

Subject:	EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO REPORTED SUICIDE
Section:	PPG# 4400.15
Chapter:	Operations
Effective Date:	7/1/98

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1** Thurston County Fire Protection District No.5 & 9 will respond to suicides and/or attempted suicides as a medical emergency. Do not respond Code 3 unless directed by CapCom.
- 1.1.1** Upon verification of the suicide/attempt the Incident Commander shall contact law enforcement and immediately request additional medical assistance.
- 1.1.2** A suicide or attempted suicide is a crime and shall be treated as such.

2.0 GUIDELINES

- 2.1** The following guidelines should be followed:
- (a) Take all suicide threats seriously.
 - (b) Contact an emergency crisis team through the county mental health center, or take the highly suicidal person to the hospital emergency room or to a crisis counselor as recommended by the mental health center. Plan ahead, once at the scene, by designating how the person will be transported.
 - (c) Inform the suicidal person that outside help has been called and describe what the next steps might be.
- 2.2** If suicide has been attempted, handle the situation as a medical and psychiatric emergency by:
- 2.2.1** Responding with medical aid and advising Paramedics of need for additional emergency medical assistance.
 - 2.2.2** Providing all background information obtained to medical staff. Members are not to speculate about the cause(s) of the attempted suicide.
- 2.3** All media contacts will be authorized by the Fire Chief.