

Risk stages

1. In-office planning prior to the road investigation
2. En route to the location
3. Upon arrival at the location
4. During the approach to the location
5. During the investigation and contact with persons: upon entry, while inside and upon exit

Best Assessment

Not every stage is involved in every investigation. Some will only include stage one, others only stage three.

The best risk assessment, however, considers factors at every possible stage of the investigation.

Public eye

The 'public eye' is always watching. Be aware of your surroundings. In today's era of cell phone cameras and video recorders, officers must be ever wary of their actions and the perceptions that can be deduced from those actions.

Always maintain professionalism. The best way to do this is to have a well-thought-out plan in case the situation changes or something unexpected happens.

Risk Factors

1. In-office planning prior to the road investigation	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type of call or investigation• Consider the source of information• Location – isolated, busy, children nearby, etc.• Manner of arrival (foot, unmarked car, etc.)• Size and physical capabilities of those involved• Number of persons involved• Whether drugs or alcohol are involved• Whether subject is armed• Health or medical considerations• Diversity or cultural considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review existing files• Check FOSS and NCMS• Check CPIC and NCIC• Check address history with local police• Check correctional services/probation• Check motor vehicle licence and registration• Check city directory• Check local utilities• Check with US authorities (USDHS, FBI)• Get the facts: who, what, where, when, how• Plan of action• Check equipment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional state of those involved • Related previous record • Availability of back-up • Partners available to assist (e.g., police, translators) • Potential impact of officer presence • Potential impact of how officers are dressed • Potential impact of equipment worn 	
2. En route to the location	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of traffic • Pedestrians in the vicinity • Seriousness of the situation • Time of day and visibility • Weather conditions • Road conditions • Driving skills of officers • State of alertness of officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch for the individual • Ensure appropriate partners (e.g., translators, police) are contacted to come • Visualize • Communicate with local office • Drive safely • Watch for associated vehicles
3. Upon arrival at the location	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and type of vehicles • Number and type of persons entering and exiting premises • Access and exit points, obstacles to a fast exit • Activity in the premises as observed from outside (e.g., lights on) • Availability of cover • Impact of announcing arrival • Security of vehicle to ensure means for leaving • Presence of public and related security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check vehicle licence plates • Check with superintendent/landlord/security • Check with neighbours • Maintain communication with office • Wait for back-up if required • Do not park right at the scene – use cover for vehicle and yourself • Do not announce arrival, e.g., talking loudly • Secure vehicle • Reassess situation
4. During the approach to the location	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity in the premises (e.g., sound of adult voices, children crying, dogs barking) • Level of resistance of the individual • Availability of cover • Whether weapons are involved • Seriousness of situation • Availability of back-up • Time of day and visibility • Weather (extreme cold to heat – foggy glasses) • Size of officers vs. individuals • Officers' experience • Ability to negotiate • Level of alertness (fatigue) of the officers • Number of persons involved • Diversity considerations • Whether drugs or alcohol are involved • The emotional state of individuals involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop, look, listen • Move slowly • Make yourself a small target – don't expose yourself to danger • Do window check • Continually assess
5. During the investigation itself: entry	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of resistance • Officer presence • Availability of cover • Layout of building • Whether weapons are involved • Sounds of violence or anger • Diversity considerations • Size of the officers vs. others involved • Physical capabilities of officers vs. those of others involved • Officers' training and experience • Officers' ability to negotiate • Level of alertness of the officers • Number of persons involved • Whether drugs or alcohol are involved • The emotional state of individuals involved • Time of day • Distance between officers and individuals – the further the distance, the more time an officer will have to react 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not expose yourself to danger – partner covers you, you cover your partner • Stand at either side of door – stand sideways • Identify yourself • Do not knock loudly as loud sounds may escalate tension • If invited in, do not assume everything is okay • Let your eyes adjust to the lighting • Go in one at a time, ensuring safety for your partner who will follow (i.e., leap frog in and scan room twice) • Scan people in room (clothing, hands) • Reassess

6. During the investigation itself: interior	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify any actual or potential weapons • Officer presence • Level of resistance of suspect • Availability of cover • Layout of building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor communication status with both partners and home base • Scan for weapons and if noticed, remove or block access to them • Determine number and type of occupants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity considerations • Distance between officer and individual • Size of officers vs. others involved • Physical capabilities of officers vs. others • Officers' training and experience • Officers' ability to negotiate • Level of alertness of officers • Whether drugs or alcohol are involved • The emotional state of those involved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine access and exit points and obstacles to a fast exit • Segregate individual • Keep partner in line of vision • Do not let people out of sight – watch hands • Get people seated and in the same room • Do not relax, always have your guard up • Remember, perception may be distorted because of the stress the situation will inevitably create • Be prepared to reassess if new information becomes available – remember the facts • If there are reasonable grounds to search somebody, search them, especially if weapons are involved
7. During the investigation itself: exit	
Factors to be assessed	Responsibilities of an IEO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of resistance of suspect • Availability of cover • Layout of building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay alert so there are no last-minute surprises • Don't turn your back while leaving • Leap frog out (i.e., alternate your exit with your partner)