

Laredo Police Officer Association

Critical Incident SOP

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this SOP is to provide the Laredo Police Officers Association Critical Response Team with guidelines to perform all the duties assigned. Each member is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.

2. Reason

It is the policy of the Laredo Police Officers Association Critical Response Team to ensure all members rights that are afforded by state and federal laws, are upheld to the highest standard.

3. Definitions

1. C.R.T – Critical Response Team
2. G.S.R. - Gunshot Residue
3. Member - L.P.O.A. Member
4. C.L.E.A.T - Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas
5. O.I.S - Officer Involved Shooting
6. I.C.D - In Custody Death
7. P.S.P. - Peer Support Person
8. E.U.O.F. – Excessive Use of Force

4. Notification

Upon notification of a critical incident the board member **SHALL** insure CLEAT Legal has been notified and **SHALL** notify the association President, 1st Vice President and/or 2nd Vice President advising him/her of the situation.

It is the duty of the association President, 1st Vice President and/or 2nd Vice President to contact the Critical Response Team and advise them of the location, number of Officers involved (if known), and time the incident occurred, as quickly as possible via telephone or in person. Text notifications and Email notifications will not suffice due to the severity of the situation.

Once the C.R.T. has been notified and advised they are enroute to the member, the C.R.T **SHALL** contact a C.L.E.A.T Legal member to advise them of the situation and insure an attorney is responding.

5. Ways to contact C.L.E.A.T

- A. C.L.E.A.T Emergency 1-800-752-5328
- B. C.L.E.A.T APP Critical Incident Tab

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6. Duties and responsibilities

While on scene, it is the duty of the C.R.T. members to stay with the Officer(s) involved at all times and notify him/her of the process that is to follow.

In the event a critical incident occurs with multiple members, it is the duty of the C.R.T to make sure all parties involved are separated from each other to prevent the sharing of information regarding what happened which could cause confusion/doubt as to what occurred.

Ensure that the attorney makes it to the location of the officer involved, preferably the scene as it will help the attorney to see the scene in person rather than photos and bodycams.

Every C.R.T member will need to do the following before any questions are asked:

1. Have the member stop recording with their bodycam and if applicable also the unit video recorder.
2. Reassure the member that everything will be ok.
3. Advise the member not to discuss any details of the incident with the C.R.T. member due to not having attorney client privilege.
4. Have the member contact the spouse/family to inform them of the situation, before the information is leaked to media outlets, to include social media. Be sure the member is not video, or audio recorded.
5. Advise the Officer(s) that during the initial investigation photos of the Officer involved will be taken in full uniform, and a G.S.R. test will be conducted. (These tests are standard practice for the Laredo Police Department and he/she is expected to cooperate fully.)
6. Ensure that the member is not stripped of their weapon until a replacement weapon is provided.

Once the incident has been completed the C.R.T. member **SHALL** complete the critical incident log in order for the L.P.O.A. to have true and accurate records for all critical incident responses.

If while completing the log it is determined that C.L.E.A.T. did not respond within the appropriate time frame (2 hours) it will be the responsibility of the C.R.T. member to contact our C.L.E.A.T. field representative to ensure the member is paid total amount of \$1,000.

7. Officer involved Shooting questioning

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Once investigators begin asking their questions there will only be 6 questions that can be asked. (Not in any particular order and questions may be asked in the investigator's own words.)

1. How many times did you discharge your firearm?
2. What direction were you facing when you fired your weapon?
3. Where were you standing?
4. How many rounds do you have total (all three magazines)?
5. Were you topped off?
6. Were you recording?

8. In Custody Death Questioning

Because every incident and circumstance to a I.C.D is different the questions may vary. The totality of circumstance must be taken into consideration. Unlike O.I.S where there is a "public safety" factor to consider, general questions may be asked, such as but not limited to:

1. What was your assignment?
2. What type of call was this?
3. Where were you?
4. Was there a use of force involved?
5. Was there any indication that raised cause for medical concern?

At no time will questions as to "why" the officer did something or conducted themselves in any manner, be asked.

Once the attorney is present the C.R.T. member will step back and allow the member and attorney to handle the situation.

9. Excessive Use of Force Questioning

Similar to I.C.D. incident's and circumstances to a E.U.O.F. questions may vary. Again, the totality of circumstance must be taken into consideration and general questions may be asked, such as but not limited to:

1. What was your assignment?
2. What type of call was this?
3. Where were you?

At no time will questions as to "why" the officer did something or conducted themselves in any manner, be asked.

Once the attorney is present the C.R.T. member will step back and allow the member and attorney to handle the situation.

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In the event there is an allegation of E.U.O.F. brought to the office of Public Integrity, any member of the C.R.T. **SHALL** contact C.L.E.A.T. and advise them of the allegation so proper arrangements can be made.

***** (In any critical incident question not related to the incident may be asked without issue. Examples: Are you ok? Are you thirsty? Do you need to go to the restroom? Are you hungry? Etc.) *****

10. Initial Investigation Completion

Once investigators have concluded their initial interview, only family member's will be allowed to speak with the Officer Involved.

Once the initial investigation is complete, C.R.T. member(s) and family shall exit the area allowing the attorney client privilege to take effect.

It is worth noting that while P.S.P. are covered under a client privilege, it is the discretion of C.R.T. and the member involved to allow P.S.P. to contact them at that time or wait for another day.

***** After speaking with the Attorney, you SHALL advise the member and the family members of the following highly recommended SUGGESTIONS: *****

1. Stay off of social media.
2. If they do go on social media, refrain from commenting and engaging in online fighting.
3. Do not watch the news.
4. Do not speak with the media.
5. Do not speak about the incident to friends and non-family members.
6. Speak with a Priest, Psychologist, Therapist, and/or Peer support if needed.
7. REST REST REST

11. After Action Responsibilities

After the Officer speaks with the attorney and all questions and/or concerns have been addressed, C.R.T. members **SHALL** ensure that the Officer(s) have a ride home. If no ride is available or the member cannot drive, the C.R.T. member **SHALL** offer the member a ride home.

The C.R.T. member shall ensure the critical incident log is complete and nothing else is needed from C.L.E.A.T. or the member.