

*Domestic Violence Protocol Evaluation
Project Training Event
2011*

On-Scene of D.V. Call: Don't Mess Up the Crime Scene

Presented by:

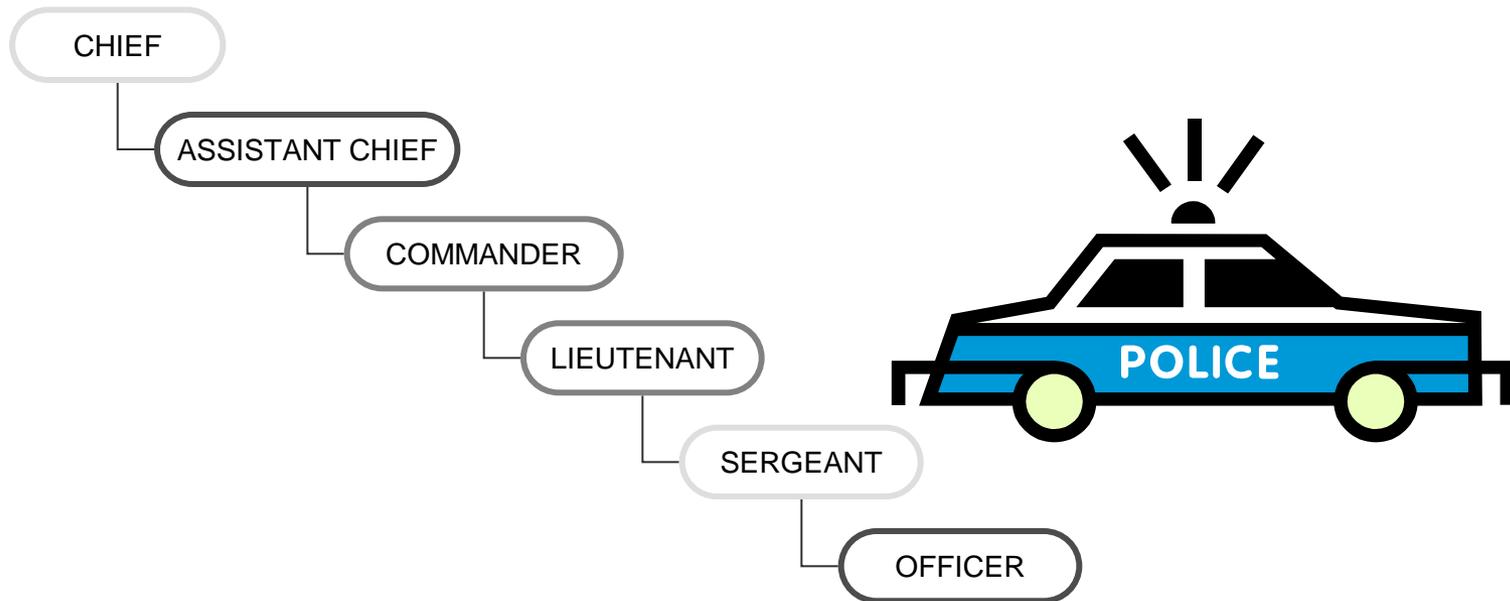
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&

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Police Departments

Chain of Command for PD



Radio Codes

PD has different radio codes
than PFD...

For Example:

