



SPECIAL ORDER

DATE OF ISSUE

03/25/2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

03/25/2024

NUMBER

24-22

SUBJECT

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS

REVISIONS

Revisions are italicized

RESCINDS

SPECIAL ORDER 22-52, OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING INVESTIGATIONS

EXPIRATION DATE

03/25/2025

DISTRIBUTION

A

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish responsibilities and duties concerning the investigation of officer-involved shootings (OIS) and other types of deadly force incidents, as well as other critical incidents based on the totality of the circumstances. This includes specifically, but is not limited to, the use of firearms and Department-issued weapons. The investigative procedures used, coupled with the subsequent adjudication process, are the most important elements in maintaining the confidence of the public and Department members if the actions of an officer are in question.

Policy

It is the policy of the Detroit Police Department that officer-involved shootings and other serious incidents be investigated to determine whether the actions of involved members conform to applicable laws and Department rules, policies, procedures, and training.

Definitions

Biological Evidence

An individual's blood, semen, hair, saliva, skin tissue, fingernail scrapings, bone, bodily fluids or other identified biological material.

Chain of Custody

A series of chronological and documented links from the time the evidence was obtained until presented in court. The links are members who handled the evidence and when, where, and for what purpose they did so.

DNA Transfer

Primary DNA transfer is defined as the passage of DNA to objects and people.

Incident Commander (IC)

The incident commander (IC) is the individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site. The first arriving member at a critical incident scene should be prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of the incident commander until relieved by proper authority.

Incident Officer

One or more officers present during the OIS but did not actively participate in the incident (i.e. partner or witness who did not fire their weapon).

Involved Officer

One or more officers actively involved in using deadly physical force against another human. This may include using a firearm, significant blunt trauma, striking with a vehicle, or other intentional actions that would normally incapacitate or kill a human.

Peer Support

Members who are selected and trained to provide support, assistance and/or referrals to fellow Department members in times of personal and/or professional stress and/or crisis.

Public Safety Statement

Information requested by the first arriving supervisor. This information is critical for the effective management of the crime scene and will allow for the preservation of life. It includes statements such as:

- The extent of any known injuries and whether the appropriate medical assistance was rendered/summoned
- The approximate number and directions of shots fired by suspect and/or officers
- If there is a criminal suspect at large, if so, a description of same, and the direction and mode of escape (including how much time has elapsed)
- If anyone is under arrest
- Are there any weapons that need to be secured

Qualified Mental Health Professional

An individual who is licensed as a mental health professional and has an in-depth understanding of trauma-related disorders and the law enforcement culture.

Responsibilities and Duties of Involved Officer

1. When a firearm is used involving deadly force, upon first opportunity after the scene is secured, the officer shall immediately holster their weapon, without unloading, or reloading it. If a long gun is used involving deadly force, the involved officer shall sling their weapon and retain possession of their weapon until otherwise advised by a member of Homicide Task Force (HTF). Notwithstanding this statement, officers are authorized to conduct tactical reloads as soon as practical and when necessary. This may be at the first "lull" in the incident which may or may not then turn into the end of the incident.
2. Handcuff and search the suspect(s) to ensure that the threat has been stopped. Whether this is done immediately or upon the arrival of other officers will be driven by the extent and nature of the injuries to the suspect, sound tactics, and the officer's best judgment. When sufficient staffing is on scene and the suspect has been searched, the hand cuffs should be removed to facilitate adequate medical care as needed.
3. Notify Communications of the incident, location, and request additional staffing and a supervisor. This should generally occur on the channel assigned to the officer for the response to the incident. It should not occur on a private channel or cell phone, unless exigent circumstances dictate.
4. Determine the physical condition of any injured person and render first aid if safe to do so. Request appropriate emergency medical aid as necessary.

