



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

1093 Crisis Intervention Training

Section 1000 - Patrol Functions

Effective Date: 2/9/2023

Supersedes Date: 8/11/2008

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to establish department policy and guidelines for the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program.

.02 Cross-Reference

[GO 320 People with Mental Illness](#)

[GO 1020 Routine Patrol Functions](#)

[GO 1090 Crisis Response Team](#)

[DL-1020-22 Responses to Suicide Attempts](#)

[DL-1020-33 Mental Health and Alcohol Rehabilitation Transports](#)

.03 Discussion

The Crisis Intervention Training is a specialized course of instruction which provides training to law enforcement officers on responding to mental health and development disabled crisis related calls for service.

The CIT program facilitates a partnership with the mental health community not only to assist those who are in crisis but provide law enforcement with more resources and training to assist in bringing these incidents to a safe conclusion. CIT members assist persons and families in crisis with a proactive approach for intervention within the community while attempting to restore the person to pre-crisis level.

.04 Policy

In the absence of a Community Response Team (CRT), CIT trained personnel should be assigned to interactions involving individuals who are in crisis because of mental illness, mental disabilities, and suicidal tendencies.

This order establishes guidelines for the selection criteria, training, and organization of the CIT program.

.05 Definitions

Crisis- A person is in crisis when they are unable to cope with internal or external stimuli, creating an inability to function at a reasonable level, thus creating a risk of harm to themselves or others.

CIT Law Enforcement Coordinator – An Officer holding the rank of Sergeant or above (or as designated by the Chief), who is responsible for all administrative, planning, training, coordinating, and selection of the officers for the Crisis Intervention Team.

Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Officer: Officers who are specially trained and certified to intervene with and de-escalate citizens experiencing mental illness, mental disabilities, and suicidal tendencies who are in crisis.

Crisis Intervention Training - A certified 40-hour course of instruction which provides training to law enforcement officers on responding to mental health and developmentally disabled crisis-related calls for service in the community.

Mental Illness — A condition described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM V) in which a person may experience random or disorganized thought patterns or demonstrate bizarre or unusual behavior.

.10 CIT Officers

The role of the CIT officer is crucial to the success of the program and therefore requires a personal commitment to the program objectives that are to more safely resolve mental health involved critical incidents through enhanced communication, tactics, and problem solving. Selected officers will attend a 40-hour training course and receive certification as a CIT officer.

CIT officers will follow the following guidelines:

- CIT officers are authorized to wear their training pins on the right breast ribbon bracket above the nameplate of their uniform shirt.
- When possible, CIT trained officers will respond to incidents involving individuals experiencing a crisis due to mental illness.
- CIT trained officers may cross divisional boundaries to handle appropriate calls.
- CIT trained officers on the scene of a mental health crisis call have the primary responsibility for the event, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.
- When the communications center receives a call for service that involves mental illness as a factor, CIT trained officers should be utilized, when available. If, when the CIT officer arrives on scene and determines that a Community Response Team would be more

appropriate, they may request CRT contact and advise CRT of the situation. Absent being dispatched, CIT officers may volunteer to respond on their own accord, or at the request of a fellow officer or supervisor.

- When officers encounter a mentally ill individual, they will request a CIT officer be dispatched to their location if practical.
- When not acting in the capacity of the CIT, team members will perform their normal duty functions.
- CIT officers will ensure that the proper clearance codes are used in any call they are assigned to (e.g., Mental Health – voluntary transport or other appropriate clearance code).

.12 CIT Coordinator Responsibilities

The Community Response Team Sergeant has been assigned the responsibility of the CIT coordinator for the department.

The designated coordinator will:

- Liaison between mental health providers, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office
- Liaison with other local CIT programs
- Collate mental health calls for service data, evaluate, and report on the program
- Coordinate CIT training and updates for CIT certified officers
- Maintain a current list of CIT trained personnel which is currently posted on the L: drive under 1-CIT master folder – CIT Certified employees
- Schedule 3 to 4 CIT courses per year, to be conducted jointly with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office