

Officer Involved Shootings and Deaths

309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is shot at, injured or dies as the result of an officer-involved shooting or dies as a result of other action of an officer.

This policy shall be consistent with the requirements set forth in the current collective bargaining agreements with the Vancouver Police Officers' Guild (VPOG) and Vancouver Command Guild (VCG). In the event of any inconsistency between this policy and the collective bargaining agreements with the Guilds, the agreement shall control.

309.2 POLICY

The policy of the Vancouver Police Department is to ensure officer-involved shootings and deaths are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner and one which ensures public trust in the Department. All investigations into officer-involved shootings and deaths shall be conducted by the Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response (SWIIR) Team.

See attached [Involved Shooting and Death Manual](#) for further.

309.3 DEFINITIONS

Deadly force - As set forth in RCW 9A.16.010, "deadly force" means the intentional application of force through the use of firearms or any other means reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

Evanescent evidence -

1. Physical evidence that may be degraded or tainted by human or environmental factors, if left unprotected or unpreserved for the arrival of the independent investigative team (IIT)
2. Identification and contact information for witnesses to the incident
3. Photographs and other methods of documenting the location of physical evidence and location/perspective of witnesses

Independent investigative team (IIT) - A team of qualified and certified peace officer investigators, civilian crime scene specialists, and at least two non-law enforcement community representatives who operate completely independent of any involved agency to conduct investigations of police deadly force incidents. An IIT is created when multiple law enforcement agencies enter into a written agreement to investigate police use of deadly force incidents in their geographical regions. A single law enforcement agency may fulfill the independent investigative function provided it is not the involved agency.

Involved agency - The agency that employs or supervises the officer(s) who used deadly force. There can be more than one "involved agency".

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Involved Officer - An officer of the Vancouver Police Department who uses deadly force or whose action(s) cause substantial or great bodily harm to, or the death of, another.

309.4 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings and deaths involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- A criminal investigation of the incident.
- An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved officers.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability.

309.5 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Investigations involving a use of deadly force will be investigated by the Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response (SWIIR) Team. Members of the "involved agency" will not be involved in this type of investigation.

309.5.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT(S)

The SWIIR Team Commander will have decision-making authority as to whether the SWIIR Team will investigate associated crimes involved in the incident that led to the use of force. If the SWIIR Team Commander decides not to have associated crimes fall under the SWIIR Team investigation, the agency of jurisdiction will have the investigative authority.

309.5.2 INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER ACTIONS

The control of the investigation into the officer-involved deadly force incident will be determined in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in the RCW, respective WAC's, Department policies, individual Constitutional rights and associated collective bargaining agreements. When an officer from this Department is involved, the criminal investigation will be handled pursuant to subsection 309.5 above.

Requests made of this Department to investigate a shooting or death involving an outside agency's officer shall be referred to the Chief of Police or the authorized designee for approval, in accordance with RMCT, Mutual Aid and/or SWIIRT protocols.

309.5.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION

Regardless of where the incident occurs, the administrative and civil investigation of each involved officer is controlled by the respective employing agency.

309.6 NOTIFICATIONS

The following persons shall be notified as soon as practicable. Refer to procedures manual for specific notification responsibilities:

- Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA)
- Office of the Chief

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- Investigation Division Commander
- Southwest Washington Independent Investigative Response (SWIIR) Team
- Professional Standards Unit Supervisor
- Civil Liability Response Team
- Peer Support Team
- Involved Officer's Union Representative
- Public Information Coordinator

309.6.1 RESPONSIBILITIES OF INVOLVED OFFICERS

a) Public Safety Statement

1. Following the discharge of a firearm in the line of duty, involved officers may be required to provide a public safety statement as outlined in the procedure manual for officer-involved shootings and deaths.
2. Prior to obtaining a compelled Public Safety Statement, supervisors should first attempt to obtain the relevant public safety information from other credible sources to include witness officers or civilian witnesses. If a supervisor can obtain the relevant information in a timely manner, consistent with any threats to public safety (and preservation of evidence), then he/ she does not need to compel a Public Safety Statement from the involved officer.
3. If the Supervisor obtains a Public Safety Statement, he/she will not provide the compelled information to any person assigned to the IIT. He/She will place the form into VPD Evidence and write a report consistent with the procedures manual.

