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Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)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

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
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.

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.

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).