

Firearm Injury Reporting

359.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Investigation of cases involving firearm injuries is important to the State of Arizona and the safety of the public. Some causes of firearm injuries may not be readily apparent and some cases differ substantially from what they appeared to be initially. The Department takes firearm injury investigations seriously and therefore employees must conduct thorough and complete investigations.

359.2 INVESTIGATION

All bullet wounds, gunshot wounds, powder burns or any other injury arising from, or caused by, the discharge of any gun, pistol or any other firearm shall be thoroughly investigated by this department upon receipt of any report made pursuant to ARS § 13-3806 or that otherwise is reported to the Department.

Information or reports received from health care professionals shall also be investigated but the identity of the reporter shall remain confidential as allowed by law.

Employees investigating firearm injuries should contact a supervisor as soon as reasonably possible if further guidance or additional resources are necessary.

Either the Major Crimes Unit (MCU) or Special Victims Unit (SVU) Sergeant shall be notified, as soon as practical by the on-duty supervisor. The appropriate CIS unit supervisor will decide if a detective will respond to the scene.

359.3 HUNTING OR SPORT SHOOTING INJURIES

When investigating a firearm injury, the handling employee shall determine the general cause of the wound, and upon determining that the wound was caused by an action connected with hunting or sport shooting, shall immediately conduct a detailed investigation into the facts surrounding the incident.

If requested, all reports or investigations under this section may be forwarded to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, if allowed by law.