

## Policy and Procedure

Department: Emergency Preparedness	Section:	Subject: Code Purple - Hostage Taking
Policy: 10001	Original Date: January 31, 2011	Supersedes: December 5, 2016
Last Reviewed: July 5, 2022	Next Review Date: December 5, 2024	Approver:

### POLICY

The purpose of the Code Purple policy and procedure is to assist the Espanola Regional Hospital and Health Centre staff in responding to a hostage taking within the hospital. A Code Purple will be activated immediately when a person is being held against their will. It is important to distinguish it from a Code White where a staff could come to assist and potentially detain an aggressive person.

The main objectives of initiating a Code Purple are:

To preserve the safety of staff, clients, and other building occupants.

To provide a standard response for staff to follow to obtain assistance in managing episodes involving a hostage situation.

**\*\* In the event that a coordinated emergency response by a number of agencies is required please consult the Town of Espanola Emergency Response Plan.\*\***

### PROCEDURE

#### INITIATING THE CALL

- Any staff member can initiate a Code Purple call if they identify a situation where a hostage has been taken.
- A call is initiated by dialing **ext. 911**, Incident Command, Emergency Department

#### INCIDENT COMMANDER (IC)

- Call for Police, announce Code Purple overhead if you or the police deem it appropriate to do so.
- If possible, immediately evacuate patients/residents/visitors/personnel from area of danger to protected area.
- If able, request assistance from and communicate situation status to hospital staff
- Prepare for police intervention and transfer of situation command to police
- Participate in command debriefing when called upon at the resolution of the incident
- Ensure defusing/debriefing takes place as soon as possible following incident and that staff know about and can access all available support if necessary (EAP)
- If an injury occurs to a staff member, ensure proper first aid provided

- Ensure appropriate documentation is completed

#### STAFF MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- If a Code Purple call has been initiated in your area, take the following steps:
- If possible, remove all individuals (clients, visitors, etc.) in immediate danger to a safer area.
- Reduce stimulation in the area by turning off equipment.
- Provide details of incident to the Incident Commander including:
  - History of incident
  - What action has been taken
  - What action is required by the Incident Commander

#### OTHER STAFF

- When you hear Code Purple, you will stay out of the area unless otherwise instructed by the IC or the police. This direction will come via the overhead paging system.

#### DEBRIEF MEETING

- A debrief meeting will take place within 1 business day where possible and will be facilitated by the Environmental Safety/CQI Manager. Immediate notification must be made to the Departmental Manager and the Environmental Safety/CQI Manager whenever this code is called to ensure timely follow up.

#### RECOVERY PLAN

- All departments to resume usual duties once deemed safe to do so by IC or Police.

#### REFERENCES

[Emergency management | ontario.ca](https://www.ontario.ca/emergency-management)

[https://www.oha.com/Documents/Emergency Management Toolkit.pdf](https://www.oha.com/Documents/Emergency%20Management%20Toolkit.pdf)

Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021

Health Protection and Promotion Act, 1990,

Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990, 3

Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1990



