



# Tulsa Police Department

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**Policy #** 115B

**Effective Date** 03/19/2024

**Policy Name** Investigation of Police Actions Involving Death or Injury with Substantial Risk of Death

**Approved Date** 03/18/2024

**Approved by** Wendell Franklin, Chief of Police

**Previous Date** NEW

## PURPOSE OF CHANGE:

New policy.

## POLICY:

The Tulsa Police Department takes seriously anytime a citizen dies or sustains injuries that create a substantial risk of death. This policy is to clarify and be more transparent about how these critical incidents are handled by the Tulsa Police Department. Police actions that involve death or injury with substantial risk of death shall be investigated with the same due diligence as any other critical incident. This policy lines out the investigative and administrative procedures that come out of these incidents.

**SUMMARY:** Procedures for investigating police actions that involve death or injury with substantial risk of death.

**APPLIES TO:** All police personnel.

## DEFINITIONS:

**POLICE ACTION** – Any action made by a police employee while performing their duties.

## PROCEDURES:

### A. IMPACTED POLICE PERSONNEL

1. If able, notify PSC of the incident, the location, and request additional police and medical personnel.
2. If able, render assistance to any injured.

### B. NON-INVOLVED OFFICERS AND FIELD SUPERVISOR

1. Render aid to all injured. Then the following notifications will be made (record the times and the identities of persons who were notified):
  - a. Ambulance.
  - b. Supervisor.
  - c. Shift commander.
  - d. Major Crime Unit detective (MCU).
  - e. Homicide detective.
2. A field supervisor shall be assigned to assume the role of Incident Commander (IC).

3. Officers shall secure the scene until relieved by a Major Crimes Unit (MCU) Detective. Prevent entry into the scene of persons other than those charged with the responsibility of investigating and processing the scene.
4. If the police personnel involved do not require medical attention remove them from the scene. Make sure someone stays with them and contact a Critical Incident Response Team (CIRT) member.
5. If the incident involves an officer's use of force, follow procedures lined out in policy 101A *Use of Force*.
6. If the incident is the result of an accidental traffic collision have PSC contact an Advanced Traffic Investigator (ATI) and follow policy 110B *Traffic Collisions*.
7. If the incident is the result of some other action, follow procedures from 112E *Major Crime Scene Processing* and 115A *Death Investigation (Non-Traffic Related)*.

#### C. SHIFT COMMANDER

1. Make the following notifications (policy 308 *Staff Notifications*):
  - a. Chief of Police
  - b. Deputy Chiefs
  - c. All Majors
  - d. All Captains
  - e. Internal Affairs Commander.
  - f. The Communication Unit to respond to the scene.

#### D. INVESTIGATION

1. Criminal investigative authority will be controlled by the Detective Division personnel assigned to the case.
2. The completed criminal investigation will be submitted to the District Attorney's Office for the district where the incident occurred, or to the United States Attorney's Office for the district where the incident occurred for review of the actions of any officers involved who are Indian, who will make any decisions on prosecutions.
3. Once the criminal investigation is complete Internal Affairs will complete an internal investigation of the employee's actions. After a thorough investigation the results of the investigation will be submitted to the Chief of Police.

#### E. COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

1. The Communications Unit will follow their public information plan as described in policy 105A *News Media/Release of Information*.

#### F. IMPACTED PERSONNEL

1. CIRT will follow up with all impacted personnel and follow the procedures in policy 310A *Critical Incident Response Team*.

#### G. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

1. All incidents where an employee's actions result in death or injury with substantial risk of death shall be reviewed by a corresponding board for review (DFRB, UFRB, PRB, etc.).
2. The boards will make recommendation on any procedural changes that need to be made, as well as any awareness training that comes from investigation findings.

## **REGULATIONS:**

1. A field supervisor shall assume the role of the IC upon arrival and shall be responsible for the overall coordination of field officers at the crime scene.
2. Officers shall not use the telephone or other facilities within the crime scene, unless authorized by the MCU detective responsible for the scene.
3. Personnel responsible for managing these incidents will be those that have advanced training in the specific investigation (e.g. Homicide Unit, Major Crimes Detectives, Advanced Traffic Investigators).
4. The ME shall be contacted in all instances where police are involved and there is a human death.
5. Investigative personnel shall cooperate with the ME in death investigations and shall make all evidence related to the investigation available.

## **REFERENCES:**

101A, *Use of Force*  
105A, *News Media/Release of Information*.  
110B, *Traffic Collisions*  
112E, *Major Crime Scene Processing*  
115A, *Death Investigation (Non-Traffic Related)*  
308, *Staff Notifications*  
310A, *Critical Incident Response Team*