

TRAINING TASK: DEAD BODIES/SUICIDES AND CRIME SCENE SECURITY

TASK # 42

Purpose

The officer will learn how to secure the scene of a crime and conduct investigations when appropriate.

Preceding Task:

Preliminary Investigation
Interview and Interrogation
Crimes Against Persons
Property

I. Statute and City Ordinances

None

II. Policy and Procedure

- A. G.O. 81.2.4 Radio Communications Procedures
- B. G.O. 83.2.1 Evidence Processing
- C. Training Bulletin: The Law #20 Weapons Used in Attempt Suicide Cases

III. Operational Procedure

- A. Apparent natural causes
 1. Check for signs of life--paramedics must be called to pronounce death regardless.
 2. Secure immediate area until preliminary investigation is completed. Consent or a search warrant is needed
 3. Call for supervisor
 4. Check for trauma and/or signs of foul play
 5. Interview witnesses/family members
 6. Obtain information for the Coroner (Death Investigation Form)
 7. Contact the Coroner's investigator
 8. Release body to family/funeral home if coroner gives consent
 9. Offer services of Police Chaplain
 10. Neighbor contacts if practical
- B. Attempt Suicides

1. Assist medics if necessary
 2. Secure weapon
 - a. Not necessarily collect
 - b. Cut ligature, away from the knot
 3. Secure scene
 4. Interview witnesses/family members
 5. Call for supervisor
 6. Call for evidence technician
 7. Offer services of Police Chaplain
 8. Referral to mental health agency (Pink Slip)
 9. Neighbor contacts if practical
- C. Suicide, suspicious deaths, or homicides
1. Check for signs of life. Paramedics pronounce time of death
 2. Secure the scene including any evidence or weapons. Secure does not mean immediately remove from the scene. Do not touch weapon if the scene is secure
 3. Call for Supervisor. Supervisor will call detectives if needed
 4. Call for Coroner's Investigator
 5. Call for Evidence Technician
 6. Identify and locate witnesses. Keep them separated
 7. Offer services of Police Chaplain
- D. Protecting the crime scene
1. Detectives are responding
 - a. Keep site of crime in same physical condition as it was left by suspect
 - b. Prevent destruction or contamination of evidence by imposing security measures to prevent unauthorized person entry
 - c. Maintain a log of **all people** who enter or leave the crime scene
 - d. Do not touch, move, or pick up objects
 - e. Wait for further instructions from responding detectives or supervisor.
 - f. Complete incident report and supplemental of your actions.
 2. Detectives are not responding
 - a. Develop sensitivity to those things that seem out of place. The suspect leaves traces of his/her actions
 - b. Search crime scene
 - c. Look for points of approach and flight of suspect
 - d. Looking for physical evidence helps you determine the facts of the crime, identify the suspect and aids in arrest and conviction.
 - e. Documenting evidence
 1. Assist Evidence Crew with searching, identifying, and gathering evidence.

2. All recovered evidence must be properly marked and labeled
 3. Package in separate container and seal with evidence tape
 4. Fill out property tag
 5. Place in secured locker in Property Room
- f. Complete an Incident Report with supplemental

I acknowledge that I received training in the skills and knowledge necessary to perform in the above Training/Task Topics, and I am able to perform at an acceptable level.

Probationary Officer Date

Supervisor Date

FTO Date