See attached: [Public Safety Statement form](#)

b) Criminal Interview/Written Report

1. Following an officer-involved shooting, and after being given the opportunity to consult with legal counsel, an involved officer has the option to participate in a criminal interview in lieu of writing a police report. Any recording of the criminal interview, or any subsequent interview (e.g., administrative interview) will be at the consent of the involved officer.
 - (a) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally or otherwise not in a position to provide a statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allow a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternative time for the interview.
 - (b) Any statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively compelled statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents in writing.
2. In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this Department shall retain the authority to require involved officers to provide sufficient

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information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals.

3. While the involved officer may write a police report, it is generally recommended that such reports be completed by assigned investigators, who should interview all involved officers as victims/witnesses. Since the purpose of these reports will be to facilitate criminal prosecution, statements of involved officers should focus on evidence to establish the elements of criminal activities by suspects. Care should be taken not to duplicate information provided by involved officers in other reports.

- (a) Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved officer of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report or criminal interview.
- (b) Reports related to the prosecution of criminal suspects will be processed according to normal procedures, but should also be included for reference in the investigation of the officer-involved shooting or death.

4. Generally, any criminal interview should occur 48-72 hours after the incident.

309.6.2 ACCOMODATIONS FOR INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.

1. Involved officers shall not be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with an attorney or any representative prior to providing a formal interview or report.

2. Requests from involved outside agency officers should be referred to their employing agency.

b) Discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications.

c) Discussions with agency representatives/employee groups will be privileged only as to the discussion of union information.

d) A licensed psychologist shall be provided by the Department to each involved Department officer. A licensed psychologist may also be provided to any other affected Department members upon request.

1. Interviews with a licensed psychologist will be privileged.

2. An interview or session with a licensed psychologist may take place prior to the member providing a formal interview or report. However, involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet or in a group with a licensed psychologist prior to providing a formal interview or report.

3. A separate fitness-for-duty exam may also be required.

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e)The Department will consider communications between qualified peer counselors and involved officers to be privileged (RCW 5.60.060). However, peer counselors should not be discussing the particular facts of the incident with the involved officer.

309.6.3 CRITICAL INCIDENT LEAVE

Each involved Department officer shall be given reasonable paid critical incident leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. This leave should include all premium pays and shift differential received prior to the incident. Such leave shall be at the direction of the Office of the Chief. It shall be the responsibility of the Shift Sergeant, or the employee's supervisor if at another rank, to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave (See also Vancouver Command Guild contract or Vancouver Police Officer Guild contract).

309.7 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Personnel will ensure the following actions occur during an OIS/Use of Deadly Force incident.

- (a) Involved personnel and first responders will render the scene safe and provide or facilitate life-saving first aid to any injured persons.
- (b) Supervisors will obtain and provide any information regarding imminent threats to the public or other officers (consistent with the provisions provided in this policy-see 309.6.1a) - Public Safety Statements)
- (c) Next, personnel will protect and preserve the crime scene to include identifying any potential witnesses to the use of force incident and notify the SWIIR Team (this may be accomplished by contacting the MCU Supervisor).
 1. Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the involved officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood or fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it.
- (d) The involved agency (VPD) will relinquish control of the scene to SWIIR Team personnel once the SWIIRT has the resources needed to properly conduct its investigation.

309.7.1 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS

Because potential witnesses to an officer-involved shooting or death may become unavailable, or the integrity of their statements compromised with passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate investigators to utilize available law enforcement personnel for the following:

- (a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
 1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from eye witnesses as well as those persons who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
 2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose

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of identification, attempts to identify the witness prior to his/her departure should be made whenever feasible.

- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where SWIIR Team investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Department. Consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness.
- (c) Prompt contact with the suspect's known family and associates to obtain any available and untainted background information about the suspect's activities and state of mind prior to the incident will normally be done by SWIIR Team detectives, or at the direction of the SWIIR Team Commander or Supervisor unless exigent circumstances exist.

309.7.2 REPORTS

All related reports, except administrative reports, will be forwarded to the designated Investigations supervisor for approval. Privileged reports shall be maintained exclusively by members who are authorized such access. Administrative reports will be forwarded to the appropriate Division Commander. The Investigations Unit supervisor or designee will ensure all investigative reports prepared by VPD personnel are disseminated to the SWIIRT, or Prosecutor's Office.

