

12.541 SHOTSPOTTER GUNSHOT LOCATION SYSTEM

References:

Procedure 12.715 – Property and Evidence: Confiscation, Accountability, Processing, Storage, and Release

CPD Training Bulletin #2017-01, ShotSpotter Gunshot Locations System

<http://www.shotspotter.com>

Definitions:

ShotSpotter Gunshot Location System (SSPTR) – Technology that detects and alerts law enforcement to outdoor audible gunfire within a specific coverage area through the use of acoustic sensors which pinpoint the accurate location of the gunfire.

ShotSpotter Respond Console – A mobile password protected console available to CPD personnel that provides a visual map representation and address of a gunfire alert.

ShotSpotter Real-Time Incident Review Center (IRC) – A remote operating center staffed by professional reviewers 24 hours a day, seven days a week, who analyze audio data and recordings to confirm gunfire, then create alerts.

ShotSpotter Insight – A web-based application that provides crime analysts, investigators, officers, and command staff a single source for all historical gunshot activity and the ability to uncover important details and patterns about shootings that can help solve gun crimes.

Purpose:

Provide an outline for the appropriate monitoring and response to an SSPTR alert.

Policy:

Department members utilizing SSPTR will investigate all SSPTR alerts following established standards of officer safety and investigative protocols set forth in this procedure.

Information:

The SSPTR is comprised of dozens of acoustic sensors placed in areas where gun violence is prevalent. The sensors are designed to detect the acoustics of outdoor gunfire. When three or more sensors detect suspected gunfire, the software system triangulates the exact location of the gunfire within 82 feet.

After gunfire triggers SSPTR sensors, audio from the incident is sent to the IRC via secure, high-speed network connections for real-time qualification. Within seconds, an SSPTR professional reviewer analyzes audio data and recordings to confirm gunfire. The qualified alert is then sent directly to any desktop or MDC logged into ShotSpotter Flex Alerts Console or any smart phone logged in to the SSPTR mobile app.

SSPTR's team of expert reviewers has direct experience reviewing thousands of incidents captured by SSPTR systems. Reviewed alerts help law enforcement respond safely and effectively to gunfire by providing:

- Precise location of gunfire, both latitude/longitude and street address
- Number of shots and exact time of shots fired
- Shooter position, speed, and direction of travel (if moving)
- Gunfire incident history and pattern analysis

The IRC operates 24 hours a day, 365 days per year and offers live chat functionality via SSPTR software for immediate communication and assistance when required. Officers can also email SSPTR at support@shotspotter.com or call 1-888-274-6877 option 4, Monday-Friday, 0900-2100 hours and Saturday-Sunday, 1100-1900 hours.

Procedure:

A. Monitoring and Receiving an SSPTR Alert

1. All officers with a Mobile Data Computer (MDC) are required to log in to the ShotSpotter Respond Console at the beginning of the shift.
2. A gunshot alert can be communicated to officers in three different ways:
 - a. Emergency Communications Center (ECC)
 - 1) ECC may dispatch officers to an SSPTR alert after the alert is communicated to ECC by the IRC.
 - b. Shot Spotter Respond Console
 - 1) Officers will receive alerts directly from the IRC by logging in to the ShotSpotter Respond Console via a desktop computer or MDC.
 - c. Mobile Alerts
 - 1) Officers may receive alerts on a personal smart phone directly from the IRC through the SSPTR mobile app available for use on iPhones and Android platforms.

B. Responding to an SSPTR Alert

1. All SSPTR alert runs are priority runs and will be dispatched immediately.
2. When an officer receives an alert via the Shot Spotter Respond Console or SSPTR mobile app prior to ECC, the officer will immediately notify ECC of the following information:
 - a. The address of the alert
 - b. The time frame of the alert
 - c. The number of shots detected
 - d. Any other information communicated by the IRC, e.g., multiple shooters, direction of travel, high-powered firearm, etc.
3. At least two units or one double-unit must respond to the location of the SSPTR alert.

