

Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

305.1 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 injured or dies as the result of an officer-involved shooting or dies as a result of other action of an officer.

In other incidents not covered by this policy, the Chief of Police may decide that the investigation will follow the process provided in this policy.

305.2 POLICY

The policy of the San Leandro Police Department is to ensure that officer-involved shootings and deaths are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner.

305.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Officer-involved shootings and deaths involve three separate investigations. The investigations will include:

- A criminal investigation of the statutory issues of the incident;
- An administrative investigation to determine policy compliance by involved San Leandro Police Department officers;
- A separate and independent investigation conducted by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office.

305.4 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Investigators from surrounding agencies may be assigned to work on the criminal investigation of officer-involved shootings and deaths. This may include at least one investigator from the agency that employs the involved officer.

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting or death and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating officer-involved shootings and deaths.

305.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect, or officer, is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the incident occurred. For example, the San Leandro Police Department would control the investigation if the incident occurred in San Leandro.

If multiple incidents occurred in multiple jurisdictions, identification of the agency that will control the investigation may be reached in the same way as with any other crime. The investigation may be conducted by the agency in control of the criminal investigation of the involved officer, at the discretion of the Chief of Police and with concurrence from the other agency.

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305.4.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION

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

305.5 INVESTIGATION PROCESS

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

305.5.1 UNINVOLVED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting, the first uninvolved SLPD 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 and identify and eliminate hazards for all those involved.
- (b) Take reasonable steps to obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals.
- (c) Request additional resources from the Department or other agencies.
- (d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.
- (e) Check for injured persons and evacuate as needed.
- (f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

305.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved SLPD supervisor should ensure activation of all PVRs's and completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

- (a) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
 1. In the event that there are no uninvolved officers who can supply adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one of the involved officer.
- (b) If necessary, the supervisor may administratively order any SLPD officer to immediately provide public safety information necessary to secure the scene, identify injured parties and pursue suspects.
 1. Public safety information shall be limited to such things as outstanding suspect information, number and direction of any shots fired, perimeter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses and any other pertinent information.
 2. The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
- (c) Provide all available information to the Watch Commander and the Communications Center. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks.
- (d) Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional SLPD members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator.

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- (e) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
 - 1. Each involved SLPD officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or SLPD members pending further direction from a supervisor.
 - 2. When an involved officer's weapon is taken or left at the scene for other than officer-safety reasons (e.g., evidence), ensure that he/she is provided with a comparable replacement weapon as soon as practical.

305.5.3 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon learning of an officer-involved shooting or death, the Watch Commander shall be responsible for coordinating all aspects of the incident until he/she is relieved.

All outside inquiries about the incident shall be directed to the Watch Commander.

305.5.4 NOTIFICATIONS

The following person(s) shall be notified as soon as practicable:

- Chief of Police
- Bureau Captains
- Outside agency investigator (if appropriate)
- Professional Standards and Training Unit Commander
- Psychological/peer support personnel
- Chaplain
- Coroner (if necessary)
- Involved officer's agency representative (POA) (if requested)
- Criminal Investigations Lieutenant

305.5.5 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.
 - 1. Involved SLPD 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 non-SLPD 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 non-criminal information (Government Code § 3303(i)).

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- (d) A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Department to each involved SLPD officer. A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected SLPD members, upon request.
 - 1. Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged.
 - 2. An interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist may take place prior to the member providing a formal interview or report. However, involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet collectively or in a group with a licensed psychotherapist prior to providing a formal interview or report.
 - 3. A separate fitness-for-duty exam may also be required (see the Fitness for Duty Policy).
- (e) Peer counselors are cautioned against discussing the facts of any incident with an involved or witness officer (Government Code § 8669.4).

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.

Each involved SLPD officer shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. It shall be the responsibility of the Watch Commander to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

305.5.6 NOTIFICATION TO DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) is required to investigate an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian. The Watch Commander should promptly notify the DOJ in all incidents involving an officer-involved shooting resulting in the death of an unarmed civilian, including where it is undetermined if the civilian was unarmed.

For purposes of notification, "unarmed civilian" means anyone who is not in possession of a deadly weapon (Government Code § 12525.3).

305.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The San Leandro Police Department is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death occurring in San Leandro.

The Alameda County District Attorney's Office will conduct a separate criminal investigation in accordance with their protocol.

If available, investigative personnel from this department may be assigned to partner with investigators from outside agencies or the District Attorney's Office to avoid duplicating efforts in related criminal investigations.