The County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, or their designee, is responsible for the review and final determination of the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death.

309.8 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

In addition to all other investigations associated with an officer-involved shooting or death, this Department will conduct an internal administrative investigation of involved Department officers to determine conformance with Department policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Professional Standards Unit in accordance with current policy, applicable laws and respective collective bargaining agreements.

309.9 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE

Members of this Department may be assigned to work exclusively under the direction of the legal counsel for the Department to assist in the preparation of materials deemed necessary in anticipation of potential civil litigation.

All materials generated in this capacity shall be considered attorney work product and may not be used for any other purpose. The civil liability response is not intended to interfere with any other investigation but shall be given reasonable access to all other investigations.

309.10 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be permitted to review available video or audio recordings prior to providing a recorded statement or completing reports.

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Upon request, non-law enforcement witnesses who are able to verify their presence and their ability to contemporaneously perceive events at the scene of an incident may also be permitted to review available video or audio recordings with the approval of assigned investigators or a supervisor.

Video or audio recordings of an incident should generally not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the SWIIRT Commander, with agreement from the Prosecuting Attorney, City Attorney's Office and the Office of the Chief, as appropriate. This shall not preclude the release of BWC videos at the discretion of the Chief of Police or designee pursuant VPD policy.

309.11 DEBRIEFING

Following an officer-involved shooting or death, the Vancouver Police Department should conduct a critical incident stress debriefing.

309.11.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS DEBRIEFING

The Critical Incident Stress Debriefing is a structured group discussion designed to mitigate or resolve the psychological distress associated with a critical incident. The process provides information on potential stress symptoms and coping techniques and helps personnel work through their own thoughts, reactions and symptoms. The Critical Incident Stress Debriefing is facilitated by a specially trained team that includes mental health professionals and peer support personnel. The Critical Stress Debriefing is a voluntary process and will not occur until after the criminal investigation interviews of the involved members have been completed.

A critical incident stress debriefing should occur as soon as practicable. The Administration Division Commander is responsible for organizing the debriefing. Notes and recorded statements will not be taken because the sole purpose of the debriefing is to help mitigate the stress related effects of a traumatic event.

The debriefing is not part of any investigative process. Care should be taken not to release or repeat any communication made during a debriefing unless otherwise authorized by policy, law or a valid court order.

Attendance at the debriefing shall only include members of the Department directly involved in the incident, which can include support personnel (e.g., dispatchers or other first responders). The debriefing shall be closed to the public and should be closed to all other members of the Department, including supervisory and Professional Standards Unit personnel.

309.12 MEDIA RELATIONS

Once the SWIIR Team has initiated an investigation, all SWIIR Team media releases related to the investigation shall be made by the Public Information Officer (PIO) or other official designee from the lead investigation agency with the approval of the SWIIR Team Commander for that incident. The SWIIR media Release Template will be used whenever appropriate (see Appendix

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C). The SWIIR Team will provide public update about the investigation at a minimum of once per week, even if there is no new progress to report. Prior to issuing a media release, the SWIIR Team will provide a copy of the press release to the IIT community representatives and give advance notice of all scheduled press releases to a family member of the person whom deadly force was used upon.

It shall be the responsibility of the Involved Agency to determine when the Involved Officer' names will be released to the public, pursuant to their policies and procedures.

The Involved Agency's PIO or other official designee will have the opportunity to make an initial release of information, both in person and through media release, in coordination with SWIIR Team Supervisors. This will not be construed as a SWIIR Team release.

The Involved Agency may release information regarding the Involved Officer's employment history and related performance as an employee. The Involved Agency is prohibited from releasing information that could affect the integrity of the investigation.

No involved officer shall make any comment to the media concerning the incident.

Department members receiving inquiries regarding officer-involved shootings or deaths occurring in other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

Attachments

VPD OIS and Death Manual - final.pdf



Vancouver Police Department

Officer-Involved Shooting and Deaths Procedure

Manual

James P. McElvain, Ph.D., Chief of Police

Revised 9-16-2020

CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

309 Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Procedures Manual

Corresponding Policy 309: Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

The Vancouver Police Department will utilize these procedures for the investigation of officer-involved shootings and other employee-involved serious injury or fatal incidents.

