



Urbana Police Department Directive

Title: Excited Delirium	
Effective Date: July 1, 2008	Page 1 of 1

A. Policy

Officers periodically come into contact with individuals exhibiting bizarre behavior. This behavior is often a result of alcohol intoxication, the influence of drugs, mental illness, uncontrolled anger, or a combination of these factors. However, in some cases bizarre behavior may be associated with a serious medical condition called excited delirium. Some instances of this condition may be fatal. The Urbana Police Department recognizes this as a serious medical condition and attempts to utilize a team approach consisting of dispatchers, police, fire, and Emergency Medical Personnel.

B. PURPOSE

The purposes of this policy is to help officers identify behavioral cues commonly associated with individuals who may be in a state of excited delirium, manage the situation in a manner that reduces the risks to all those involved, including the delirious individual, and facilitate the early intervention of medical care for the individual as soon as practical.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. **Delirium** is a disturbance of consciousness that develops over a short period of time, usually hours to days, that is accompanied by a change in cognition, and tends to fluctuate during the course of the day.
2. "Excited Delirium" refers to a behavioral condition whereby a person exhibits extremely agitated and non-coherent behavior, elevated temperature, and excessive endurance without apparent fatigue. Excited delirium is often seen in the context of people under the influence of an illicit stimulant substance or in people with a history of mental illness who are not taking their medications properly.

D. PROCEDURE

1. Tactical response protocols vary based on the situation and officer safety is paramount in dealing with these types of situations. Guidelines are located on the internal web.
2. Investigative protocols and checklist are located on the internal web.
3. General Indicators:

The condition of Excited Delirium may be caused by several factors including, among others, drug use (particularly cocaine or methamphetamine abuse), substance withdrawal, and/or mental illness. The person's ability to focus, sustain, or shift attention is impaired, and he/she is easily distracted. The person's speech may be rambling and incoherent, and it may be difficult or impossible to engage the person in conversation. The person may also be disoriented in regards to time and/or location, misinterpret perceptions, be delusional, and/or experience hallucinations. Due to an elevated body temperature, many of these individuals remove one or more items of clothing, and they often appear impervious to pain. A person in an excited delirium state may exhibit one or more of the following:

Issued By:

Reviewed by City Legal:

Urbana Police Department Directive

Title: Excited Delirium	
Effective Date:	Page 2 of 2

Agitation; Excitability; Paranoia; Aggressiveness; Excessive Strength; Fear; Rage; Violence Towards Others; Depression; Confusion; Shouting; Violence Towards Objects; Sudden Calmness; Grunting; Hyperactive; Sweating; Hyperthermia; Attraction to Glass; Seemingly Endless Endurance.

4. Officers should recognize that not everyone who exhibits the above-mentioned indicators are in a state of excited delirium. Head injuries, Thyroid Storm and Hyperthermia are just some examples of medical conditions that could mimic excited delirium.

5. The Urbana Police department recognizes that the term, “excited delirium” is not a medical diagnosis and officers are not expected to diagnose this state in the field. Officers are made aware of the behavioral cues present at the scene and when safe and practical, utilize the team approach as a method of addressing the medical condition.