5. Coordinate the safe response of all additional resources arriving at the scene. This includes describing existing threats, and “hot zone,” or other critical information affecting the safe response. This duty may be delegated as other officers arrive.
6. Initiate steps to secure the scene:
 - a. Suspect Weapons:
 - When the threat has been stopped and the scene is secure, firearms belonging to the suspect will be secured in place **(do not move the weapon)**
 - When the suspect is not secure and/or other suspects may be in the area, the suspect weapon may be recovered and secured in an available scout car or through other appropriate means
 - When securing the weapon, undertake every effort possible to secure it without unloading or tampering with possible evidence on the weapon (i.e. use gloves to secure weapon to a sterile gun envelope) **[securing this weapon properly is extremely important to preserve biological evidence (i.e. DNA)]**
 - b. Officer Weapons:
 - When possible, handguns will be holstered and remain secured in that fashion until processed
 - Long guns will be placed on safe; slung and secured by the involved officer (officer retains possession) until otherwise advised by a member of HTF
 - Sniper rifles will be left in the shooting position when it is safe to do so. The weapon will be placed on safe or otherwise rendered safe without unloading when possible
 - c. Officer Equipment:
 - Generally, equipment dropped or left on the ground will remain in the position it is found and marked as evidence
 - As stated in Department Manual Directive 403.2-6, Engineering/Work Practice Controls, members should keep a change of uniform or clothing available. This is important to preserve biological evidence that may have been transferred from the suspect to the officer (i.e. DNA transfer)
 - d. Additional crime scene preservation techniques should follow approved policy and training. This includes taking control of a wide area that includes buildings, parking lots, parked cars, etc. An inner and outer perimeter may be established.
7. Detain any outstanding suspects. Locate all witnesses. When possible and practical, obtain identification from witnesses that might not remain at the scene to meet with members of the investigating entity. When possible, conduct a BWC-recorded preliminary interview with all witnesses and clearly document their statements.
8. Upon the arrival of the first responding supervisor, the involved officer(s) will be requested to provide a public safety statement and disengage from the management of the scene as directed.

First Responding Supervisor Responsibilities

The first responding supervisor to an OIS scene shall follow the guidelines stated in Department Manual Directive 201.11, Use of Force Reporting and Investigation. Below are guidelines first responding supervisors shall follow specifically related to officer-involved shootings.

1. Assume command and control of the scene. If an Incident Command System (ICS) is already in place, formally assume command on the radio. If ICS is not already in place, declare the use of ICS and assume command on the radio (refer to Department Manual Directive 205.1, Critical Incident Response).
2. Provide any additional direction to available personnel in order to protect the scene and control any active threat. Ensure that the steps required above from the involved officer and first arriving officers are in process and/or accomplished. Ensure the scene has reached a level of control such that there is no longer a threat of harm to citizens, officers, or suspects.
3. Immediately broadcast clarifying information on the radio to all Department members regarding the status of officers. If the officer is seriously injured or killed in the incident, the supervisor must use tact and discretion in determining what to say and how to say it. This is done in order to calm the stress of Department members (both officers and Communications personnel) and help ensure members are adequately focused on their mission as law enforcement officers and dispatchers.
4. Confirm the medical status of all involved parties and specifically assess the wellbeing of the involved officers. Provide immediate first aid at the scene and ensure proper emergency medical services (EMS) and Detroit Fire Department (DFD) personnel are en route to assist the injured. When possible, notify the area hospital(s) of any incoming patients.
5. Ensure the involved officer(s) provide a public safety statement and disengage from the scene.
6. As soon as possible, assign a companion officer to each involved officer on scene. The companion officer will stay with their assigned officer for the duration of the investigation or until relieved. The companion officer will guide the involved officer away from the active investigative scene and allow the officer to "disengage" from police activity.
7. The companion or involved officer may also request the immediate response of an uninvolved member of Peer Support. The Peer Support member and the companion officer may not discuss the actual events involved in the incident with the involved officer. Upon the arrival of a Peer Support member, the companion officer may be relieved.
8. Other than the public safety statement, the involved officer(s) shall not speak with anyone except for their companion officer, non-involved union representative, Peer Support, or a qualified mental health professional. Members shall be mindful that any information shared is not privileged.
9. Direct all Department members at scene to avoid physical contact with the involved officer(s) (i.e. hugs). This is paramount in the preservation of evidence.
10. If the temperament of the scene allows, direct a non-involved member to take body-worn camera (BWC) video of the involved officer before they leave the scene (This should be done as discreetly as possible to avoid unnecessary

exposure of the involved officer(s)). The video should be a 360 degree video of the officer and their equipment. Special attention should be paid to any torn uniforms, damaged equipment, or injuries received during the incident.