1.1 INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The following procedures are guidelines used in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting or death.

1.2 UNINVOLVED OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting or death, the first uninvolved officer will be the officer-in-charge and will assume the responsibilities of a supervisor until properly relieved. This officer should, as appropriate:

- (a) Secure the scene.
- (b) Take reasonable steps to obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals and evacuate as needed.
- (c) Request additional resources from the Department or other agencies.
- (d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.
- (e) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

1.3 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon learning of an officer-involved shooting or death, the Shift Sergeant or Corporal shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the incident until he/she is relieved by an on-scene higher ranking supervisor.

Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved supervisor should ensure completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

- (a) Ensure any tactical or threatening situation is resolved or stabilized (summon SWAT if necessary).
- (b) Ensure life-saving efforts are underway and summon EMS if necessary.
- (c) Request adequate personnel to contain and investigate the incident.
- (d) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
- (e) Conduct an initial field interview with involved employee/s utilizing the Public Safety Statement Form (if needed).
 1. Public safety information shall be limited to pertinent information as outlined in the Public Safety Statement Form.
 2. The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
 3. Allow the involved officer to view the scene before they leave it.
- (f) Provide pertinent information to Dispatch if necessary.
- (g) Maintain integrity of the scene/s and evidence. Establish a comprehensive inner perimeter and outer perimeter when possible. Consider the following:

1. Original Incident Scene

2. Escape Routes
 3. Suspect Vehicle
 4. Officer's Vehicle
 5. Hospital
- (h) Assign an officer to create and keep a crime scene log.
- (i) Preserve and protect any fragile evidence that may be in imminent jeopardy, to include DNA evidence.
- (j) Photograph and document any items that must be seized immediately.
1. Limit entry into the crime scene solely to investigators and personnel assigned to process the scene.
 2. No unauthorized personnel, to include command staff, should be allowed into the inner (evidence) perimeter.
- (k) Assign an officer to ride in the ambulance with any injured employees or civilians.
1. If an employee is injured a Department member familiar with the family, or designated by the officer, should pick them up and drive them to the hospital.
 2. Seize, as evidence, the officer's weapon/s, duty belt and any clothing removed by EMS prior to transport.
- (l) Locate, identify and separate cooperative civilian witnesses. An attempt should be made to identify uncooperative civilian witnesses. Depending on availability of investigators, a reasonable effort should be made to obtain a recorded statement without taking them into custody.
- (m) Identify suspect/s.
- (n) Facilitate custody of suspect/s while taking steps to protect the hands of the offender/s involved in the shooting for gunshot residue (GSR) evidence preservation (if needed).
- (o) Identify EMTs, paramedics and ER staff for future interviews.
- (p) Assign a companion officer to accompany each involved officer until relieved by a Peer Support Team member, union representative or attorney.
- (q) If the involved officer is not injured, ensure all equipment and clothing used during the incident remains with the involved officer until processed by the SWIIR Team.
- (r) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officer/s are transported (separately if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
1. Each officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or employees pending further direction from a supervisor.
 2. Refrain from communicating with the involved officer/s about the incident after any public safety statement has been obtained.
- (s) Ensure notifications are made to the following:
1. Major Crimes Unit Supervisor
 - The MCU Supervisor will facilitate notification to the SWIIRT Commander
 2. Patrol Lieutenant
 3. Peer Support Team member
 4. Guild representative
- (t) Brief arriving investigators and first arriving Command member regarding the information obtained from the involved or witness officers.

1.4 PEER SUPPORT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) A Peer Support Team member will be assigned to assist the involved member throughout the entire officer-involved shooting process.
- (b) Ensure the officer is comfortable and provide them food and drink.
- (c) Remind involved officer to make appropriate family notifications.
- (d) Visually inspect the involved officer for injuries or damage to their uniform or equipment that occurred during the incident.
- (e) Coordinate with the Detectives for retrieval and return of any personal property left at the scene.
- (f) Coordinate the replacement of the involved officer's clothing if taken as evidence.
- (g) Explain the post officer-involved shooting process to the involved officer.
 - 1. Employee will be provided access to a union attorney.
 - 2. The involved officer will generally be interviewed within 48 to 72 hours following the incident.
 - 3. Notify them that Detectives will photograph the involved officer, seize relevant evidence, and provide a receipt for seized property.
 - 4. The involved officer will be placed on critical incident leave.
 - 5. When the involved officer's name and photograph will be released to the media.
 - 6. Replacement process of involved weapon/s.
 - 7. Coordination of an upcoming appointment with a psychologist.
- (h) Arrange for transportation for the involved officer and the officer's family as needed.
- (i) Coordinate and provide individual and group debriefs as necessary.
- (j) Work with Division Lieutenant to ensure reasonable notice for all scheduled appointments.

