



Emergencies at Courthouses

.01 Policy

The Office of the Sheriff for Prince George's County, in cooperation with the Police and Fire Departments, has implemented the following policies and procedures to handle emergency situations at the County Courthouse.

Courthouse identification and weapons policies stress prevention as means of reducing the chance that a serious incident will occur.

.02 Terms

Emergency: Incidents where serious injury, death, or major property damage is imminent.

.03 Governing Legislation and Reference

Governing Legislation: N/A

Forms: N/A

.04 Procedure

A. County Courthouse

Fire or Smoke

Employees who see smoke or fire shall:

- Activate the nearest fire alarm;
- Notify Communications which will in turn notify the Office of the Sheriff; and,
- Respond to the parking lot next to the commissioner's entrance to receive an assignment from an Office of the Sheriff Supervisor.

Bomb Threat

If an officer receives information concerning a bomb threat, he or she shall notify an Office of the Sheriff Building Security Officer.

Officers observing a suspicious package or container shall:

- Notify the Office of the Sheriff Building Security Officer;
- Isolate the immediate area around the suspicious package or container and continue to observe it from a safe distance pending the arrival of the Office of the Sheriff ; and,

- Not touch or tamper with the item.

Assaults, Escape Attempts, & Barricades

Officers who observe a concealed weapon on an individual that is not displaying law enforcement photo identification and badge shall immediately contact a Sheriffs Deputy or Office of the Sheriff Building Security Officer.

Officers shall not take action unless another immediate threat exists.

Warrant Service in Courtrooms and in Other Areas of the Courthouse

When an officer is in a courtroom and observes an individual who he or she knows to have an open warrant, the officer shall inform the Bailiff or Sheriffs Deputy assigned to the courtroom. The Bailiff or Sheriffs Deputy will then coordinate the apprehension of the individual. Absent an emergency situation, officers shall not take police action inside of a courtroom unless directed to do so by the presiding judge.

When an officer is in another part of the courthouse (outside of a courtroom) and observes an individual who he or she knows to have an open warrant, the officer shall inform the nearest Sheriffs Deputy. The Sheriffs Deputy will then coordinate the apprehension of the individual. Absent an emergency situation, officers shall not take police action inside the courthouse.

B. County Correctional Center

Standard Operating Procedures of Prince George's County Police govern the response to unusual occurrences at the County Correctional Facility.

Any officer made aware of an unusual occurrence at the correctional facility shall immediately notify Communications. If possible, the officer shall attempt to contact correctional representatives. The officer shall remain on the scene in order to brief Prince George's County Police upon their arrival.

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HISTORY: Adopted August 1, 2013

This General Order supersedes all other orders and memoranda in conflict therewith.

Authority:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles L. Owens". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing letters.

Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police