101= Woman

390= Drunk

415F= Domestic Violence

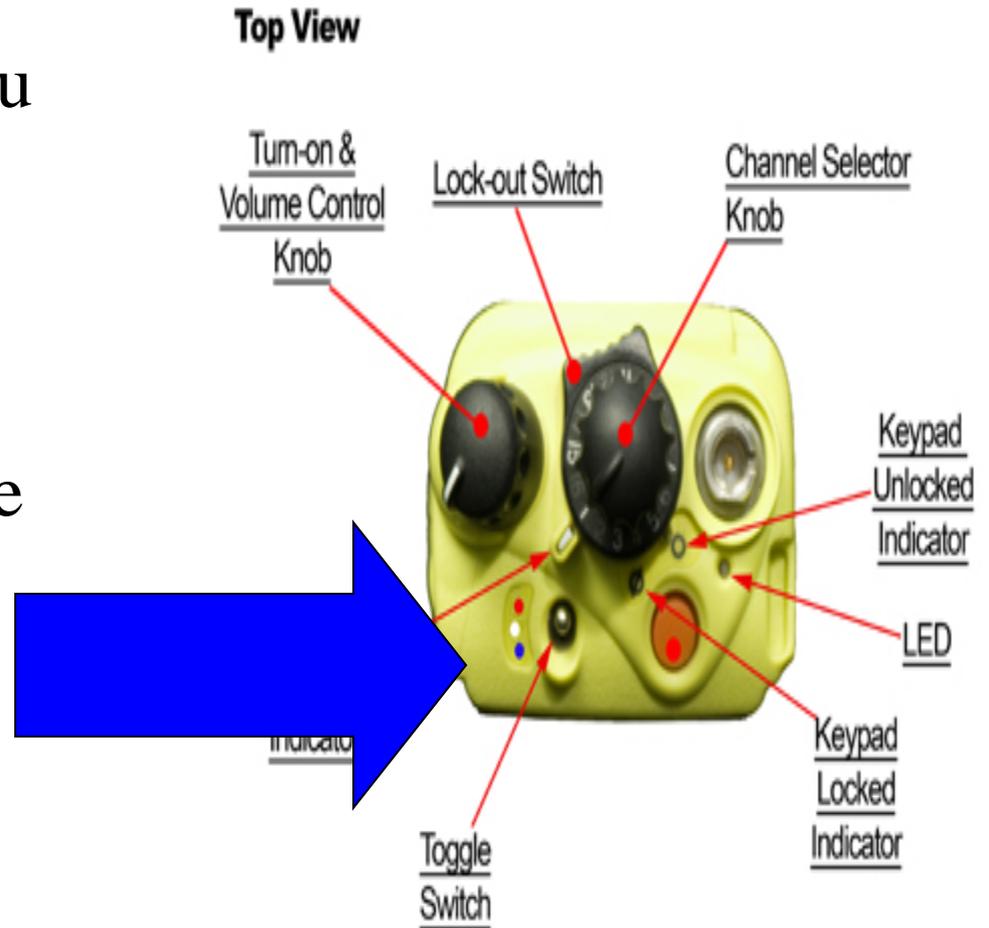
10-4= Okay

10-23= Arrived On Scene



Alarm may request you
switch your radio to
“Blue Deck.”

Blue Deck contains the
Police channels



Dress Code

The clothes and shoes you wear should not hinder your mobility.



Baggy clothes are easy to grab onto, which can give the aggressor the advantage.



- If you should be attacked you want to be able to escape or defend yourself as necessary.



- Slip-on shoes are very difficult to run in.



- You should strive to be as comfortable and flexible as possible.



Reduce Your Risk

- Always be aware of your surroundings.
- Never let anyone stand behind you who could sneak up and gain control of you.
- Walk with confidence; directly and at a steady pace.
- Speak with confidence, even if you are not.



Assess Danger Before Responding

Obtain vital information from referral source.

How reliable is the source of information?



Is there a weapon in the vicinity?



Are the parties involved affected by alcohol or other drugs?



Is the crisis acute or chronic?

What is the temperament of the parties involved.

Who are the parties involved? Are there any language barriers?

What is the principle problem?

Will law enforcement be on-site until you arrive?

Travel Safely

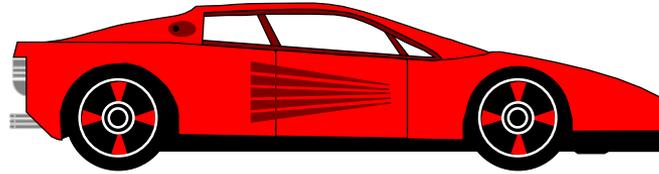
Try and have specific directions and routes to your destination.



Keep your vehicle doors and windows locked.

At stop lights and other traffic delays, leave enough space in front of your vehicle, so that you have an escape option in case of emergency.

Parking



Do not block the traffic way, but park close enough so the perimeter officer can see you.

Apartment complexes present real challenges to finding ample parking. Most times it is best to park on the street in front of the complex.

