

Checklist for Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) Involved in Critical Incidents

Unless incapacitated, the LEOs involved in a critical incident should:

- Take appropriate measures to ensure the scene is safe, treat the injured, and summon medical or local law enforcement assistance if necessary.
- If possible, secure all suspects and detain and identify any potential witnesses.
- Secure the scene and preserve all evidence.
- At the first opportunity, notify your immediate supervisor.
- Provide information to responding law enforcement officers to ensure public safety (i.e., to help identify and apprehend any suspects).
- Once the scene is safe, relinquish any weapons used in the incident to the investigating law enforcement agency, your immediate supervisor, or appropriate Zone Officer if delegated.
- Consider consulting an attorney before making any verbal or written statements. The Special Agent in Charge or Assistant Regional Director – National Wildlife Refuge System will contact, as soon as possible, the Department of Justice to request emergency interim legal representation for the involved LEO. LEOs should be aware that all statements made to Service personnel or other law enforcement personnel, supervisory or otherwise, are not privileged or protected.