

	CLEARFIELD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / 9-1-1 Standard Operating Procedures	Initial:
	SOP #: Police 5-23	Revised:
	Subject: Suicide	10-2005

SUICIDE

- A. Two types of situations will be encountered in reference to these types of calls.
1. First, the dispatchers will receive a report of someone having committed suicide or threatening suicide to the caller. In this instance, the dispatcher is in the position to make a determination as to whether the victim is actually dead. EMS units should be dispatched to respond as soon as possible regardless of the information the caller gives.
 2. Second, a call may be received from a person threatening to commit suicide. In this situation the dispatcher may be successful in talking the caller out of suicide or may delay the caller long enough so that responding units may successfully intercede.
- B. For incidents of suicide or attempted suicide the dispatchers will obtain as much information as possible to include, but not be limited to, the following:
- Where is the victim now?
 - Who is the victim?
 - What is the nature of the attempt?
 - Are there any medical personnel on the scene?
 - If the caller is threatening suicide the dispatcher will keep the caller on the line, dispatch the police as quickly as possible, and will **not** antagonize the caller.
 - If the caller is reporting someone else has committed suicide, the dispatcher will instruct the caller not to disturb anything until the police arrive. It may be necessary to disturb the crime scene to provide medical treatment as given over the phone by the dispatcher.
- C. The appropriate police department (and EMS service if required) will be dispatched. The dispatch of further emergency service responders will be done at the request of the police department.
- D. It is **very** important that the dispatchers keep the caller on the line, be sympathetic and understanding and not antagonize the caller if they are threatening suicide. The dispatchers will continue to reassure the caller that they **do** care about what happens to them.
- E. It is also **very** important to find out, if the caller is threatening suicide, if the caller has any weapons, what kind of weapons, and where they are located in the structure. This information **must** be relayed to the responding officers for their safety.

- F. If it is ***at all possible*** the officers on scene of the attempted or threatened suicide ***must*** contact Mental Health themselves as the caseworkers need to speak directly to the investigating officer and do not wish to speak to the dispatchers. Dispatchers will relay information from an officer to Mental Health if no other direct communication between the officer and caseworkers is possible or can be established.
- G. When there are multiple calls on the same incident where a suicide has been reported, the dispatchers are to obtain the name, telephone number and address of ***all callers***. Information on ***all*** persons who call is of extreme importance regarding this type of incident and may be critical information that is needed to aid in the officer's ongoing investigation and if the case goes to court