See Policy 1053 Peer Support Team

1.5 DIVISION LIEUTENANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Ensure the following notifications are made:
 - 1. SWIIR Team
 - 2. Division Commander
 - 3. Professional Standards Unit supervisor
 - 4. Public Information Coordinator/Officer
 - 5. Peer Support Team
- (b) Respond to the scene and assume command of the incident.
- (c) Brief arriving Command Staff members regarding the information obtained from the Shift Sergeant.
- (d) Ensure the involved officer is provided with a comparable replacement weapon as soon as practical.
 - 1. Contact the Range Master or a Firearms Instructor to obtain a replacement weapon from the armory.
 - 2. If unable to obtain a replacement weapon from the armory, contact an Assistant Chief for issuance of a weapon.
- (e) Review and coordinate officer's work-related schedule to include:
 - 1. Appointment with psychologist
 - 2. Court schedule
 - 3. Pre-approved training
 - 4. Pre-approved leave

- 5. Firearms requalification and range time with Range Master.
- (f) Coordinate with Peer Support representative to ensure the involved officer is provided weekly updates.
- (g) Coordinate with Assistant Chief on any work status changes and make timely notification to the involved officer.
- (h) Coordinate with Investigations Division Lieutenant for return of seized equipment, to include personal property and items.

1.6 DIVISION COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Ensure notifications are made to the Assistant Chief/s.
- (b) Respond to the scene/precinct as needed.

1.7 ASSISTANT CHIEF RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Ensure the following notifications are made:
 - 1. Chief of Police and other Assistant Chief
 - 2. City Attorney/Risk Management
- (b) Respond to the scene/precinct as needed.
- (c) Ensure the well-being of involved officers.
- (d) Prepare and deliver Critical Incident Leave notice to the involved officer/s.

1.8 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Respond to the scene.
- (b) Work with SWIIRT Investigators for a walk-through of the scene when the scene is ready to be released.
- (c) Take photographs as needed.
- (d) Identify and interview witnesses as needed.
- (e) Schedule Professional Standards Unit interviews as needed.
- (f) Assist with civil liability response upon direction from the Office of the Chief.

DUTIES OF INITIAL ON SCENE SUPERVISOR
Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths
Patrol Supervisor Checklist

1. ____ Ensure any tactical or threatening situation is resolved or stabilized (summon SWAT, if necessary).
2. ____ Ensure life-saving efforts are underway and summon EMS if not already done.
3. ____ Request adequate personnel to contain and investigate the incident.
4. ____ Provide all pertinent information to dispatch. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks.
5. ____ Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
6. ____ Assign an officer to ride in the ambulance with any injured employees or civilians.
 - If an employee is injured, a Department member familiar with the family, or designated by the officer, should pick them up and drive them to the hospital.
 - Seize as evidence the officer's weapon/s, duty belt, and any clothing removed by EMS prior to transport.
7. ____ Conduct an initial field interview with involved employee/s utilizing the VPD Public Safety Statement Form (only if needed).
 - The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
 - Allow the officer to view the scene before they leave it.
8. ____ Identify suspect/s.
9. ____ Facilitate custody of suspect/s while taking steps to protect the hands of the suspect/s involved in the shooting for gunshot residue (GSR) evidence preservation.
10. ____ Ensure EMT, paramedics, and emergency room staff is identified for future interviews.
11. ____ Maintain integrity of the scene/s and evidence. Establish a comprehensive inner perimeter and outer perimeter, when possible. Consider the following:
 - Original Incident Scene
 - Escape Routes
 - Suspect Vehicle
 - Officer's Vehicle
 - Hospital

