

# Excited Delirium Syndrome

Hillsborough County Sheriff's  
Office

# What Is Excited Delirium?

- Per the “Mental Health Archive”
- Excited delirium is a symptom characterized by a drastic disturbance in the patient’s behavior caused by the persistent abuse of drugs, usually cocaine or psychiatric illness or a combination of both. Recently though, excited delirium has been used to define a syndrome, usually appearing in exceptional stressful situations like arrests by law enforcement offices.

- No matter the situation, the patient will try to un-restrain himself , will become aggressive and confrontational.

# Signs and Symptoms

- Differentiating someone in excited delirium from someone who is simply violent is often difficult. People suffering from excited delirium may show the following:
  - Having unexpected strength and endurance, apparently without fatigue.
  - Show an abnormal tolerance of pain.
  - Feel hot to touch.
  - Be agitated.
  - Sweat Profusely.

- Be hostile.
- Exhibit bizarre behavior and speech.
- Tearing of the eyes.
- Acute paranoia.
- Making animal-like noises.
- Foaming at the mouth.
- Auditory and visual hallucinations

# What Calls to Look For?

- Property calls.
- Unusual behavior calls.
- Trespassing calls.
- Suspicious person calls.
- Criminal mischief calls.

# When an E.D. suspected call is dispatched.

- Notify supervisor(s) immediately.
- Request a back-up unit.
- Advise communications (comm. center) and request EMS to stand-by.

# On Scene Evaluation

- Determine if the subject is displaying any of the above mentioned symptoms.
- If so, Turn off emergency equipment (leave the rear emergency lights on).
- Request additional units.
- Have a supervisor respond.
- Have EMS enroute.
- Keep your distance from the subject until additional units arrive.

# Approaching and Detaining of the Subject

- Have one deputy's agency issued Taser X26 at the ready (taser has minimal effect on subject suffering from E.D.)
- Hands on with the subject is unavoidable, so have as many deputies available to assist with the detaining process.

# Final Stage of E.D. is Sudden Tranquility.

- Sudden Tranquility stage comes after the violent episode or the detaining stage.
- The subject becomes calm and passive.
- At this stage, the subject stops breathing and death follows.
- High death rate

# Post Investigation

- Documentation is needed.
- Use of Force
- EMS transport Sheet
- Blotter (applicable to your agency's policies)