11. Secure any clothing or other personal items belonging to the involved officer(s) or subject(s) that may have been removed by medical personnel as evidence. Properly securing this evidence is extremely important to preserve biological evidence and possible DNA transfer from the subject to the involved officer (i.e. gloves to sterile evidence bag).
12. Secure BWCs of involved officers at the scene. The IC shall ensure all secured BWCs are turned over to Homicide at the scene. Identify all incident officers and scout cars present with possible in-car video that may have captured the incident. The identified officers and scout cars will be provided to the investigating entity upon their arrival at the scene. Direct all incident officers to report to Homicide directly from the scene.
13. As soon as possible, direct the removal of the involved officer(s) from the scene. Involved officers shall be sequestered and secured separately in a police vehicle at the scene until transportation to a predetermined location is available. The involved officer(s) should be conveyed by or at least with their companion officer or Peer Support member. The involved officer's scout car and keys shall remain in place at the scene. Crime scene tape should be used to protect the vehicles of involved officers as evidence.
14. Establish a command post when it appears that an extended on-site investigation will be necessary (Refer to Manual Directive 205.1, Critical Incident Response).
15. A media staging area shall be identified away from the crime scene and away from the command post.
16. Assign non-involved members equipped with BWCs to standby to assist the investigating entity with the recording of interviews and canvasses.
17. Assign a non-involved member to serve as a "recorder" with responsibility for making a chronological record of activities at the scene, to include persons present at the scene, persons present during the incident, and actions taken by law enforcement or other official personnel.
18. Ensure Communications Notification and Control has been notified.
19. Brief arriving investigating entities (Homicide Task Force, Force Investigation).

Investigating Entity Responsibilities

Whenever possible, the investigating entity (i.e. Homicide Task Force, Force Investigation) shall do the following:

- a. Receive a briefing from the IC;
- b. Confirm that the public safety statement has been collected;
- c. Confirm that all items of potential evidentiary value are identified and properly collected;
- d. Obtain audio- and/or video-recorded preliminary statements from subjects and witnesses;
- e. Canvass the immediate area for potential witnesses who have not come forth and obtain information or statements as available. An incident officer equipped with a BWC shall be assigned to the investigating entity to ensure the canvass is captured on video;

- f. Obtain search warrants for any vehicles, containers, residents, or other items as may be necessary;
- g. Audio and video record all interviews with emergency medical personnel, fire department personnel, and first responding officers regarding conditions at the incident scene when they arrived, to include any action that may have been taken to move or otherwise alter persons or objects of potential evidentiary value;
- h. Collect information regarding the subject, where appropriate, to include the following:
 - Information provided by the reporting party
 - Information on the subject verified through LEIN, NCIC, or other law enforcement database, which may be pertinent to the investigation, such as officer safety cautions; wanted status, mental orders; personal protection orders in effect; etc.
 - Involved member's observations of the subject's behavior in the course of the interaction
 - Whether others indicated that the subject had been consuming alcohol, using drugs, or both
 - Whether the subject had been involved with law enforcement on prior occasions
 - The subject's proximity to weapons and whether or not the subject was threatening to use them
 - Whether the subject was visibly injured in any way prior to law enforcement arrival and what, if any, injuries were sustained during the interaction with officers
- i. Gather information regarding the response to the call, to include the following, where applicable:
 - The number of involved officers present
 - The relative age, size, strength, and physical ability of the involved officer(s) and subject(s)
 - Experience and training of the involved officer(s)
 - Force options available to the involved officer(s)
 - Basis for subject contact, to include seriousness of offense, if any
 - Potential for injury to the public, involved officer(s), or subject(s)
 - Risk of escape of the subject(s)
 - Degree and length of time of subject resistance
 - Means used to control or restrain subject
 - Legal basis for use of force or custody
 - The behaviors and reactions of the subject(s) once detained or in custody
 - Whether emergency medical services were called and, if so, at what point
 - If the subject was seriously injured or admitted to a medical facility:
 - What was the nature and severity of the injuries?
 - Were the injuries consistent with the incident as described by the involved member(s)?

- j. Prepare a summary report regarding the nature of the officer-involved shooting and include the involved officers' use of force reports, where applicable, for submission to the Chief of Police.

Emergency Aid Consideration

1. If injured, the officer should request treatment and/or begin self-aid/buddy aid at the scene.
2. If treatment requires the removal of the officer's gun belt or other equipment, (whether on scene or at the hospital) that equipment will be turned over directly to another officer, properly preserved as evidence (i.e. gloves to a sterile bag) and transported directly to Homicide.
3. If an officer is being transported to the hospital:
 - a. If transported by EMS, the companion officer or Peer Support member, when possible, should ride with the officer in the ambulance;
 - b. If transported by police vehicle, the companion officer should drive the officer; and
 - c. The first responding supervisor will receive guidance from the involved officer, when possible, in order to summon family to the hospital in a timely manner.
4. If the involved officer(s) claims to not be injured, the first-responding supervisor shall assess for injuries. Due to "fight or flight" and adrenaline, an injury may be masked for a significant period of time.
5. If there is any doubt about the condition of the officer, the officer will be transported to the nearest authorized occupational medical clinic for evaluation (refer to Department Manual Directive 401.8, Police Medical and Duty Status). The assigned companion officer shall accompany the officer in the ambulance or other conveyance.

