



Officer Involved Shooting

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this general order is to establish a policy and procedure for the investigation of an Officer involved shooting; in which injury or death has occurred. This policy is to ensure that such incidents are investigated fairly and impartially.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Ridgely Police Department that Officer involved shootings resulting in injury or death be investigated with the utmost thoroughness and professionalism. This will determine if the Officer's actions conform with the law and departmental orders.

III. INVESTIGATIONS

Officer involved shootings will involve several separate investigations.

- (a) A criminal investigation of the incident by the Maryland State Police, if the incident occurred within Maryland.
- (b) A criminal investigation of the incident by an outside agency; if the incident occurred outside of Maryland.
- (c) A departmental investigation to determine if department policies were followed.

IV. OFFICER ON SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES

Officers involved in, or at the scene of a shooting, resulting in the injury or death of a person resulting from the actions of a member of the Ridgely Police Department, shall take those measures that are reasonably possible and appropriate to protect their safety, the safety of others, and to preserve evidence. This includes, but is not limited to the following actions:

- (a) Ensure the scene is safe.
- (b) Provide medical aid to any injured persons.

General Order No. 3-9 (Cont.)

- (c) Request a supervisor, backup units, and emergency medical assistance if necessary.
- (c) Secure any suspect weapons as evidence. DO NOT open, reload, remove shell casings or in any other manner, alter the weapon(s) involved.
- (d) The Officer involved will holster their weapon when the scene is secure, or the threat is negated. The Officer should not reload the weapon, or remove the magazine to examine its contents; until directed to do so. This does not prevent the Officer from taking reasonable actions to ensure Officer/public safety.
- (e) Secure and separate any suspects and witnesses. Ensure all witnesses remain on hand.
- (f) Ensure the scene is secure, and establish a perimeter with crime scene tape.
- (g) Start a crime scene log of all persons who have entered or departed the crime scene.
- (h) Protect any evidence from loss, destruction or damage. Ensure that evidence is not moved. Note locations of persons, weapons, or other relevant objects/evidence.
- (i) Any Officer at the scene will be required to submit a supplement report detailing their activity at the scene.

V. SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE SCENE

Ensure the safety and determine the condition of the Officer, suspect, and third parties.

- (a) If the Officer has been shot or injured:
 - (1) Ensure a member of the department accompanies and remains with the Officer at the hospital.
 - (2) Ensure the Officer's family is notified immediately. Ensure the family is provided transportation to the hospital.
 - (3) The Officer's name should not be released to the media or unauthorized parties.
 - (4) Request crime scene technicians respond to the scene.
 - (5) An Officer should be assigned to the family as soon as practical for security, support, and to establish communications.
 - (6) Ensure clothing of the Officer and any other injured persons is collected for evidence.

General Order No. 3-9 (Cont.)

- (b) If the Officer is not injured, move them away from the scene, accompanied by another Officer.
- (c) Direct the Shooting Officer to leave their weapon holstered. Further, direct the shooting Officer to not open, reload, remove any shell casings, or alter the weapon in any way.
- (d) Ensure the crime scene is secure and a crime scene log has been started. A chronological record of activities at the scene, should be started; i.e.- persons present, actions taken by other Officers, etc.
- (e) Notification to the Chief of Police has been made.
- (f) Request crime scene technicians to respond to the scene.
- (g) Establish a media staging area.
- (h) Weapons of all Officers on location at the time of the shooting should be examined whether or not they think they fired any rounds. Due to the stress of the incident, it is possible for someone to fire their weapon and not be aware of it.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE

In addition to other investigations associated with the incident, the Ridgely Police Department will conduct, or will cause with the Maryland State Police, an internal investigation to ensure department policy was followed.

- (a) Any Officer involved in a shooting will be placed on paid administrative leave until they have been cleared of all department proceedings and the contracted psychologist states the employee is ready to return to regular duty.
- (b) Interview of the Officer directly involved should be done 24 to 72 hours after the incident. This is due to ensure the Officer's physical/psychological needs have been addressed; and to obtain a more thorough and accurate statement.
- (c) The Officer involved will be provided an opportunity to consult with an attorney, prior to being interviewed.
- (d) All rights under LEOBR will be afforded to the Officer involved.