



SASKATOON _____ **POLICE SERVICE**

TO: Shirley Greyeyes, Chairperson
Board of Police Commissioners

FROM: Cameron McBride
Office of the Chief

DATE: 2026 April 08

SUBJECT: Contact Interview Policy & Audit - 2025

FILE #: 2,001-1

ISSUE:

This audit report summarizes compliance with the Saskatoon Police Service’s (SPS) policy on contact interviews for 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

This report be received as information.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

This report aligns with the Saskatoon Police Service’s 2025 Strategic Plan, specifically on its themes & goals of:

- “Our Work – Community safety through service excellence”
 - Regarding the objectives to “Be visible to help community members be safe and feel safe” and “Deliver strategic and balanced enforcement to maintain public order and safety”, and
- “Our Community” – Community well-being through engagement and collaboration”
 - Regarding the objectives to “Strengthen relationships with the communities we serve to increase shared understanding and trust” and “Communicate with the public to enhance awareness and engagement”.

BACKGROUND:

In late 2018, the Saskatchewan Police Commission disseminated new provincial policy regarding contact interviews accompanied by a training video from the Saskatchewan Police College; both were

presented to SPS members in November and December that year. Internal training was subsequently developed to explain the new policy and provide guidance on how contact interviews should be properly conducted. Members assigned to Patrol and Criminal Investigations Units have since received this instruction during in-service training days; this training has included discussion of provincial legislation, definitions, prohibitions and authorizations.

Since early 2020, annual audits of contact interviews are conducted with results prepared in a report for the Board of Police Commissioners.

DISCUSSION:

Contact interviews are defined as a contact with the public that has been initiated by a member of the SPS for the purpose of obtaining information not related to a specific incident or offence. For an interaction to meet the definition of a contact interview, the information sought must be more generic & common to the community rather than specific to an investigation.

Contact Interview Authorization

SPS Policy provides three authorized reasons for initiating a contact interview:

1. The lack of any apparent reason for the person to be in a particular area;
2. The person’s actions, behavior or demeanor raise a concern regarding his/her purpose or safety;
3. The person appears lost, confused, frightened or in need of assistance.

Contact Interview Prohibition

SPS Policy prohibits the initiation of a contact interview solely based on a person’s presence in an area known to experience high levels of criminal activity and/or victimization. Contact interviews may not be conducted on a random or arbitrary basis; rather, they must be conducted in a manner that respects and protects the public’s rights as defined by federal and provincial human rights legislation. A contact interview is considered prohibited if conducted solely on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnicity, or national origin; colour; religion; age; gender, gender identity or sexual orientation; physical or intellectual disability or impairment; mental disorder; socio-economic circumstances; medical condition; any personal characteristics similar to those already listed, or any other grounds of discrimination prohibited by law.

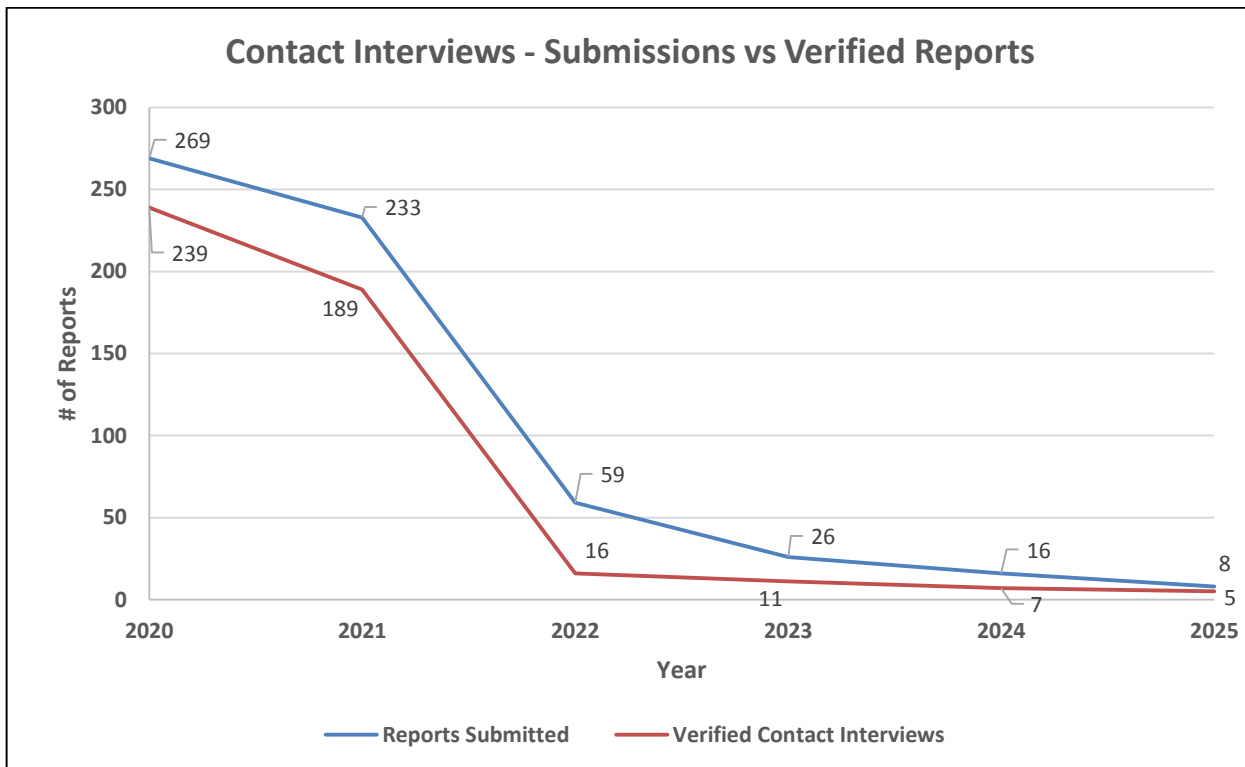
SPS Policy includes guidelines of how members should conduct contact interviews, emphasizing their voluntariness and need for legislative compliance, and describes contact interviews as “a valuable tool that can effectively prevent and solve crime and enhance community safety”. Members of the public are not obliged to participate in a contact interview and may withdraw at any point without consequence. Officer demeanor and communication style must convey professionalism and impartiality, be devoid of intimidation, and the contact interview must be reported to the SPS police database.