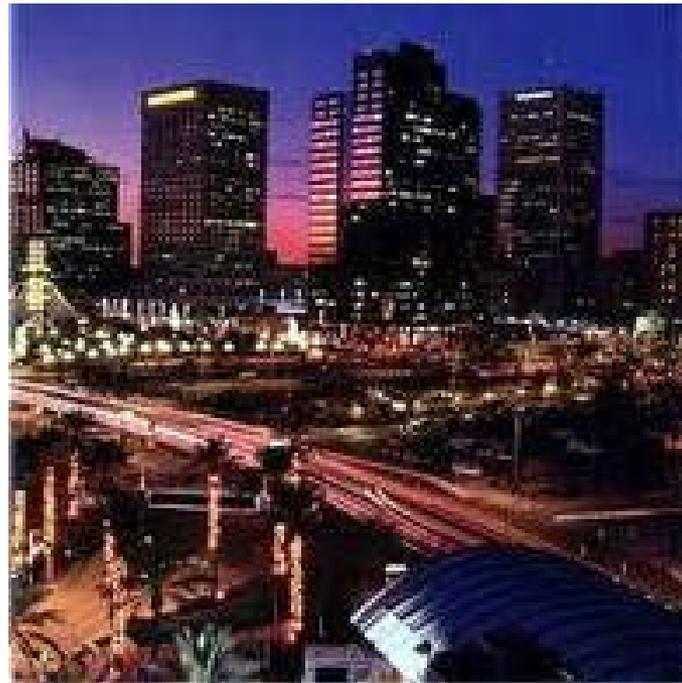


Park one house away from targeted residence.

On-Site Arrival

Neighborhood factors to consider:

- Reputation for danger
- Physical layout
- Lighting
- Existing activities



- Check for a law enforcement vehicle at the scene. If they are not visible, come up on the radio and tell them you are there.

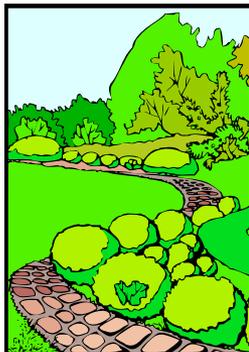
- **Make sure your van/car is locked.**

- Stay in well lighted areas as much as possible.



- **Walk on the side of the street facing traffic.**

- Walk close to the curb if no sidewalk. Avoid doorways, bushes and alleys if possible.



- **If you think you are being followed, walk quickly to areas where there are people and lights.**
- **Be careful when people stop you for directions or money.**
- **If you are in trouble or feel you are in danger, don't be afraid to attract help any way you can.**
- **If you go back to the van/car, look in inside and around your car before you get in.**
- **Be alert to other people in parking areas, especially those close to your vehicle.**

Identification

- Identify yourself to the outer perimeter officer and have photo identification available. Shirts with name imprinted, OK
- **Be prepared to identify yourself to the inner perimeter officers as well, especially if they are some distance from the perimeter officers.**
- Be patient, some of the young officers have to check with a supervisor on every move they make.
- **Make sure you ask officers where you can walk around a scene so you do not accidentally disturb something in the scene.**

Entering The Target Location

- Concentrate on listening and observing what is going on around you before speaking.

Knock normally and stand to the side of the door, away from any windows.



If someone says, “Come in” don’t.



Visually search the interior of the house for any signs of danger (broken furniture, windows, blood, and weapons).

Determine the whereabouts of everyone in the dwelling; especially hostile or sleeping parties.

Determine whether entry door should remain open initially. Always keep a clear path to the door.

Ask where the phone is located or be prepared to use the radio.

Do not allow parties involved out of your sight; always stay with them as they move about.



WARNING SIGNS *of a Potentially Violent Person*

Resists change.

Sullen, angry and/or depressed.

Identifies with or praises acts of workplace violence.

Recently collected or obtained a weapon.

Uses threats, intimidation and manipulation towards others.

They are paranoid - thinking others are out to “get” them.

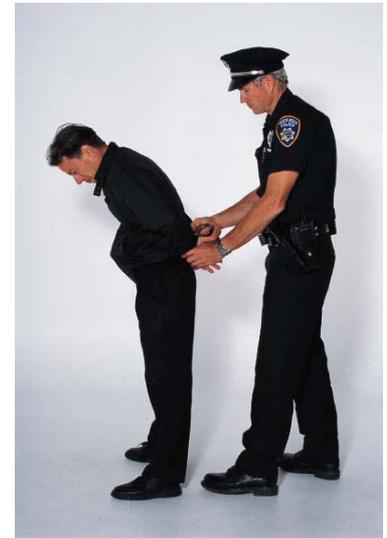
Over reacts to criticism.