12. ____ Ensure notifications are made to the following:
 - Major Crimes Unit Supervisor
 - Patrol Lieutenant
 - Peer Support Team member
 - Guild representative
13. ____ Assign an officer to create and keep a crime scene log.
14. ____ Preserve and protect any fragile evidence that may be in imminent jeopardy.
15. ____ Photograph and document any items that must be seized.
16. ____ Limit entry into the crime scene to investigators and personnel assigned to process the scene.
17. ____ Locate, identify, and separate cooperative civilian witnesses. An attempt should be made to identify uncooperative civilian witnesses. Depending on availability of investigators, a reasonable effort should be made to obtain a recorded statement without taking them into custody.
18. ____ Assign an officer to accompany each involved officer until relieved by a Peer Support Team member, union representative, or attorney.
19. ____ If the involved officer is not injured, ensure all equipment and clothing used during the incident remains with the involved officer until processed by the SWIIR Team.
20. ____ Ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
 - Each officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or employees pending further direction from a supervisor.
 - Refrain from communicating with the involved officer/s about the incident after the public safety statement has been obtained.
21. ____ Brief arriving investigators and first arriving Command member regarding the information obtained from witness officers.
22. ____ Relinquish control of the scene to the SWIIRT Commander and/or supervisor upon their arrival and ability to take control of the investigation.

Public Safety Statement Form

(Directions to on-scene Supervisor)

- This is a compelled statement.
- The supervisor compelling this statement will not deviate from its content.
- The supervisor will write down on this document the answers provided verbatim, disseminate public safety information immediately via radio as appropriate, and enter this form into the “involved agency’s” evidence system in a sealed envelope.
- The supervisor will not share any of this information with the IIT.
- The police supervisor receiving this information is required to submit a police report. The report should include that the Public Safety Statement was formally given to the involved officer in accordance with this procedure. In an attempt to prevent the unintentional disclosure of compelled statements to criminal investigators, the Supervisor’s report should not contain the answers given by the involved officer.

“I am directing you to give me a public safety statement. Due to the immediate need to take action, you are ordered to answer the following questions listed below. If you refuse to answer these questions relating to the performance of your official duties, you can be subject to Department charges, which could result in discipline up to dismissal from the Department. At this time and to the best of your knowledge, please answer the following”:

1. Officer providing statement. _____
 2. Are you injured? YES NO
 3. If you know of anyone who was injured, what is his or her location? _____
 4. From where, and in approximately what direction(s) did you fire your weapon(s)?

 5. If any suspects are at large, what are their descriptions? _____
 6. What was their direction of travel? _____
 7. How long ago did they flee? _____
 8. For what crimes are they wanted? _____
 9. With what weapons are they armed? _____
 10. Did the suspect fire any shots? _____
 - a. From where, and in what direction? _____
 11. Are you aware of any weapons that need to be secured? _____
 12. Where are those weapons located? _____
 13. Did you observe any witnesses? _____
 14. Where are they? _____
- Completed By: _____

Public Safety Statement form - final.pdf

Public Safety Statement Form

(Directions to on-scene Supervisor)

- This is a compelled statement.
- The supervisor compelling this statement will not deviate from its content.
- The supervisor will write down on this document the answers provided verbatim, disseminate public safety information immediately via radio as appropriate, and enter this form into the “involved agency’s” evidence system in a sealed envelope.
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“I am directing you to give me a public safety statement. Due to the immediate need to take action, you are ordered to answer the following questions listed below. If you refuse to answer these questions relating to the performance of your official duties, you can be subject to Department charges, which could result in discipline up to dismissal from the Department. At this time and to the best of your knowledge, please answer the following”:

1. Officer providing statement. _____

2. Are you injured? YES NO

3. If you know of anyone who was injured, what is his or her location? _____

4. From where, and in approximately what direction(s) did you fire your weapon(s)?

5. If any suspects are at large, what are their descriptions? _____

6. What was their direction of travel? _____

7. How long ago did they flee? _____

8. For what crimes are they wanted? _____

9. With what weapons are they armed? _____

10. Did the suspect fire any shots? _____

a. From where, and in what direction? _____

11. Are you aware of any weapons that need to be secured? _____

12. Where are those weapons located? _____

13. Did you observe any witnesses? _____

14. Where are they? _____

Completed By: _____