

**CITY OF FERGUSON  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**Index as:**

Suicide

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**SUICIDE AND ATTEMPT SUICIDE CALLS**

434.00 PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for handling a reported suicide or a suicide attempt.

434.01 POLICY

The primary concern of the responding officers is their own safety and the preservation of life. The dispatcher will assign two officers to the scene that should approach with caution. The first officer on the scene will notify the dispatcher of any medical assistance needed and request the watch commander.

434.02 PROCEDURE

- A. When a suicide is found the officer will secure the crime scene, protecting all items at or near the location of the victim. In all cases of suicide or suspicious death the officer at the scene should notify the Medical Examiner. If this is not possible, or a phone is not available, notification may be made by the Police Dispatcher. The phone number is:

522-1028 (EXAMINERS OFFICER-24HRS)

- B. Whenever possible, make all contacts with the police department by public service and avoid radio communication. If circumstances indicate foul play could be involved, immediately notify the investigation division.
- C. Suicide notes should be treated as evidence and handled using standard evidence procedures outlined in General Orders. A Crime Scene Technician is to be summoned to the scene and photograph the scene if required.
- D. Always attempt to remove any relatives or bystanders to a nearby location which is out of sight of the victim. It is essential to interview all persons who were at the scene at the time the victim was discovered.
- E. If the responding officers discover the subject in a hostage or barricade situation threatening suicide, no direct action should be taken until a supervisor arrives.

April 14, 2010

- F. In the event a hostage or barricade situation is present, containment of the suspect(s) and hostage(s) as well as protection of bystanders should be of primary concern.
- G. Additional procedures may be found in General Orders as follows:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS  
HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colonel Thomas Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

COLONEL THOMAS JACKSON  
Chief of Police

Distribution

All Department Personnel