Blames other people for their own mistakes.

Has had recent police encounters.

Has a history of assault.

Other persons are afraid of, or apprehensive about this person.



States of Aggression

Person becomes anxious - “on edge”.

Response

Show support and empathy for them.

Displays negative attitude and/or behavior
(refusal to cooperate and questioning).

Response

Be firm and set limits.

Aggression

Verbal - Physical release.

Response

Escape and get assistance.



Calms down.

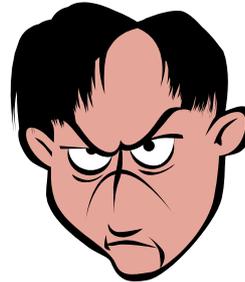
Response

If future contact is expected - set firm ground rules.

Be Aware of Non-Verbals

Watch out for non-verbal clues that someone is becoming violent:

- **Personal space**
- **Body Language**
- **Facial Expressions**
- **Tone of voice**



Types of Threats

Direct - “I’m going to kill you”

Conditional - “If you report me - you’ll regret it”.

Veiled - “Be careful going home tonight, I know where you live.”

Report and document all threats immediately.

Dealing with Threats

Do:

- Stay calm
- Assess the situation
- Agree with them
- Report and document immediately

Don't:

- Panic
- Beg or plead
- Argue or escalate the situation
- Minimize the threat
- Fail to report the incident

Assisting Victims/Witnesses

- After introducing yourself and explaining your role, choose comfortable surroundings in which to wait until detectives conduct their interviews.
- In some instances this may either be their residence or your vehicle if they are not allowed in their residence.
- Detectives have to be briefed before they conduct any interviews.
- If there are numerous witnesses or victims you may be in for a long wait until detectives can get there to interview everyone.

DEATH INVESTIGATIONS

1. Natural Death
2. Traffic Fatalities
3. Medical Examiner /
M.E. cases
(Industrial, SIDS,
Unknown &
Unattended)
4. Suicide
5. Homicide



Medical Examiner

- You will hear the term Medical Examiner (or M.E.) out in the field.
- FYI . . .
- The correct title for the M.E. is now “Maricopa County Forensic Science Center”



Ways In Which You May Assist

PD

- Traffic Fatalities:
- **Field Officers on scene will secure the area of the accident & gather witnesses. Detective will respond to the scene from the “Vehicular Crimes Unit.”**
- **If a victim is pronounced dead on scene, the victim will be removed by the M.E. (M.C. Forensic Science Center) at the earliest opportunity without disturbing evidence.**



Traffic Fatalities Continued

- Depending on circumstances of the accident...
- Family notifications might not be done until after the scene has been processed.
- The process of notifying the family will be determined by the Detectives or other Law Enforcement Officers.



For child & infant deaths (i.e.: SIDS & drowning):

Detectives often allow the parents to see the child, hold the child, and say “good-bye.”

If the parents request this, ask the investigator or person in command if this is possible **BEFORE** making any promises to the family. If there are signs of trauma, this might be restricted.

SUICIDES

- A. Homicide or Night Detectives are called out for investigation.
- B. All suicides are investigated as a criminal scene until otherwise determined.
- C. Once the scene investigation is complete, the M.C. Forensic Science Center will be called out for transport.

HOMICIDE

- A. Field officers will secure the scene and call out the Homicide or Night Detectives.
- B. Once the scene investigation is complete, the M.E. will transport to the Maricopa County Forensic Science Center for the autopsy.

- **Transportation may be provided by you to the hospital, where there may be a wait until detectives arrive to interview everyone.**
- **Detectives would like to interview witnesses before they discuss the case with anyone.**
- **This allows for a pristine interview and the witness has not been influenced by anyone else's statement.**



Scene Security

There needs to be as little damage as possible to the scene. Crime scene tape is placed around the scene to keep the evidence preserved.

When on-scene, make sure you are allowed to walk under the tape and ask where you should and should not walk.

Evidence Issues

Detectives work a scene from the outside in.

This means that the deceased victim might remain on-scene for long periods of time depending on how much evidence is surrounding the victim. They might not cover the victim to prevent disturbance of evidence.

**MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT
INFORMATION THE DETECTIVES WANT
TO KEEP CONFIDENTIAL AND WHAT
YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH THE VICTIM,
FAMILY, AND/OR WITNESSES.**



Summary

- Q & A