Reporting to Homicide

Involved and incident officers reporting to Homicide directly from the scene will have specific instructions directed to them by members of Homicide Task Force.

Firearm Discharge Procedures

1. Whenever an officer is involved in an OIS they shall report to Homicide where a member of the Homicide Task Force (HTF) will confiscate their weapon and conduct a round count.
2. During this process, special care will be taken to preserve biological evidence if necessary.
3. A temporary (loaner) weapon will be issued by a member of the HTF.
4. Members shall report to Firearms Inventory the next business day (unless otherwise directed by a supervisor) to exchange the loaner weapon for a replacement weapon.
5. If an officer discharges rounds from a secondary weapon, they will not be issued a replacement weapon. Members are required to carry their approved primary weapon on duty at all times (Refer to Department Manual Directive 304.1, Firearms).
6. Members shall produce their 90-Day Inspection Card to a member of HTF during the round count.
7. Officers injured during an OIS and admitted to a hospital may not be provided a temporary replacement weapon. Under these circumstances officers will report to Firearms Inventory upon their discharge to be issued a replacement weapon.

Investigative Procedures

1. Involved and incident officers may be requested to provide a buccal swab from a member of HTF. This process would take place in an effort to identify any transfer DNA that may have been transferred at the scene from an officer to a subject. It should be noted that a letter to the Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory will accompany any collected buccal swab samples advising that the sample shall not be submitted to the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS).
2. Officers will be advised by a member of the HTF that the investigation will be turned over to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office for review.
3. Officers will be advised that confiscated weapons will be returned upon the approval of the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney (APA) if a criminal warrant is issued.
4. Officers will be advised that confiscated weapons will be returned upon the approval of the Officer in Charge of the case if a non-criminal warrant is issued.

Administrative Procedures

1. In all on-duty officer-involved shootings, the officer will report to Police Medical the next business day following the incident, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor. A member of Police Medical will schedule the officer to see a Department psychiatrist for a post-shooting evaluation.
2. If the officer has to be conveyed and admitted to the hospital for injuries, the officer's commanding officer shall ensure that Police Medical is notified as soon as possible, directly during normal business hours or via email (refer to Department Manual Directive 401.8, Police Medical and Duty Status).
3. Members involved in on-duty officer-involved shootings shall be carried disabled and shall follow the below guidelines:
 - a. There will be no direct loss of pay or other benefits;
 - b. The involved officer(s) will be carried disabled until cleared to return to work by the Department designated physician. If at that time it is determined that the member is to remain off for administrative reasons (the ongoing investigation, etc.), the officer's duty status shall be at the discretion of the Chief of Police; and
 - c. The officer shall be available as needed and with notice for Police Medical appointments and official interviews and statements regarding the case, and will be subject to recall to normal duty at any time after the preliminary investigation.
4. Relief from normal duty serves two (2) purposes:
 - a. To address the personal and emotional needs of an officer involved in the use of deadly force in which injury or death occurs; and
 - b. To assure the community that all the facts surrounding the incident are fully and professionally explored and verified.

Treatment of the Involved Officer

1. Officers involved in an OIS will have an assigned Peer Support Member as a point of contact. The Peer support member will be available for the duration of the investigation to help ensure the officer's needs are met and that the officer is provided emotional support. The Peer Support member will not discuss the actual event with the officer, but will be a resource on all other general matters related to the psychological and emotional well-being of the officer. Peer Support members are reminded that conversations between the officer and them are not privileged.
2. During extended investigations and when possible, the officer will be assigned to a non-enforcement or administrative function during the ongoing investigation.
3. The officer will be returned to full duty status:
 - a. After a preliminary report has been completed by the assigned investigative entity;
 - b. After the psychological welfare of the officer has been ensured; and
 - c. At the discretion of the Chief of Police.
4. If the preliminary investigation discloses a question about the officer's actions in the incident, then the appropriate guidelines regarding the rights of the officer will be followed.

Updates to the Department Manual are forthcoming.

JAMES E. WHITE
Chief of Police