



## **Disaster Animal Response Team of Nova Scotia Code of Conduct Policy**

It is the policy of DARTNS to require the following of all volunteers or representatives. Incident Commanders will have authority to deactivate any activated volunteer or representative for behaviour that violates this Code of Conduct. Additionally, it is the policy of DARTNS to deny membership to any individual who has been convicted of a Criminal Offence

**All current and prospective responder members and/or volunteers shall furnish to DARTNS proof that he/she has not been convicted of any such offence. This proof shall be in the form of an official Criminal Background Check. All current responder members of DARTNS must furnish this proof within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this policy. Prospective responder members must furnish this same proof within thirty (30) days of the submission of their membership application. Proof shall be supplied to the DART Response Coordinator. The DART Response Coordinator shall submit his/her proof to the DARTNS Executive. All members shall furnish Criminal Background Checks to the DARTNS Executive once every three (3) years. Non compliance with this section will result in termination of the individual's response membership in DARTNS.**

It shall be the responsibility of the prospective responder member, or prospective volunteer, to arrange and pay for the Police Criminal Background Check in order to establish that he/she has not been convicted of a criminal offence, as set forth in the preceding paragraph. Further, any potential member may be denied membership for any reason at the sole discretion of DARTNS.

All DART volunteers or representatives shall:

1. Refrain from speaking to members of the media without permission from the appropriate supervisor.
2. Project a professional manner and appearance while participating in all related activities.
3. Immediately, or as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances, identify operations or activities that are beyond their capabilities based on their individual qualifications, experience, training, and knowledge.
4. Provide and carry current and relevant professional credentials and display badge at all times during activation.
5. Observe safety rules and regulations and proper usage and operation of all equipment at all times during activation.
6. Accept assignments and/or orders as directed by the DART Incident Commander, or if required, make discretionary decisions based on appropriate intent and good judgment.
7. Not participate otherwise in operations that serve to promote personal gains or ideologies while serving as a volunteer or representatives.
8. Not enter private properties during activation or in connection with any DART activity to perform duties without the express permission from the owner, supervising authority or without a law enforcement escort.
9. Remain in contact with the appropriate ICS authority at all times during activation, and confine activities to the assigned mission and directives of the Incident Action Plan.

