

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE****Index as:**

Division of Operational Support, Crime Scene Authority  
Evidence, Violent Crimes  
Investigations, Violent Crimes  
Medical Examiner, Notification  
Officer in Charge, Crime Scenes

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**VIOLENT CRIMES AND / OR CRIME SCENE****433.00 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for police response to violent crimes, to assign responsibility and to establish investigative continuity and to define which element of the agency is to accomplish the preliminary and/or follow-up investigation.

**433.01 PROCEDURE**

The first responding officer to the scene of any crime will be responsible for properly securing the crime scene until the arrival of the assigned sector officer. The assigned sector officer will be responsible for handling the initial investigation until the arrival of the crime scene technicians or detectives, if needed. The Division of Operational Support will be notified on all felony part one crimes.

A. All officers who subsequently respond to the scene will be directed to locations as needed in order to properly secure the scene. All officers who subsequently respond to the scene will also:

1. Render immediate aid to anyone injured,
2. Immediately identify the type of crime, the area that constitutes a crime scene, victims and witnesses,
3. Request immediately a supervisor or other specialists (detectives and crime scene technicians) that would be necessary to properly investigate the incident,
4. Remain at and preserve the scene until such time he is properly relieved,
5. If the victim or suspect is believed to be mortally wounded, dead, or the crime is one that endangers life and the body will need to be removed from the scene, a silhouette will be placed in such a manner as to indicate the body's position prior to moving,

- B. The crime scene and subsequent investigation will be turned over to the Division of Operational Support. When the scene and investigation is turned over to detectives, they will be in charge of the scene, assume case management and be responsible for collection of evidence, crime scene processing and photography.
- C. The Chief of Police will be notified of any violent crimes.
- D. When assistance is needed by the detectives, the Watch Commander will assign personnel to assist.
- E. When any evidence is confiscated by officers other than the detectives, this information will be related to the detectives before the evidence leaves the crime scene. The necessary evidence receipt will be filed and the evidence processed in accordance with department procedures.
- F. When a firearm is involved in a crime, the weapon will be submitted to the St. Louis County Police Ballistics Division for test firing and examination.

#### **433.02 FATALITIES**

- A. The Medical Examiner's Office will be notified when a person dies from:
  - 1. Homicide, suicide or accident,
  - 2. Thermal, chemical, electrical, or radiation injury,
  - 3. Criminal abortion, including self-induced,
  - 4. Any contagious, hazardous disease that might constitute a threat to public safety,
  - 5. When not attended by a physician, chiropractor, Christian Science practitioner, within the previous thirty-six (36) hours,
  - 6. Is in custody of a law enforcement officer or agency, or,
  - 7. In any unusual or suspicious manner.
- B. It is the responsibility of the primary investigative officer to notify the next-of-kin. The Medical Examiner's Office may be of assistance in making the notification. The Police Report or a supplemental report if necessary will include the fact that notification of next-of-kin was made. The officer's name, DSN, time, date and the person and relationship to the deceased notified will be included.

By order of:



COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

#### Distribution

All Department Personnel