

Risk Management

301.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The department has an obligation to properly train and equip its members to handle difficult situations where the use of force is required, or when our enforcement efforts have resulted in damage to private property. The department has implemented effective use of force policies and training curriculum to help its members to make sound, ethical, and legal decisions in the moment and that are also intended to protect and manage the risks faced in the aftermath of an incident resulting in substantial property damage, injury, or the loss of life.

301.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department to practice sound, contemporary, and practical risk management strategies throughout all divisions of responsibility. Every department member is a risk manager and shall adhere to the mandates within this policy to effectively protect the department and the public against needless and avoidable liability exposure.

301.3 DEPARTMENT EXPECTATIONS FOR SUPERVISORS

Because they are on duty twenty-four hours a day and because of their ability to quickly respond to locations, supervisors are in a unique position to be present during incidents requiring effective risk management practices. Department supervisors are expected to consider the following task or practice and determine its applicability during all incidents:

- (a) The need to respond to the scene
- (b) The need to assume control of the incident
- (c) The allocation of, or request for, additional personnel or resources
- (d) The need to debrief affected citizens or department members
- (e) The need for Risk Management, PSB, or CAPO involvement, in addition to basic familiarity with the county claims process
- (f) The need for documentation of the scene, injuries, statements, and evidence
- (g) The timely identification of mitigating or aggravating factors such as department member misconduct, suspect actions or deviations from policy (either justified or not)
- (h) The need to interview department members and the Peace Officer Bill of Rights implications, if any
- (i) The appropriate control of information as it relates to the incident and any investigation that may occur

301.4 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS

Department supervisors should always be mindful of the heightened possibility of force during responses to calls such as:

- (a) Man with a Gun;
- (b) Mentally disturbed individuals;

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- (c) Calls with Information regarding 'suicide by cop' intentions;
- (d) 'Standoffs' with suspects or lengthy negotiations with an unrestrained suspect;
- (e) The conclusion of foot or vehicle pursuits;
- (f) Arguing or defiance at the booking desk
- (g) Inmate protests, sit-ins or 'pre-riot' preparation behavior

Department supervisors shall respond to those calls as soon as possible and manage the response as needed.

Department supervisors should respond to each incident in which minor force was used if practical and conduct an assessment. Incidents involving significant, lengthy or lethal uses of force shall prompt a response by the supervisor to the scene. Once arrived, the supervisor shall manage the scene, direct resources, reduce or expand resources and remain engaged until the incident is safe and stable. Once accomplished, the supervisor shall begin to compile risk management data, to include those delineated in the Use of Force Policy under "Supervisor Responsibilities."

Department supervisors shall compile all reports and related documents and carefully review them for quality and completeness before ensuring their delivery to the Professional Standards Bureau - Civil Unit within 48 hours of the incident.. Supervisors shall have reviewed all BWC video before approving reports.

301.4.1 CRIMES AGAINST PEACE OFFICER'S UNIT

The department, in an effort to improve investigations into crimes committed against on-duty department members, and to integrate risk management practices into such incidents, created the Crimes Against Peace Officer's Unit (CAPO). The unit is centralized at the Professional Standards Bureau - Civil Unit, and is tasked primarily with criminal review and assistance with cases involving significant use of force, and crimes committed against deputies such as 148 PC, 69 PC, and 243(b) PC.

Those assigned to the CAPO Unit serve as liaisons to all Facilities/Stations/Bureaus, providing guidance and investigative assistance as needed to complete thorough investigations of these matters, which are likely to be accepted for prosecution and ultimately result in appropriate criminal conviction.

CAPO Unit responsibilities primarily include:

- (a) Provide training to all Facilities/Stations/Bureaus related to crimes against peace officers.
- (b) Identify incidents, which would benefit from additional follow-up and liaison or assist Facility/Station/Bureaus with the follow-up investigation.
- (c) Respond to significant incidents and provide insight as to potential areas that may need additional investigation to assist in the successful prosecution of the suspect and mitigation of civil liability.

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- (d) Evaluate the need to recontact the suspect and conduct either additional criminal interview or civil interview.
- (e) Liaison with the DA's Office CAPO Vertical Prosecution Unit to ensure successful prosecution.
- (f) Review and provided guidance and assistance related to DA Kickbacks (12l's) and ensure re-filing in a timely manner.

In the event a CAPO investigator is needed to respond or consult on an incident immediately, supervisor's should contact the on-call Professional Standards Bureau lieutenant at any time.

301.5 EMPLOYEE-INVOLVED TRAFFIC COLLISION

Refer to the Employee-Involved Traffic Collisions Policy.

301.6 PROPERTY DAMAGE

All department members shall devise plans and options that seek to avoid the need to cause property damage. Forced entry into buildings or residences shall be done only when other options are not possible or are unsafe. Methods to avoid property damage include:

- (a) Consulting with a supervisor on the circumstances before forcing entry when practical;
- (b) Checking the status of all doors and windows before forcing entry;
- (c) Seeking consent and/or keys before forcing entry;
- (d) Determining the least intrusive method of making entry.

Once damage has occurred, all department members are to assume the role of risk manager by thoroughly photographing the damage, thoroughly documenting the reason for damage, the efforts taken to avoid the damage, and any actions on the part of a citizen or suspect that aggravated the amount of damage caused.

Commanders shall convene a review of all intentional and unintentional damage in excess of \$2500.00 and submit a cover memo along with the Accord form describing all mitigation efforts relevant to future circumstances of a similar nature. The completion of Accord forms is the responsibility of the sergeant assigned to the affected area. Specialized units who may have been involved with the incident shall timely provide any and all photographs and reports completed by their personnel related to property damage to the area sergeant.

Department members involved in incidents resulting in damage to private property shall make every effort to contact the owner of the property before leaving the scene to explain the circumstances and the owner's options should reimbursement seem appropriate.