



Response to Mental Health Calls with Armed Suspects

Members of the SFPD respond to thousands of calls annually to assist persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

Officers **shall** promptly request a supervisor to respond to an incident that involves the following:

1. A call of an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness or is in an apparent altered mental status, or
2. When on-viewing or arriving at the scene of a call and learning the incident involves an armed person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness or is in an apparent altered mental status.

The supervisor shall acknowledge the request on the radio, promptly respond to the scene and monitor the radio while en-route. Upon arrival at the scene, the supervisor shall assume command of the incident.

If there is no reasonable cause to believe that the person suffering an apparent mental crisis is a threat to *any other person including an officer*, the officers shall observe, maintain a safe distance, and attempt to stabilize the scene until the arrival of the supervisor who will assume command.

Under no circumstance shall officers jeopardize their own safety or that of any other person in attempting to interpret or apply this directive. The goal of this procedure is to allow for sufficient time to deescalate the situation when there is no reasonable cause to believe that a person, other than the person requiring mental health services, is in danger of death or serious bodily injury.

Members are reminded of the requirements in DGO 5.02, I.C.1.b. which reads, in part:

However, an officer may not discharge a firearm at a person who presents a danger only to him or herself, and there is no reasonable cause to believe that the person poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or any other person.

Members should be aware of following mental health services that may be a resource in contained situations when there is no risk to any other person:

Mobile Crisis Team
Monday – Friday
Saturdays and Holidays
Sundays

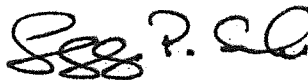
1-415-970-4000
0830 – 2300 hours
1200 – 2300 hours
Not Operational

Dore Urgent Care Clinic 1-415-553-3100
24/7 Services

Psychiatric Emergency Services at SFGH
1-415-206-8125
24/7 Services (Ask for the Triage Nurse)

Per Department Bulletin 15-141 "Mandatory Sign-off of Department Issued Documents in HRMS," the following employee classifications are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this "A" Department Bulletin within 30 days of the document date:

- Sworn only

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg P. Suhr". The signature is stylized and cursive.

GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police