



**SOUTH COAST BRITISH COLUMBIA
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
POLICE SERVICE**

HOMICIDE

Effective Date: May 9, 2005

Revised: July 21, 2006

POLICY

1. Homicide, or attempted homicide investigations will:
 1. be conducted by the Jurisdictional Police Department (JPD) and/or the Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT),
 2. be conducted using the applicable general criteria required for all investigations and established investigational standards for this particular type of crime.

REASON FOR POLICY

2. To provide for and facilitate the effective investigation of homicide and attempted homicide as major cases and to ensure that appropriate efforts have been applied to closing the case.

PROCEDURES

Crime Scene Security

3. The first responsibility of Members arriving at the scene of a reported homicide or attempted homicide is to check for signs of life.
 1. If there is any likelihood that the victim is alive or can be resuscitated the member will immediately request that the Emergency Health Services (EHS) and local Fire Rescue Services (FRS) attend to assess and transport the victim as appropriate.
4. Thereafter, or if death is obvious, the first Member at the scene will be responsible for the preservation and security of the crime scene to ensure that it remains undisturbed and uncontaminated prior to the arrival of investigators from the JPD.
5. Until such time as the Patrol Supervisor arrives to take charge of the scene, the responsibilities of the first Member(s) include, but are not limited to:
 1. verifying that the Patrol Supervisor has been advised of the situation and requested to attend the scene,
 2. ensuring that any other injured persons are assessed and if necessary treated and removed to medical facilities,

3. maintaining a crime scene log, recording the names and times of arrival and departure of all personnel, including EHS and FRS, who have had to enter the scene prior to the arrival of the Patrol Supervisor and members of the JPD,
4. hold and separate all suspects,
5. ensuring that if a suspect is located, and if it is appropriate and lawful, that they are detained,
6. attempt to identify and separate all witnesses, directing them not to discuss the incident amongst themselves,
7. secure the crime scene using police barrier tape placed at a reasonable distance to protect the complete scene and any physical evidence that might be present,
8. if necessary, establish an outer perimeter with barrier tape to secure a larger area if the crime scene is located outside,
9. make a sketch of the crime scene and note any peculiar or unusual items or pieces of evidence,
10. NOT ALLOW ANYONE entry beyond the police barrier tape until the JPD take responsibility for the scene, this includes all non-assigned Members,
11. caution all persons arriving to protect the scene and any possible evidence,
12. advise the investigating team of all facts, including all those that have entered the scene, the areas entered, items touched and the paths used,
13. complete a detailed Incident Report that will include:
 - a. names of all persons present,
 - b. all relevant times,
 - c. the condition of the scene,
 - d. the location of the victim,
14. deliver the Incident Report to the assigned JPD Investigator.

[See also: OD030 – Crime Scene, OF010 – Evidence]

6. The Patrol Supervisor will:
 1. assume control of the situation,
 2. request that the Watch Commander notifies the JPD,
 3. ensure that a Member is assigned to accompany to a medical facility any injured person who may succumb to injuries thus necessitating a homicide investigation, and
 4. provide direction to the attending Members until members from the JPD attend.