Once public safety issues have been addressed, criminal investigators should be given the opportunity to obtain a voluntary statement from involved officers and to complete their interviews. The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

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- (a) SLPD supervisors and Professional Standards and Training Unit personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of SLPD officers. This will not prohibit such personnel from monitoring interviews or providing the criminal investigators with topics for inquiry.
- (b) If requested, any involved officer will be afforded the opportunity to consult individually with a representative of his/her choosing or an attorney prior to speaking with criminal investigators (Government Code § 3303(i)). However, in order to maintain the integrity of each involved officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative or an attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed;
- (c) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally or otherwise not in a position to provide a voluntary statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allowing a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternate time for the interview;
- (d) Any voluntary statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively coerced statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents.

305.6.1 REPORTS BY INVOLVED SLPD OFFICERS

In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this department shall retain the authority to require involved SLPD officers to provide sufficient information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals (Government Code § 3304(a)).

While the involved SLPD officer may write the 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.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved SLPD officer of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report.

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.

305.6.2 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 the passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with criminal investigators to utilize available personnel for the following:

- (a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.

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1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from 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 of identification, officers should attempt to identify the witness prior to his/her departure.
- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Department.
1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transportation.
- (c) Promptly contacting 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.

305.6.3 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer-involved shooting or death, it shall be the responsibility of the Criminal Investigations Division Commander to assign appropriate investigative personnel to handle the investigation of related crimes. Department investigators will be assigned to work with investigators from the District Attorney's Office and may be assigned to separately handle the investigation of any related crimes not being investigated by the District Attorney's Office.

All related department reports, except administrative and/or privileged reports, will be forwarded to the Criminal Investigations Division Commander for approval. Privileged reports shall be maintained exclusively by members who are authorized such access. Administrative reports will be forwarded to the appropriate Bureau Captain.

305.7 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 SLPD officers to determine conformance with department policy. The investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Professional Standards and Training Unit, or assigned Watch Commander, and will be considered a confidential officer personnel file.

Interviews of members shall be subject to department policies and applicable laws (see the Personnel Complaints Policy).

- (a) If any officer has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator may monitor that interview. If the administrative

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investigator is unable to monitor the interview they should review that statement before proceeding with any further interview of that involved officer.

1. If a further interview of the officer is deemed necessary to determine policy compliance, care should be taken to limit the inquiry to new areas with minimal, if any, duplication of questions addressed in the voluntary statement. The involved officer shall be provided with a copy of his/her prior statement before proceeding with any subsequent interviews.
- (b) In the event that an involved officer has elected to not provide criminal investigators with a voluntary statement, the assigned administrative investigator shall conduct an administrative interview to determine all relevant information.
1. Although this interview should not be unreasonably delayed, care should be taken to ensure that the officer's physical and psychological needs have been addressed before commencing the interview.
 2. If requested, the officer shall have the opportunity to select an uninvolved representative to be present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative or attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed (Government Code § 3303(i)).
 3. Administrative interviews should be recorded by the investigator. The officer may also record the interview (Government Code § 3303(g)).
 4. The officer shall be informed of the nature of the investigation. If an officer refuses to answer questions, he/she should be given his/her *Lybarger* or *Garrity* rights and ordered to provide full and truthful answers to all questions. The officer shall be informed that the interview will be for administrative purposes only and that the statement cannot be used criminally.
 5. The Professional Standards and Training Unit shall compile all relevant information and reports necessary for the Department to determine compliance with applicable policies.
 6. Any other indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

305.8 PERSONAL VIDEO RECORDING SYSTEMS

The viewing of any PVRs footage by any officer involved in a shooting or death, or releasing of such footage, shall comply with the Portable Audio/Video Recorders policy

305.9 DEBRIEFING

Following an officer-involved shooting or death, the San Leandro Police Department should conduct both a critical incident/stress debriefing and a tactical debriefing.

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305.9.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS DEBRIEFING

The critical incident/stress debriefing shall occur in accordance with the Critical Incident Stress Response Team policy.

305.9.2 TACTICAL DEBRIEFING

A tactical debriefing should take place to identify any training or areas of policy that need improvement. The Chief of Police should identify the appropriate participants. This debriefing should not be conducted until all involved members have provided recorded or formal statements to criminal and/or administrative investigators.

305.10 MEDIA RELATIONS

Any media release shall be prepared by the Criminal Investigations Division Commander and reviewed by the Chief of Police prior to release.

The Department shall not subject any involved SLPD officer to visits by the media (Government Code § 3303(e)). No involved SLPD officer shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Chief of Police. Department members receiving inquiries regarding officer-involved shootings or deaths occurring in San Leandro or other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

305.11 REPORTING

If the death of an individual occurs in the San Leandro Police Department jurisdiction and qualifies to be reported to the state as a justifiable homicide or an in-custody death, the Bureau of Services Captain will ensure that the Support Services Manager is provided with enough information to meet the reporting requirements (Penal Code § 196; Penal Code § 13022; Government Code § 12525).

305.12 RESCINDED POLICY

This policy rescinds San Leandro Operations Directive 85-07.