



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

085 – CITIZEN CONTACTS, FIELD INTERVIEWS, SEARCH AND SEIZURE

GENERAL ORDER: 2025-13
ISSUED: February 24, 2025

EFFECTIVE: February 24, 2025

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Craig Sarnow
DATE: January 22, 2025

ACTION: Amends General Order 2024-27 (May 13, 2024)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 1.7.3, 1.7.4, 1.7.7,
6.1.8, 6.2.3, 6.2.5, 10.1.1

ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

085.10 CONTACT PROTOCOL (WILEAG 6.2.3)

D. INTRODUCTION

1. To the extent that safety considerations and the situation allow, police members will introduce themselves to all individuals they make contact with. A proper introduction will establish the identity of the police member, the rank of the police member, and the context surrounding the initiation of the contact. This provides the platform for the lawful actions or requests made by the police member during the contact. Introductions should be formulated so that they provide:
 - a. The police member's last name.
 - b. The police member's rank or title and badge number (if applicable).
 - c. The police member's affiliation with the Milwaukee Police Department.
 - d. The reason for the contact or stop.

085.30 VEHICLE CONTACTS (WILEAG 6.2.5)

C. TYPE OF CONTACT

1. Types of Contact

- c. High-Risk Vehicle Contacts (HRVC). ~~High-risk contacts are those in which the apparent level of danger requires extreme caution. The considerations for a high-risk contact include the nature of the offense, occupants with warrants for violent offenses, pursuits, and occupant(s) with violent history. These stops typically involve multiple officers, ordering subjects out of a vehicle one at a time, etc.~~ High Risk Vehicle Contacts (HRVC) are those in which the member's tactical evaluation and threat assessment indicates a high enough level of danger that the member chooses to make the contact without approaching the

vehicle until all subjects have been ordered out—at gunpoint—and secured. The criteria for conducting a HRVC is the member's threat assessment including the nature of the offense, occupants with warrants for violent offenses, pursuits, and occupant(s) with violent history.

2. Location of Vehicle Contact

~~The officer needs to consider the environment around him/her before turning on his/her emergency lights to initiate a stop.~~ The officer should consider conducting a vehicle contact in an area that minimizes the danger to the officer, other officers, and the public. The three general aspects of a location to consider include:

- a. Traffic hazards. Officers should find a location that will provide the best protection from other traffic. Locations to avoid include, but are not limited to, hill crests, curves, construction zones, intersections, and high traffic areas.
- b. Complications. Other complicating factors officers should consider are private property, areas with little or no light, hostile crowds, and areas with heavy pedestrian traffic.
- c. Escalation or Disengagement Opportunities. When appropriate, officers should look for cover and concealment, vehicle escape routes, and on-foot escape routes.

D. LEVEL/STAGE/DEGREE OF STABILIZATION

2. High-Risk Contacts

~~Officers shall follow a methodical process when conducting a high-risk contact.~~

- ~~b. Coordinate other responding officers.~~

- ~~c. Make the stop.~~

[REDACTED]

d. ~~Position squads and officers properly. A [REDACTED] is recommended when conducting a high risk stop.~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Officers shall follow a methodical six step process when conducting a high-risk contact:

[REDACTED]

b. Initiate the contact/position squads. [REDACTED]

c. Exit vehicle / improve position. As the patrol vehicles come to a rest, if officers encounter an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm, officers should respond with deadly force.

d. If officers do not encounter an immediate imminent threat as the patrol vehicles come to a rest, they should [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

f. Communicate with other officers and designate the roles of [REDACTED] Not all high-risk stops will have enough available officers to fill all the roles.

g. The contact officer shall identify themselves as a law enforcement officer and give verbal commands to control driver/occupants.

[REDACTED]

i. Handcuff, search (if probable cause can be articulated for the subject being detained) or conduct a close quarters frisk prior to securing each individual into the rear of a squad.

Note: Before a subject from a high-risk vehicle contact is detained in the

rear of a squad, that subject must be frisked/patted down for weapons. Unless probable cause can be articulated for the subject being detained, officers may not conduct a search of this subject.

j. [REDACTED] and clear the vehicle properly.
(WILEAG 6.2.5.3)

085.50 CRIME SCENE SEARCHES (WILEAG 1.7.3)


C. When uncertainty arises regarding the legality of a crime scene search, the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office should be contacted for advice. After hours, police members may contact the on-call duty district attorney by obtaining contact information through the ~~Technical Communications Division~~ Department of Emergency Communications at extension [REDACTED].

085.85 SOURCE AND INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES

This SOP was developed to provide police members with general guidance in search and seizure. The concepts in this SOP are governed by landmark state and federal court cases that establish the boundaries for proper police conduct in this arena.

The following sources were referenced in the development of this SOP:

- Wisconsin Law Enforcement Criminal Law Handbook (Blue Book), published by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, 2017 2024 edition
- State of Wisconsin Department of Law Enforcement Standards Board Vehicle Contacts (A Training Guide for Law Enforcement Officers), 2014 2023 edition



JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk