



# *San Diego Community College District Police Department Policy and Procedures*

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## 5.10 CRITICAL INCIDENT DEBRIEF PROTOCOL

EFF. 10/01/19

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### **I. PURPOSE**

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for critical incident debriefings following critical or traumatic incidents.

### **II. SCOPE**

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Critical/traumatic Incident – normally, a single incident that causes the experience of unusually strong emotional reactions, such as an officer-involved shooting or any police action that results in death or serious injury to police personnel or citizens.
- B. Critical Incident Debriefing – a confidential psycho-educational intervention designed to inform persons who have experienced a traumatic incident of the psychological and physiological effects of stress and to delineate effective coping strategies. It is normally a group meeting facilitated by Psychological Services, through SDPD or one affiliated with the District, and attended by all police personnel directly involved in the incident. Critical incident debriefings may be conducted on an individual basis instead of, or in addition to, group debriefings.

### **IV. PROCEDURES**

- A. Upon notification of a critical/traumatic incident, the College Police supervisor at the scene will contact the SDPD Watch Commander's Office to request Peer Support.
  - B. Within 24 hours of a critical/traumatic incident, other than officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, command staff will assess the need for conducting a critical incident debriefing.
  - C. If the incident is an officer-involved shooting or an in-custody death, the Administrative Sergeant will be responsible for contacting the involved police
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personnel within 24 hours and for scheduling a confidential, group, mandatory critical incident debriefing. Police personnel will be strongly encouraged to schedule a confidential counseling appointment for individual debriefing.