

## CLEARFIELD COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT / 9-1-1

Standard Operating Procedures

SOP #: Police 5-28

Subject: Expired Persons

Initial:

Revised: 10-2005

## **EXPIRED PERSONS**

- A. The Communications Center will as normal practice notify the police department on all deaths reported to the Communications Center, regardless of whether they are believed to be suspicious or not. The police department may be requested by EMS services to respond to deaths that they feel are of a suspicious nature when the Communications Center was not able to determine that information in the initial call.
- B. The possibility of foul play should not be overlooked merely because the information was reported by a grieving relative, nor should undue suspicion be aroused simply because the person reporting the death is calm and detached.
- C. The Communications Center may receive calls where the caller has "found a dead body" somewhere such as in the woods, in a car or at another location where the details of the death are not known. It is *very* important that the caller be instructed not to disturb anything near where the body was found. The caller might also need to meet responding units at another location other than where the body is located to direct them to the scene. Upon discovery of a body individuals might not be able to provide much information due to the emotional state they are in.
- D. For incidents of deaths the dispatchers will obtain as much information as possible to include, but not be limited to, the following:
  - Determine the relationship of the deceased to the caller.
  - Brief medical history if the caller is able to provide one.
  - Who is reporting the death?
  - If the body was discovered the dispatchers will ask:
    - 1. Location of the body?
    - 2. Who found the body?
    - 3. Who is reporting the incident?
    - 4. Was anyone observed leaving the location? Description
    - 5. Any obvious signs of violence?
    - 6. Any obvious signs of suicide?
  - If the location is not easily found, the caller will be instructed to meet with the responding units to direct them to the scene.

E. When there are multiple calls on the same incident where a dead body has been found 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.