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MEMORANDUM TO: All Chiefs of Police and
Commissioner Thomas Carrique
Chairs, Police Services Boards

FROM: Stephen Waldie
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division

SUBJECT: **Extreme Event Communication Protocol**

DATE OF ISSUE:	July 3, 2019
CLASSIFICATION:	General Information
RETENTION:	Indefinite
INDEX NO.:	19-0050
PRIORITY:	Normal

During an operational response to an extreme event in Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) require information to allow for accurate and measured decision making and effective and timely public communication.

The Extreme Event Communication Protocol ('protocol') provides a systematic and coordinated communications framework between the police of jurisdiction and the OPP to support situational awareness for the OPP during an extreme event in the province.

Recent events have demonstrated that limiting a communication protocol to incidents of terrorism or potential terrorism does not provide for appropriate levels of communication, as motivation may not be immediately evident. As such, an "extreme event" is defined as an event where there is the potential for mass casualties or where mass casualties or serious injuries are occurring in an unconventional violent event. Such events may also have a nexus to national security.

During an "extreme event", the police of jurisdiction is encouraged to provide notification and status updates to the OPP via the Provincial Operations Centre (POC). This process will facilitate an information flow from incident commanders to the OPP that supports situational awareness and consistent messaging to government to ensure adequate resource deployment with minimal operational disruption. This protocol complements police services' existing responsibility under the *Provincial Counter-Terrorism Plan* to notify the OPP should a terrorism incident be likely to occur or has occurred.

The protocol outlines a process for police services when responding to and effectively managing aspects of an extreme event. To accomplish this, police services are encouraged to:

- Initiate the protocol by informing the OPP when an extreme event occurs;
- Maintain dialogue with the OPP when there is likely to be a need for additional or specialized resources to allow for prompt allocation; and
- Maintain dialogue with the OPP when there is likely to be greater than normal public interest to ensure consistent public messaging.

Police services are requested to include this protocol as a part of their extreme event planning. You may contact the OPP Provincial Operations Centre at 705-329-6950.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Waldie', is positioned above the typed name.

Stephen Waldie
Assistant Deputy Minister
Public Safety Division and Public Safety Training Division