



Policy Name:	INTEGRATED HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION TEAM (IHIT)		
Policy #:	OP 6.3.4	Last Updated:	2023-04-27
Issued By:	INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

OP 4.34.6 *Homicide*

OP 4.35 *Missing Persons*

OP 4.46 *Sudden Deaths*

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To ensure effective and efficient investigations of homicides, and high-risk missing persons where foul play is suspected, that occur in the City of Surrey.
- 1.2. To identify operational processes required involving homicide and high-risk missing persons investigations.
- 1.3. To inform SPS Members of their responsibilities when seconded into an integrated team.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. The Lower Mainland Integrated Homicide Investigation Team (IHIT) is responsible for the investigation of the following incidents in the City of Surrey:
 - i. all homicides;
 - ii. high profile attempted murders, based on IHIT’s capacity; and
 - iii. missing persons where foul play is suspected.

- 3.2. A Memorandum of Understanding between the RCMP and SPS governs all aspects of IHIT deployment and resources.
- 3.3. IHIT is the homicide unit for SPS. While IHIT reports to the District Officer, Lower Mainland District, IHIT is accountable to the Chief Constable. IHIT will ensure the Chief Constable, or their delegate, is informed on the status of their investigations and that IHIT will operate with SPS personnel and use SPS facilities in a manner that is professional and respectful.
- 3.4. IHIT operates using the principles of Major Case Management.
- 3.5. IHIT undertakes to implement a collaborative team approach to homicide investigation in the Lower Mainland that will increase service delivery to all partner agencies. IHIT will develop a supportive structure with the single goal of providing the best possible support network and structure for investigators.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. The first Member(s) on scene of a suspicious death and/or homicide will be responsible for suspect management, the preservation of evidence and scene security while awaiting the arrival of an appropriate investigator, or until relieved by a Supervisor (see OP 4.34.6 *Homicide*).
- 4.2. The first Supervisor to arrive on scene will take charge and control of the scene, providing assistance and direction to all Members until relieved by a Frontline Investigation Support Team (FLIST) Investigator, Serious Crime Unit (SCU) Investigator, or IHIT Investigator (see OP 4.34.8 *Major Case Management*).
- 4.3. The Frontline Supervisor will contact the SCU on-call Supervisor if an obvious homicide or the on-duty FLIST supervisor if death appears suspicious.
- 4.4. The Duty Officer is responsible for resourcing the Crime Scene with uniformed scene security for up to 72 hours. The SCU supervisor will notify the Duty Officer when the Crime Scene can be released. The uniformed scene security will ensure all crime scene tape and discarded police Personal Protective Equipment or materiel is removed for disposal.
- 4.5. On duty SCU Members will deploy to all confirmed homicides. Teams will be assigned by the SCU Supervisor. Crime Scene Management and roles will be assigned by the Sergeant Team Leaders.
- 4.6. SPS Members are responsible for crime scene management for the first 72 hours of the incident.
- 4.7. If there are no scheduled SCU Members on-duty, FLIST Members will deploy to the homicide scene, assess and identify immediate tasks. The Senior FLIST Supervisor will then call-out the senior SCU Member on-call to resource the file.

- 4.8. The SCU Supervisor will call the on-call IHIT Team Commander and provide the details required to initiate the IHIT deployment based on the circumstances of the file.
- 4.9. Upon the notification of IHIT the Senior SCU Supervisor must contact the Duty Officer and update them with deployment details.
- 4.10. The Senior SCU Supervisor will consider deploying an SCU Member to the Crime Scene in the event FLIST will be going off shift before IHIT deploys. This will allow SCU to prepare for the transition briefing.
- 4.11. Investigative Services will limit attendance to the Crime Scene as directed by the Supervisor overseeing the deployment.
- 4.12. In cases where the status or mechanism of death of the deceased is questionable, FLIST and SCU will assess and consult together before contacting IHIT.

Members Seconded to IHIT

- 4.13. Members seconded to IHIT are subject to the command of, and accountable to, the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) IHIT.
- 4.14. SPS will post positions for IHIT vacancies as they become available and will maintain a roster of potential candidates who are available for selection, in collaboration with SPS Employee Services Section, by the OIC IHIT.
- 4.15. Members seconded to IHIT must follow the core values and integrity standards of SPS and must follow related SPS administrative policies.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“IHIT” means the Lower Mainland Integrated Homicide Investigation Team.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“OIC” means Officer-in-Charge.

“Primary Investigator” means a member of the Command Triangle who reports directly to the Team Commander and is responsible for controlling the speed, flow and direction of the overall investigative process.

“Secondment” means an SPS Employee’s temporary reassignment to an external agency or unit.

“SPS” means Surrey Police Service.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES