



Roll Call Training Bulletin

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Responding to Calls Involving Deceased Individuals 12-14-22

The Sacramento Police and Fire Departments often respond to calls for service involving dead human bodies. The following are guidelines developed with personnel from the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) and Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) Deputy Chief John Danciar for responding to calls involving deceased individuals. Absent a criminal investigation, the primary responding agency is responsible for coordinating the coroner office's response.

Fact Pattern #1

The SPD responds to a call for service involving a non-responsive person. Officers arrive and request SFD personnel respond for medical assistance. SFD personnel arrive and pronounce the subject deceased. The facts surrounding the deceased indicate a possible natural death, overdose death or non-criminal death. SPD personnel would contact and standby for the coroner's office personnel. SFD personnel would clear the scene.

Fact Pattern #2

The SFD responds to a medical call and upon arrival pronounce the person deceased. The facts surrounding the deceased indicate a possible natural death, overdose death or non-criminal death. SFD would contact and standby for coroner's office personnel to remove the deceased. SPD would not respond to this incident.

Fact Pattern #3

The SFD responds to a medical call and upon arrival pronounce the person deceased. The facts surrounding the deceased indicate a possible natural death, overdose death or non-criminal death. The SFD would contact and standby for the coroner's office personnel to remove the deceased. In the event the coroner investigator at the scene locates trauma or evidence of a possible assault, SPD personnel would respond and investigate.

*The Coroner Investigator will collect small amounts of narcotics without the need for SPD response.