



# BETHLEHEM POLICE DEPARTMENT

<b>Critical Incident Investigation &amp; Review</b>	<b>Related Policies:</b>
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
<b>Applicable New Hampshire Statutes:</b>	
<b>CALEA Standard:</b>	
<b>Date Implemented:</b>	<b>Review Date:</b>

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to direct a proper response to critical incidents by this agency.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of this Department to provide a thorough investigation and review of all critical incidents involving members of this Department.
- III. **In all cases, the Chief of Police or his/her designee shall consider whether it is in the agency's best interest to utilize the services of an outside agency to conduct the major crimes investigation that accompanies any law enforcement critical incident which involves serious bodily injury or death. In cases where it is determined that the agency lacks the resources to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the event, an outside agency shall be notified for assistance as soon as possible. This section does not relieve the involved agency of its responsibility to conduct an administrative investigation of the critical incident and review the event for a determination as to the whether or not agency issues, including policy and training, are indicated by the action.**
- IV. **Procedure General:** The agency shall conduct an administrative critical incident review of all firearm discharges, in-custody deaths or serious injuries, and all uses of force/response to resistive suspects when the injury results in hospitalization. This review shall result in a written critique and specifically address the following issues and make a specific determination whether:
  - A. The force, control and/or restraint was consistent with the agency policy;
  - B. There are any issues requiring a re-evaluation of agency policy and/or procedures;
  - C. There are any training needs identified;
  - D. The equipment provided by the agency was adequate; and
  - E. Supervisory involvement was reasonable.
- V. **Officer involved shootings and in-custody death investigations:** Initial Response:



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## A. First Officer on Scene:

1. Neutralize scene- Insure that scene has reached a level of control such that there is no longer a threat of harm to citizens, officers or suspects,
2. Provide for the immediate medical attention of all persons injured,
3. Secure the scene (s) of the event (s); to the extent possible use crime scene tape to secure any area that may contain evidence pertinent to the events being investigated,
4. Assign sufficient personnel to ensure that the scene perimeter is not breached,
5. Remove the involved officer from the center of the scene to a discreet area such as a police vehicle (do not place the officer in the backseat), and
6. Secure and segregate all witnesses to the event. This would include the segregation of the involved officers so that no allegations can be made that officers were in a position to discuss the incident.

## B. First Responding Supervisor:

1. Check on the well-being of involved officer (s),
2. Allow/Assist officer in calling family member(s) Ensure notifications made to officer(s)' family,
3. Immediately assume role of incident commander and utilize the incident command concept until otherwise relieved of incident command,
4. Ensure that the first responders have completed the above listed duties,
5. Notify hospital of incoming injured,
6. Determine resources necessary for circumstances i.e. community unrest etc.,
7. Assign a scribe to document all personnel present and the mission of each person entering the scene,
8. Assign officer (s) to accompany injured officers, suspects and victims to hospital,
9. Notifications to Chain of Command,
10. Notify and brief surrounding agencies,
11. Brief arriving investigators and ranking personnel,
12. Review all initial reports and supplements,



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13. Secure all weapons, and
    - i. With officer weapons-secure discreetly and provide officer with another weapon-even if it is the supervisor's weapon.
  14. Consider notifying prosecutor for on-scene response, if that is consistent with the agency protocol.
- C. The preliminary on-scene investigation shall secure all evidence:
1. Secure all recorded information surrounding event:
    - i. Mobile Video Recording
    - ii. Body Microphone Audio
    - iii. Car to Car MDT communication
    - iv. Dispatch tapes
    - v. CAD Log
    - vi. 911 phone calls
    - vii. Area business surveillance video
  2. Other Evidence:
    - i. Photographs
    - ii. Medical documentation particularly from arriving medical personnel at scene
    - iii. Diagrams
    - iv. Bullet trajectory including those that missed
    - v. Shell casings and any expended projectiles
    - vi. Walk-through narrative (do not videotape this activity)
    - vii. Involved officer's equipment
    - viii. Witness officers' equipment
    - ix. Consider light meter (illuminometer) to measure lighting conditions
    - x. Vehicles and location at time of incident particularly is moved before the arrival of on-scene investigators



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- xi. Identification of any locations with DNA and/or latent print potential
  - xii. Area witness canvass
- D. Provide all available information to investigators of the incident.