



CITY OF HARRISONBURG  
**POLICE**  
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## HPD Conducts ICAT Training in September

HARRISONBURG, VA – Recently, a growing number of police agencies have been providing their officers with specialized training on how to interact with persons who are in crisis. The Harrisonburg Police Department will be conducting training for all officers starting this month building upon the many training opportunities that the department’s officers participate in annually.

Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics, or (ICAT) is a training program that provides first responding police officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to successfully and safely defuse a range of critical incidents. ICAT is designed especially for situations involving persons who are unarmed or are armed with weapons other than firearms, and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis.

“Providing officers with all the resources available in order to safely resolve a situation should be a priority in every law enforcement agency. ICAT training is focused on protecting officers and all parties involved. This is accomplished by equipping our officers with those tools and techniques needed to slow down some situation and provide specific options for resolving them,” said HPD Deputy Chief Gabriel Camacho. “This training is vital to public safety and our community,” Camacho added.

HPD’s ICAT training consists of two-day sessions. The first day, which is mostly classroom-based, emphasizes the key areas of decision-making, crisis recognition and response, tactical communications and negotiations, and operational tactics. The second day of training integrates these skills and provides opportunities to practice them through video case studies and scenario-based exercises.

“The ICAT model blends well with our existing programs on de-escalation, tactical communication, and crisis intervention,” emphasized HPD’s Training Unit Sergeant Daniel



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Claxton. "Our aim is to prepare officers to deal with dynamic and dangerous situations through the best training possible," Claxton added.

The media is welcome to attend and cover HPD's ICAT training session to be held on September 14-15; please contact Lt. Pete Ritchie at the HPD PIO number for details. To learn more about ICAT training go on-line with the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) at <https://www.policeforum.org/>.

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