

**Los Angeles Police Department
LD7 Crimes Against Persons/Death Investigation
EV6 Crimes Against Persons
S14 Death Investigation**

Date Revised: November/2019

Course Goal: Recruit officers will receive basic knowledge of their responsibilities as police officers when responding to a death investigation. Recruit officers will know how to assess a situation and take an appropriate course of action based on their preliminary investigation.

Learning Objectives: None

Session Time: 2 hours

Resources:

- Handout: Field Notebook Divider (Death Investigation)
- Handout: Guidelines for Death Investigation matrix
- Handout: Homicide Manual: Investigation Responsibilities (Uniformed personnel)
- Handout: Death Investigation Report and Exemplar.

Session Summary: Recruit officers will learn how to complete a death investigation, determine how the person died and make appropriate notifications.

Outline	Instructor Notes
<p>I. Death Investigation Review II. Scenario Practice III. Debrief</p>	<p>Facilitate: Death Investigation scenarios practice.</p> <p>Directions: When possible break the class into small groups. Instructor will run various death investigation scenarios of their choice. Insure to cover SIDS, Natural, Accidental, and Suicide. Recruit officers will practice completing a death investigation. Instructor will guide and address any issues during the scenarios.</p> <p>Choose 3 recruit, 2 will play the role of the investigating officers, and the 3rd will play the role of the PR/next of kin. Rotate recruits after each scenario.</p> <p>Recruit officer should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactically have safe approach • Make contact with PR • Request RA (if applicable) • Interview PR and obtain information • Identify manner/mode of death • Make appropriate notifications.

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	<p>Have a facilitated discussion debriefing every scenario. Have the class critique their classmates on how they did on their investigation.</p> <p>Run activity if time allows. Debrief scenarios and answer any possible.</p> <p>Example Scenarios:</p> <p>Natural</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Officers responded to a DB investigation and were met by the P/R, the victim's husband. The P/R stated that when he woke up he discovered that his wife was not moving and non-responsive. The P/R stated he called the paramedics who pronounced the victim dead. The P/R stated that the victim suffered and took medication for high blood pressure. A physician whom she saw every three months treated her. The P/R stated the last time the victim saw her doctor was approximately two months ago.2) Officers responded to a DB investigation and were met by the P/R, the victim's wife. The P/R stated that the victim suffered from terminal pancreatic cancer. When aggressive medical treatment failed to produce any positive results, the victim came back home to live out the remainder of his life, which was approximately two weeks ago. Approximately 30 minutes ago, the P/R went into the bedroom to check on the victim when she discovered that he was not moving and non-responsive. The P/R called for paramedics who pronounced the victim dead. <p>Accidental</p>
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	<p>1) The officers received a radio call for a DB investigation and upon their arrival, they observed the DB down on the floor with his neck twisted in an unusual angle. There was a tipped over chair and table and wires were hanging from the ceiling. The P/R stated that he and the victim were electricians. They were working on the electrical systems located in the ceiling. The P/R stated he went down to the work truck to get their ladder and upon his return he observed that the chair and table tipped over and the victim was down on the ground with his head twisted in an unusual angle. The paramedics responded and pronounced the victim dead.</p> <p>2) The officers received a radio call of a welfare check and upon their arrival, they met with the P/R who stated that he and the victim were best friends. The P/R stated that he had been trying to get in touch with the victim over the past several days with negative results. The P/R stated the victim was in rehab for drugs and feared that he may have “fallen off the wagon.” If the officers make entry into the location, they will discover the victim dead with a hypodermic needle in his arm. If the officers request for the paramedics, they will respond and pronounce the victim dead.</p> <p>Suicide</p> <p>1) Officers received a radio call for a welfare check at an apartment complex. Upon their arrival, they were met by the apartment manager (P/R) who stated that one of his tenants was late with his monthly rent. When he knocked on the door of the tenant’s apartment, there</p>
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	<p>was no answer, but he noticed a foul odor coming from the apartment. If the officers force entry into the location, they will locate a DB (tenant) inside the location with a GSW to his head and a firearm clutched in his hand. Next to the victim is a note stating that he was sorry for all the grief he caused his ex-girlfriend and that the world would be a better place if he no longer lived.</p> <p>2) Officers received a radio call of a DB investigation. Upon their arrival, the officers met with the P/R, the victim's best friend. The P/R stated that the victim was involved in a messy divorce. The victim's ex-wife moved out of the condominium 6 months ago and now the victim could no longer afford his home. The victim was going to move out his home to move in with the P/R. The P/R stated that he responded to the victim's home to help him move. The P/R utilized the victim's spare key that was kept under the doormat. Upon entering the location, the P/R discovered the victim in the bedroom unconscious. The victim had an empty bottle of prescription painkillers next to him (60 Count). The date on the bottle indicated that the prescription was filled the day before. The P/R call for medical treatment and the paramedics attempted to resuscitate the victim with negative results. The paramedics pronounced the victim dead.</p>
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