

Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths

304.1 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.

304.2 INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITY

This department utilizes the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) for investigating officer-involved shootings.

304.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

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

- A criminal investigation of the suspect's actions.
- A criminal investigation of the involved officer's actions.
- An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved officers.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability.

304.4 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.

304.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the suspect's crime occurred. For example, the Canon City Police Department would control the investigation if the suspect's crime occurred in Canon City.

If multiple crimes have been committed 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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304.4.2 OUTSIDE AGENCY'S OFFICER WITHIN THIS JURISDICTION

The Canon City Police Department is responsible for the criminal investigation of the suspect's actions. The criminal investigation of the officer-involved shooting will be conducted by this department or an uninvolved outside agency. The officer's employing agency will be responsible for any civil and/or administrative investigation.

304.4.3 CANON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION

The agency where the incident occurred has criminal jurisdiction and is responsible for the criminal investigation of the incident. That agency may relinquish its criminal investigation of the suspect to another agency. The Canon City Police Department will conduct timely civil and/or administrative investigations of its own personnel.

304.4.4 INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBILITY MATRIX

The following table identifies the possible scenarios and responsibilities for the investigation of officer-involved shootings.

	Criminal Investigation of suspect	Criminal Investigation of officer	Civil Investigation	Administrative Investigation
CCPD Officer in this jurisdiction	CBI and CCPD Investigators	CCPD Investigators or uninvolved agency	CCPD Civil Liability Investigator	CCPD Professional Standards Unit
Outside agency's officer in this jurisdiction	CCPD Investigators	CCPD Investigators	Involved officer's Command	Involved officer's agency
CCPD Officer in another jurisdiction	Agency where incident occurred	Decision made by agency where incident occurred	CCPD Civil Liability Investigator	CCPD Professional Standards Unit

304.5 INVESTIGATION PROCESS

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

304.5.1 UNINVOLVED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of an officer-involved shooting or death, the first uninvolved CCPD 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.

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- (f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

304.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

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

- (a) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any unininvolved officers.
 1. In the event that there are no unininvolved officers who can supply adequate overview, the supervisor should attempt to obtain a brief voluntary overview from one involved officer.
- (b) If necessary, the supervisor may administratively order any CCPD 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 Shift Sergeant and FreCom. If feasible, sensitive information should be communicated over secure networks.
- (d) Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional CCPD members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator.
- (e) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
 1. Each involved CCPD officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or CCPD 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 or transported by other officers.

304.5.3 NOTIFICATIONS

The following persons shall be notified as soon as practicable:

- Chief of Police
- Investigation Division Commander
- Colorado Bureau of Investigations rollout team
- Outside agency investigators (if appropriate)
- Professional Standards Unit supervisor
- Civil liability response team

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- Psychological/peer support personnel
- Coroner (if necessary)
- Involved officer's agency representative (if requested)
- Public Information Officer

304.5.4 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.
 1. Involved CCPD 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-CCPD 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.
- (d) A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Department to each involved CCPD officer. A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected CCPD 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) Communications with a peer support team member will be considered privileged to the extent provided in CRS § 13-90-107.

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 CCPD officer shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting or death. It shall be the responsibility of the Shift Sergeant to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

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304.5.5 INVOLVED OFFICERS

Once the involved officers have arrived at the station, the Shift Sergeant should admonish each officer that the incident shall not be discussed except with authorized personnel or representatives. The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal will be accommodated.
- (b) While discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications, no involved officer shall be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with an attorney prior to providing a formal interview or report.
- (c) Discussions with Department representatives (e.g., employee association) will be privileged only as to the discussion of non-criminal information. However, no involved officer shall be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with a representative or attorney prior to providing a formal interview or report.
- (d) A psychologist or other psychotherapist shall be provided by the Department to each involved officer or any officer upon request.
 - 1. Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged and will not be disclosed except to the extent that a report is required to determine whether the officer is fit for return to duty.
 - 2. If an interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist takes place prior to the involved officer providing a formal interview or report, the involved officer 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.
- (e) Although the Department will honor the sensitivity of communications with peer counselors, there is no legal privilege to such. Peer counselors are cautioned not to discuss the facts of any incident with an involved or witness officer.

Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood or fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it.

Investigators shall make reasonable accommodations to the officer's physical and emotional needs.

