

PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT		
CRIME SCENE AND INVESTIGATOR PROCESS		
POLICY AND PROCEDURE 4.3.9.5		
Effective Date : 08/12/94	Accreditation Standards: CALEA 83.2.5 CFA	Review Date:

CONTENT

1.Procedure

PURPOSE: To establish the functional relationships between the crime scene investigator and others involved in the investigation process.

SCOPE: This policy and procedure applies to officers and crime scene investigators.

REVIEW RESPONSIBILITY: Investigations Bureau Major

POLICY: This establishes the role and functional responsibility of officers and crime scene personnel at crime scene situations in order to preserve the scene for preliminary and follow-up investigative purposes. The crime scene is a very important start in ensuring the integrity of case follow-up through prosecution.

1.PROCEDURE

- a. Patrol officer(s) arriving at a crime scene shall be responsible for attending to the injured, if any, and requesting medical support services for the injured.
- b. The patrol officer shall be responsible for notifying his/her road supervisor and the response of necessary officers to assist in ensuring the protection and preservation of the scene.
- c. Upon the arrival of the road supervisor (sergeant), he/she shall assume command authority over the scene, until such time that command authority is transferred to a case detective or to the appropriate agency for follow-up investigation if a police shooting or in custody death.
 - i. In the case of a traffic accident, until such time that command authority is transferred to the accident investigations officer.
 - ii. Prior to the arrival of a case detective or accident scene investigator, the road supervisor will direct and ensure a preliminary inquiry into the offense/accident by the assigned zone patrol officer.
 - iii. The road supervisor shall be responsible for determining the need of an on-scene detective, and shall be responsible for ensuring that the detective division is notified.
 - iv. The road supervisor shall also make the determination for the need of crime scene investigation personnel and issue a request for same to respond.
- d. If the crime scene investigator should arrive to the scene ahead of the assigned investigating detective, and the road supervisor has not been relieved of command authority, the crime scene investigator will report to the road supervisor for instructions.
 - i. In this circumstance, the road supervisor shall continue to ensure the protection and preservation of the scene and await the arrival of the investigating detective.
 - ii. If the assigned case detective is present, the crime scene investigator shall report to the case detective for instructions and orientation.
- e. Upon arrival to a crime scene, the assigned case detective shall assume command authority and assume responsibility for the activities of all support personnel, to include the crime scene investigator.

- i. The crime scene investigator will act at the direction of the case detective.
- f. Nothing herein stipulated, is intended to preclude or inhibit the crime scene investigator from initiating discussions, offering opinions or recommendations relative to the scene and the collection of evidence.
- g. The case detective, if the nature of the offense is such, shall be responsible for requesting a representative of the medical examiner's office to the scene, and any other appropriate call-outs based on the nature of the incident.

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APPROVED:



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Date