



ALBUQUERQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURAL ORDERS

SOP 2-107

Effective: 07/30/2021

Review: 01/30/2022

Replaces: N/A

2-107 USE OF CRIME SCENE SPECIALISTS (CSS) UNIT

Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):

A. Related SOP(s)

[1-35 Crime Scene Specialist \(CSS\) Unit \(Formerly 5-8\)](#)
[2-98 Gunshot Detection Procedure](#)

B. Form(s)

None

C. Other Resource(s)

None

D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

None

2-107-1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide Albuquerque Police Department (Department) personnel with procedures when requesting a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) to recognize, and collect forensically-significant evidence at crime scenes, including but not limited to crime scenes for serious crimes call-outs, and to photograph all uses of force.

2-107-2 Policy

It is the policy of the Department to utilize the CSS Unit to properly recognize, preserve, and collect, preserve, and recognize evidence in a timely manner, consistent with SOP Crime Scene Specialists Unit and SOP Collection, Submission, and Disposition of Evidence and Property by following approved procedures.

N/A

2-107-3 Definitions

A. Crime Scene Specialist (CSS)

Civilian Department personnel who are responsible for recognizing, collecting, and preserving all forensically-significant evidence at crime scenes and properly submitting that evidence to Scientific Evidence Division (SED) personnel for analysis.

B. Life-threatening Injury

Any injury that involves serious physical harm that may result in significant or permanent disfigurement or the loss of a major bodily organ or function, including, but



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not limited to, the loss of a limb, paralysis, or the loss of eyesight; that may necessitate medical or surgical intervention to prevent permanent impairment; that could potentially cause a significant reduction in the quality of life; or that has the likelihood of causing death.

C. Serious Crimes Call-Out

A serious crimes call-out is generated when an individual sustains a life-threatening injury.

6 2-107-4 **Procedures**

A. Requesting CSS Unit Personnel

1. Department personnel shall call for CSS Unit personnel for the following incidents:

a. The following high-priority calls:

- i. Homicides;
- ii. Fatal vehicle crashes;
- iii. Juvenile calls with serious injury; and
- iv. Violent crimes resulting in life-threatening injuries.

b. Unless there is an articulable reason for deviation, or as directed by an SED supervisor, the following calls should be dispatched in the listed order:

- i. Serious injuries and life-threatening injuries;
- ii. All levels of use of force, including all shows of force;
- iii. Gunshot detection system follow-up canvasses, consistent with SOP Gunshot Detection Procedure;
- iv. Criminal sexual penetration crimes;
- v. Unattended or unexpected deaths that are unnatural in nature;
- vi. Juvenile calls without serious injury;
- vii. Suicides;
- viii. Domestic violence;
- ix. All felonies involving forensically-significant evidence, including armed robberies;
- x. Property crimes;
- xi. Processing a warrant;
- xii. Accidental discharges of Department-issued firearms and intermediate weapon systems, except for training purposes;
- xiii. Photo call only or comments are left when an officer leaves the scene; and
- xiv. Any call as requested by the Chief of Police or their designee or an SED supervisor.

N/A

2. Department personnel should be aware that CSS Unit personnel shall respond to calls in order of priority (Refer to Crime Scene Specialists (CSS) Unit for sanction classifications and additional duties).