- a. If two single-unit cars respond to an alert, they must meet up at a remote location in the vicinity of an alert prior to responding to the exact location of the alert.
4. A supervisor will respond to all alerts and may require more than two units to respond if additional information suggests a high volume of shots, multiple shooters, high-powered firearms, etc.
5. Respond to the dot(s).
 - a. Responding officers should not rely solely on the numeric address provided and should use the map via the ShotSpotter Respond Console, SSPTR mobile app, or by navigation from ECC to locate the area indicated on the map by the dot(s).
 - 1) **Example:** An SSPTR alert in a park will provide officers with the address of the park but the dot(s) on the map will provide officers with the location of the detected gunshot(s) inside the park (usually within 82 feet). It is imperative that officers respond to the area of the dot(s) and not just the address.

C. Investigating an SSPTR Alert

1. Search the area
 - a. Once on scene, officers must exit their patrol vehicles and physically check a 100-foot radius from the area indicated by the dot(s) on the map.
 - 1) Notify ECC of the actual address where shots were fired
 - 2) Use caution and render aid to any victims
 - 3) Make any necessary arrests
 - 4) Actively search for and recover any evidence (casings, firearms, etc.)
 - 5) If casings are found, tag them and enter them into property. Be sure to clearly identify them as “casings” on the evidence submission form.
2. Community contacts
 - a. When applicable, officers will attempt to make contact with residents of at least two addresses on each side of an SSPTR alert on both sides of the street (eight residences total). A supervisor must respond to ensure the canvas is completed appropriately. During the contact, officers will:
 - 1) Advise the resident police are investigating an SSPTR alert
 - 2) Inquire about any injuries or damage due to the shots
 - 3) Inquire about suspect information

- 4) Provide the resident with a Form 50 Gunfire Incident Canvas door hanger
- b. For residents who are not home or do not come to the door, leave a Form 50 Gunfire Incident Canvas door hanger at the residence, filling out the date and time sections on the form.

D. Reporting an SSPTR Alert and Follow Up

1. Officers will complete a brief report on their findings via a blotter entry in Records Management System (RMS).
 - a. If no casings were found during the initial investigation due to nighttime visibility, request follow-up from first shift in the following manner:
 - 1) Select "YES" in the "Follow Up Required" field
 - 2) Direct the entry to "First Shift"
 - b. First shift supervisors will then delegate the entries to officers who will respond to the area of the corresponding SSPTR alert to look for casings and/or other evidence during daylight hours.
 - 1) Upon completion of the follow up investigation, the first shift officer will update the blotter entry and note their findings in the "Follow Up Action" field then workflow the report.

E. Use of ShotSpotter in Investigations

1. Officers have the availability to download an Investigative Lead Summary from the Mobile App, ShotSpotter Respond Console, or Insight.
 - a. In order to comply with rules of discovery, officers downloading these reports will save the report as part of the case file, either digitally or printed as part of a case jacket.
2. Investigators have the availability to research alerts through the ShotSpotter Insight web-based application which maintains alert data for the prior seven years.
 - a. Investigators can access the application at **<https://insight.shotspotter.com>**, with Google Chrome, Firefox, or Edge browsers.

F. Reporting Errors

1. Any officer or supervisor encountering an error related to a ShotSpotter alert or lack thereof should immediately report the issue.
 - a. ShotSpotter Support may be able to provide sounds captured even though an alert was not sent. However, sensors will only save captured sounds for 24 Hours. In cases of a missed alert related to an investigation, officers should be cognizant of the time constraints.

- b. Officers have the option to email SSPTR at support@shotspotter.com or call 1-888-274-6877 option 4, Monday-Friday, 0900-2100 hours and Saturday-Sunday, 1100-1900 hours, or use the Chat function on the app or console.
 - c. Officers reporting errors should also notify the Department's ShotSpotter project manager via email or through appropriate chain of command.
- G. Police response to alerts at businesses employing gunfire detection technology
- 1. Cincinnati businesses may employ indoor or outdoor gunfire detection technology. When an alert is detected, the standard procedure is for the business' alarm company to call 911 immediately.
 - a. Officers shall respond as they would with any gunfire or active shooter event. Available information from the alarm company on gunshot location will be passed on to dispatch as available.
 - 2. Neighborhood Liaison Units will maintain, update periodically, and provide to the SWAT & Tactical Support Unit a list of businesses who decide to employ gunshot detection technology.
 - 3. For large organizations with multiple floors, the SWAT & Tactical Support Unit will coordinate communication with the Cincinnati Fire Department and Cincinnati Building Inspection to ensure awareness of technology locations and building layout for public safety and tactical response during emergencies.