

 Somers Point Police Department DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTIVE	Issue Date April 23, 2019	
	Effective Date April 23, 2019	
Type of Directive GENERAL ORDER	Directive # 130 (Part 3)	Page # 193
Subject INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTIVE		
Indexed As A.G. GUIDELINES INTERNAL AFFAIRS POLICY		

1. Purpose:

An Early Warning System (“EW System”) is an important management tool designed to detect patterns and trends in police conduct before that conduct escalates. An effective EW System can assist a law enforcement agency in identifying and remediating problematic officer conduct that poses a potential risk to the public, to the agency, and to the officer. EW Systems, therefore, serve to not only increase public safety and public confidence in law enforcement, but also to assist officers through early intervention.

2. Policy:

This Directive shall apply to all sworn officers who are responsible for enforcing the criminal laws in this jurisdiction, come under the jurisdiction of the Police Training Act, and are authorized to carry a firearm under N.J.S.A. 2C:39-6.

III. Procedure:

A. Selection of Performance Indicators

An EW System may monitor many different categories of officer conduct which indicate potentially escalating risk of harm to the public, the agency, and/or the officer. The following performance indicators shall be included in all EW Systems, but also can be supplemented based upon the unique characteristics of the department shall determine any such supplemental performance indicators. To the extent possible, supplemental performance indicators should be objectively measurable and reasonably related to potentially escalating harmful behavior by the officer.

- 1. Internal Affairs Complaints against the Officer, whether initiated by another Officer or by a member of the public;**
- 2. Civil actions filed against the Officer;**

- 3. Criminal Investigations of or Criminal Complaints against the Officer;*1**
- 4. Any Use of Force by the Officer that is formally determined or adjudicated (for example, by Internal Affairs or a grand jury) to have been excessive, unjustified, or unreasonable. This agency may choose to enter any use of force by an officer into a EWS.**
- 5. Domestic Violence Investigations in which the Officer is an alleged subject;**
- 6. An arrest of the Officer, including on a driving under the influence charge;**
- 7. Sexual harassment claims against the officer;**
- 8. Vehicular collisions involving the Officer that are formally determined to have been the fault of the Officer.;**
- 9. A positive drug test by the Officer;**
- 10. Cases or arrests by the Officer that are rejected or dismissed by a court;**
- 11. Cases in which evidence obtained by an Officer is suppressed by a court;**
- 12. Insubordination by the Officer;**
- 13. Neglect of duty by the Officer;**
- 14. Unexcused absences by the Officer; and**
- 15. Any other indicators, as determined by the Agency's Chief Executive.**

***1 If EW System notification to the officer could jeopardize an ongoing criminal investigation, the County Prosecutor may in his or her discretion permit delayed notification to the officer or delayed initiation of the EW System review process.**

B. Initiation of Early Warning Process

At a minimum, this agency's EW System Policy shall provide that three separate instances of performance indicators (as listed in Section A, above) within any twelve-month period will trigger the EW System review process. If one incident triggers multiple performance indicators, that incident shall not be double or triple- counted, but instead shall count as only one performance indicator. This agency's Chief Executive may in his or her discretion determine that a lower number of performance indicators within a twelve – month period (i.e., one or two performance indicators) will trigger the EW System review process. For the purpose of calculating the number of indicators within any twelve-month period, the event / incident date of the

instance(s) of a performance indicator(s) shall be used for the calculation, even if the actual reporting or discovery of same is delayed.

C. Administration and Tracking

This Agency's Chief Executive shall assign personnel to conduct the EW System function. Supervisory Officers in the subject officer's chain of command will be directly involved in any EW System review process.

This Agency shall adopt a tracking system to enable the department to identify officers who display the requisite number of performance indicators necessary to trigger the EW System review process. At least every six months, personnel assigned to manage the EW System shall audit the agency's tracking system and records to assess the accuracy and efficacy of the tracking system.

D. Remedial / Corrective Action

Once an officer has displayed the requisite number of performance indicators necessary to trigger the EW System review process (as set forth in Section A, above) assigned supervisory personnel shall initiate remedial action to address the officer's behavior.

When an EW System review process is initiated, personnel assigned to oversee the EW System shall (1) formally notify the subject officer, in writing; (2) conference with the subject officer and appropriate supervisory personnel; (3) develop and administer a remedial program including the appropriate remedial / corrective actions listed below; (4) continue to monitor the subject officer for at least three months, or until the supervisor concludes that the officer's behavior has been remediated (whichever is longer); (5) document and report findings to the appropriate supervisory personnel and, if warranted, the internal affairs unit. Any statement made by the subject officer in connection with the EW System review process may not be used against the subject officer in any disciplinary or other proceeding.

Remedial / corrective action may include but is not limited to the following:

- 1. Training or re-training;**

- 2. Counseling;**
- 3. Intensive supervision;**
- 4. Fitness-for-duty examination;**
- 5. Employee Assistance Program (EAP) referral; and**
- 6. Any other appropriate remedial or corrective action *2**

***2 This Directive, and EW Systems generally, are focused on corrective actions to remediate officer behavior and to provide assistance to the officer. This Directive, and EW Systems generally, do not address disciplinary actions that might be warranted against an officer. Such disciplinary actions – to include the decision to suspend, terminate or, if applicable, charge an officer with criminal conduct- remain within the purview of the agency’s internal affairs function, and may be imposed in accordance with existing internal affairs guidelines and applicable law, separate from and independent of the EW System.**

E. Notification to Subsequent Law Enforcement Employer

If any officer who is or has been subject to an EW System review process applies to or accepts employment at a different law enforcement agency than the one where he or she underwent the EW System review process, it is the responsibility of the prior or current employing law enforcement agency to notify the subsequent employing law enforcement agency of the officer’s EW System review process history and outcomes. Upon request, the prior or current employing agency shall share the officer’s EW System review process files with the subsequent employing agency.

F. Notification to County Prosecutor

Upon initiation of the EW System review process, the agency’s Chief Executive or a designee shall make a confidential written notification to the County Prosecutor or his / her designee to identity of the subject officer, the nature of the triggering performance indicators, and the planned remedial program. Upon completion of the EW System review process, the agency’s Chief Executive shall make a confidential written notification to the County Prosecutor or his / her designee of the outcome of the EW System review, including any remedial measures taken on behalf of the subject officer.

G. Public Accessibility and Confidentiality

All EW System policies adopted by law enforcement agencies shall be made

available to the public upon request and shall be posted on the agency's website. All written reports created or submitted pursuant to this Directive that identify specific officers are confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

ACPO Directive PD-01267-18 Atlantic County Early Warning Systems (EWS)

Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2018-3 EWS

By Order of: Acting Chief Robert C. Somers

**Distribution: General Order Manual
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