- 4.2. The Member who lost custody of a prisoner must also ensure a district NCO and the Member's Supervisor, if different, are immediately notified.
- 4.3. The District NCO must immediately notify the Duty Officer and may request the assistance of the Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Services (LMIPDS) and other resources if applicable.
- 4.4. When the escaped prisoner is not immediately captured, the OCC must be requested to notify surrounding jurisdictions and, if necessary and in consultation with the district NCO, request assistance from those jurisdictions.
- 4.5. A Frontline Policing Member will be assigned to investigate the escape and forward a report to Crown Counsel requesting a warrant for escape lawful custody.
- 4.6. The Supervisor of the Member who lost custody of the prisoner will investigate the circumstances relating to the escape and provide a report with recommendations, if applicable, to the Duty Officer and the Superintendent, Community Policing Bureau.

Duty to Warn Public

- 4.7. If the escaped Prisoner poses of risk of serious, imminent harm to particular persons, classes of persons or the general public, notify the SPS Manager of Information and Privacy and the SPS General Counsel, Legal Services without delay (**S. 22(1)**), available 24 hours / 7 days a week). The Manager of Information and Privacy and the General Counsel, Legal Services will determine if a public interest disclosure (PID) must be issued by SPS to the public via broadcast to media and social media under section 25 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (see OP 4.19 *Duty to Warn*; AD 9.18 *Security and Confidentiality of Records and Information*).

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Duty Officer” means the Frontline Policing Inspector.

“LMIPDS” means Lower Mainland Integrated Police Dog Services.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“NCO” means non-commissioned officer and includes the rank of Sergeant and Staff Sergeant or a Member acting in that role.

“OCC” means the Operational Communications Centre.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 165.