



2-107 USE OF CRIME SCENE SPECIALIST (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Related SOP(s), Form(s), Other Resource(s), and Rescinded Special Order(s):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D. Rescinded Special Order(s)

~~D.~~
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 identify, 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 collect, preserve, and recognize evidence in a timely manner 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 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

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

- a. The following high-priority calls:
 - i. Fatal vehicle crashes;
 - ii. Juvenile calls with serious injury; and
 - iii. Violent crimes resulting in life-threatening injuries.
- b. Unless there is an articulable reason for deviation, or as directed by an SED ~~s~~Supervisor, the following calls should be dispatched in the listed order:
 - i. Gunshot detection system follow-up canvasses, consistent with SOP Gunshot Detection Procedure;
 - ii. Serious injuries~~y~~ and life-threatening injuries~~y~~;
 - iii. All levels of use of force, including all shows of force;
 - iv. Criminal sexual penetration crimes;
 - v. Unattended or unexpected deaths that are unnatural in nature=;
 - vi. Juvenile calls without serious injury;
 - vii. Suicides~~s~~;
 - viii. Domestic violence;
 - ix. All felonies involving forensically-significant evidence, including armed robberies; ~~and~~
 - x. Property crimes~~s~~;
 - xi. Processing a warrant;
 - xii. Accidental discharges~~s~~ 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 ~~s~~Supervisor.

2. Department personnel shall be aware that CSS Unit personnel shall respond to calls in order of priority, consistent with SOP Crime Scene Specialists (CSS) Unit.