Each involved officer shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following an officer-involved shooting. It shall be the responsibility of the Shift Sergeant to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

304.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The District Attorney's Office is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any officer-involved shooting or death.

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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:

- (a) CCPD supervisors and Professional Standards Unit personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of CCPD 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. 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.

304.6.1 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer-involved shooting, it shall be the responsibility of the Investigation Unit supervisor to assign appropriate personnel to handle the investigation of related crimes. Investigators will be assigned to work with those from an outside agency should the investigation be assumed by another agency, and may be assigned to separately handle the investigation of any related crimes that are not being investigated by the outside agency.

All related reports, except reports deemed confidential and/or administrative, will be forwarded to the designated supervisor for approval. Confidential reports shall be maintained exclusively by personnel who are authorized for such access. Administrative reports will be forwarded to the Support Services Division Commander.

304.6.2 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 law enforcement 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, 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 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.

304.6.3 INVESTIGATIVE PERSONNEL

Once notified of an officer-involved shooting or death, it shall be the responsibility of the designated Investigation Unit supervisor 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 designated Investigation Unit 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.

304.6.4 MULTI-AGENCY INVESTIGATION

Officer-involved shootings that result in injury or death or other uses of force by an officer that result in death shall be investigated by a multi-agency team. The multi-agency team shall include at least one other police or sheriff's agency or the Colorado Bureau of Investigation. The Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall ensure this protocol is posted on the Canon City Police Department website and is available to the public upon request (CRS § 16-2.5-301).

304.7 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 involved CCPD officers to determine conformance with department policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Professional Standards Unit and will be considered a confidential officer personnel file.

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

- (a) Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be requested or administratively compelled to provide a blood sample for alcohol/drug screening. Absent consent from the officer, such compelled samples and the results of any such testing shall not be disclosed to any criminal investigative agency.
- (b) If any officer has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator 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.
- (c) In the event that an involved officer has elected not to 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 collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
 - 3. Administrative interviews should be recorded by the investigator. The officer may also record the interview.
 - 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 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 Unit shall compile all relevant information and reports necessary for the Department to determine compliance with applicable policies.
 - 6. Regardless of whether the use of force is an issue in the case, the completed administrative investigation shall be submitted to the Use of Force Review Board, which will restrict its findings as to whether there was compliance with the Use of Force Policy.
 - 7. Any other indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

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304.8 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE

A member 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.

304.9 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any officer involved in a shooting or death may be permitted to review available Mobile Audio/Video (MAV), body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings prior to providing a recorded statement or completing reports.

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 MAV, body-worn video, or other video or audio recordings with the approval of assigned investigators or a supervisor.

Any MAV, body-worn and other known video or audio recordings of an incident should not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the prosecuting attorney or City Attorney's Office, as appropriate.

304.9.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REPORTS

The Criminal Investigation Reports shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police and the District Attorney.

The Professional Standards Report shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

304.10 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Any officer involved in an incident may be permitted to review available Body Worn Camera Video (BWC), Mobile Audio Video (MAV) or other video or audio recordings prior to providing a recorded statement or completing reports.

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 BWC, MAV or other video or audio recordings with approval of assigned investigators or a supervisor.

Any BWC, MAV and other known video or audio recordings of an incident should not be publicly released during an ongoing investigation without consulting the District Attorney or City Attorney's Office as appropriate.

304.10.1 CRITICAL INCIDENT/STRESS DEBRIEFING

A critical incident/stress debriefing should occur as soon as practicable. The Support Services Division Commander is responsible for organizing the debriefing. Notes and recorded

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statements should 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 those members of the Department directly involved in the incident, which can include support personnel (e.g., dispatchers, other non-sworn). Family or other support personnel may attend with the concurrence of those involved in the incident. 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.

304.10.2 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.

304.11 MEDIA RELATIONS

Any media release shall be prepared with input and concurrence from the supervisor and department representative responsible for each phase of the investigation. Releases will be available to the Shift Sergeant, Investigation Division Commander and Public Information Officer in the event of inquiries from the media.

No involved CCPD officer shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Chief of Police or a Division Commander.

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.

304.12 REPORTING

The Records Manager, with the assistance of the Investigation Division Commander, shall report the data required by CRS § 24-33.5-517 regarding officer-involved shootings to the Colorado Department of Public Safety by September 1 each year.

304.13 SECTION TITLE