



City of Duluth - Police Department

Mike Ceynowa, Chief of Police
2030 North Arlington Avenue • Duluth, Minnesota 55811 •
www.duluthmn.gov

*For more information contact:
Public Information Officer, Mattie Hjelseth at (218) 730-5434 or
mhjelseth@duluthmn.gov*

DATE: 6/12/2024

SUBJECT: DPD's Tactical Response Team Integrates Duluth Firefighters

BY: Mattie Hjelseth, Duluth Police Department Public Information Officer

NATURE OF INCIDENT:

CASE NO.:

INCIDENT DATE:

INCIDENT TIME:

INCIDENT LOCATION:

DPD's Tactical Response Team Integrates Duluth Firefighters

The Duluth Police Department's Tactical Response Team is integrating ten Duluth Firefighters as Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) Operators. The addition of the TEMS Program began on Tuesday, June 11.

"Having the support of TEMS operators during high-risk calls is best practice for both DFD and DPD in keeping our community safe if a tragic incident occurs within Duluth," said Duluth Police Chief Mike Ceynowa. "The addition of Duluth Firefighters trained with the Tactical Response Team is another example of how our community expects us to be prepared for these situations."

TEMS operators will be the initial medical responders on scene during high-risk calls for service. Their specialized training equips them to handle specific injuries possibly sustained during those incidents. Operators will provide medical expertise while collaborating with members of the Tactical Response Team.

"DPD and DFD have been training for years together on hostile event response. By dedicating DFD personnel to specialized training, and integration with DPD's Tactical Response Team, we are taking the next necessary steps in providing the best possible response for the community, our firefighters, and our police department partners," said Duluth Fire Chief Shawn Krizaj. "Training together increases the trust needed between responding agency personnel to truly act as one fluid team. Having firefighters meet the same physical, and tactical standards as our police responders, will help us perform at the highest level, meeting the expectations of the community if a tragic event occurs in Duluth."

TEMS operators and TRT members will continue to train together, to learn how to provide the best services to the Duluth community.

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