

Overdose Death Investigation – On-scene Assessment Guidance for Patrol

- Treat scene as a **Crime Scene**, potential may exist for an investigation/prosecution.
- Be Safe – something at that scene has already potentially caused a death.

<p>Date: Decedent Name: Decedent Phone Number: CC#:</p>	<p>Information to provide to Homicide / Overdose Response Task Force and include in your report:</p>
<p>Secure digital devices (phone, computer) – if password(s) is/are known, include with phone (verify passcode(s)). If left with family, advise them to <i>NOT</i> turn them off and <i>NOT</i> delete anything.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was decedent’s phone recovered? Was the passcode provided? • Were drugs present at scene and recovered? • Who has custody of the evidence? • Were any cameras/CCTV identified? • Does Coroner Investigator think this is a potential overdose?
<p>Identify and interview witnesses who are present and obtain contact information for follow up. Ask witnesses about decedent’s drug use (duration/frequency/drug(s) of choice) and potential sources of supply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DO NOT MOVE OR SEARCH THE BODY. The coroner has jurisdiction over the decedent per 27491.3 of the California Government Code. Wait until the arrival of the coroner investigator and assist them with any evidence they collect from the decedent’s person.
<p>Identify potential witnesses that may have left the scene prior to law enforcement/EMT arrival.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If large quantities of drugs are present (greater than personal use), immediately contact Narcotics Bureau.
<p>Identify cameras/CCTV that may have captured footage of the incident and/or narcotics transaction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise family not to dispose of any drugs which they may find later and to contact law enforcement immediately.
<p>Collect drugs, packaging, paraphernalia, anything with drug residue. Preserve any drug packaging for fingerprints. (Coroner Investigator may collect these items, if so, obtain copy of receipt)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Notifications</p> <p>-Call Homicide Bureau at (323) 890-5500</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homicide will make an initial assessment to determine if the investigation mandates a Homicide Bureau roll-out.
<p>If a potential source of supply and/or the location of a potential transaction can be identified – Preserve information and make necessary notifications.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a controlled substance is suspected to be involved and it is believed to be an overdose, Homicide Bureau will notify the Overdose Response Task Force (ORTF).
<p>Ask witnesses and family member(s) to <i>not</i> publicize the death on social media.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ORTF on-call supervisor will call the on-scene patrol deputy to determine if an immediate roll-out is necessary and provide further investigative direction.