Statistical Review / 2025 Submitted Contact Interviews

Overall Report Submissions

Total Contact Interview Submissions	
Submitted Reports Verified As Contact Interviews	5
Submitted Reports Deemed As Not Contact Interviews	3
Total Contact Interview Reports Submitted	8

Reasons re: Submitted Reports Deemed As Not Contact Interviews	
Statutory Authority to Contact the Subject	0
No Contact Made with Subject	1
Contact Relates To An Active Investigation or Call Response	2
Total Reports Deemed As Not Contact Interviews	3

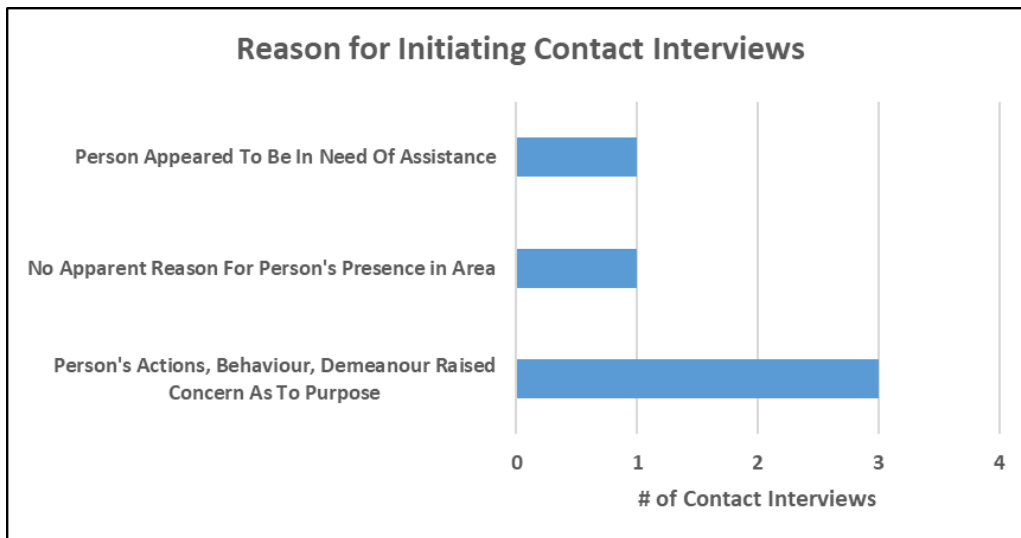
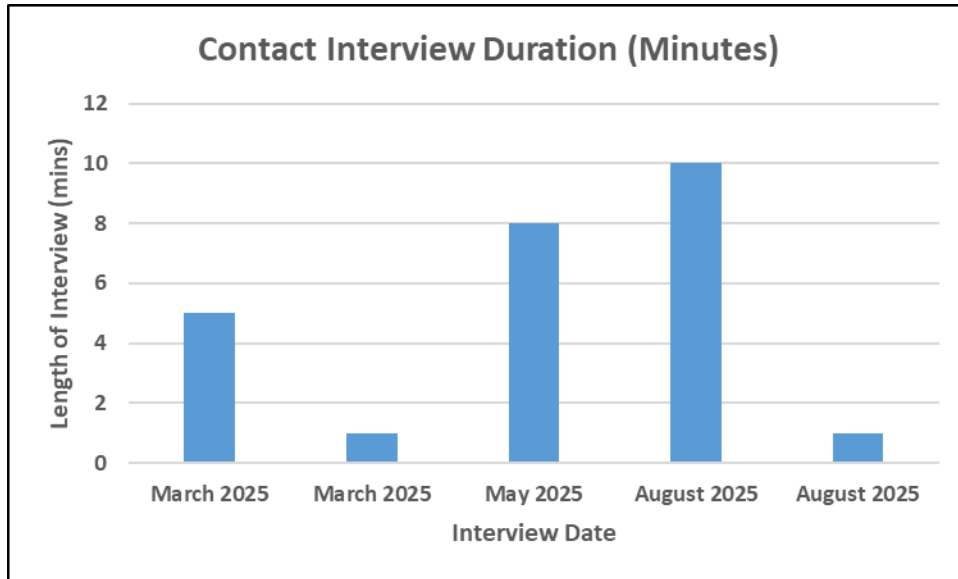


Key Findings:

- The SPS saw a sharp reduction in contact interviews in 2022, both in total reports submitted and contact interviews verified;
- Since 2022, contact interviews are minimally used by SPS personnel;

- Contact interview verifications closely track overall reports submitted (no significant deviation in 2025 indicating disparity between submissions & verifications that would suggest wide-ranging misunderstanding of policy by SPS personnel);
- During the entire 6-year period, no submitted reports were conducted on prohibited grounds.

Details of Contact Interviews

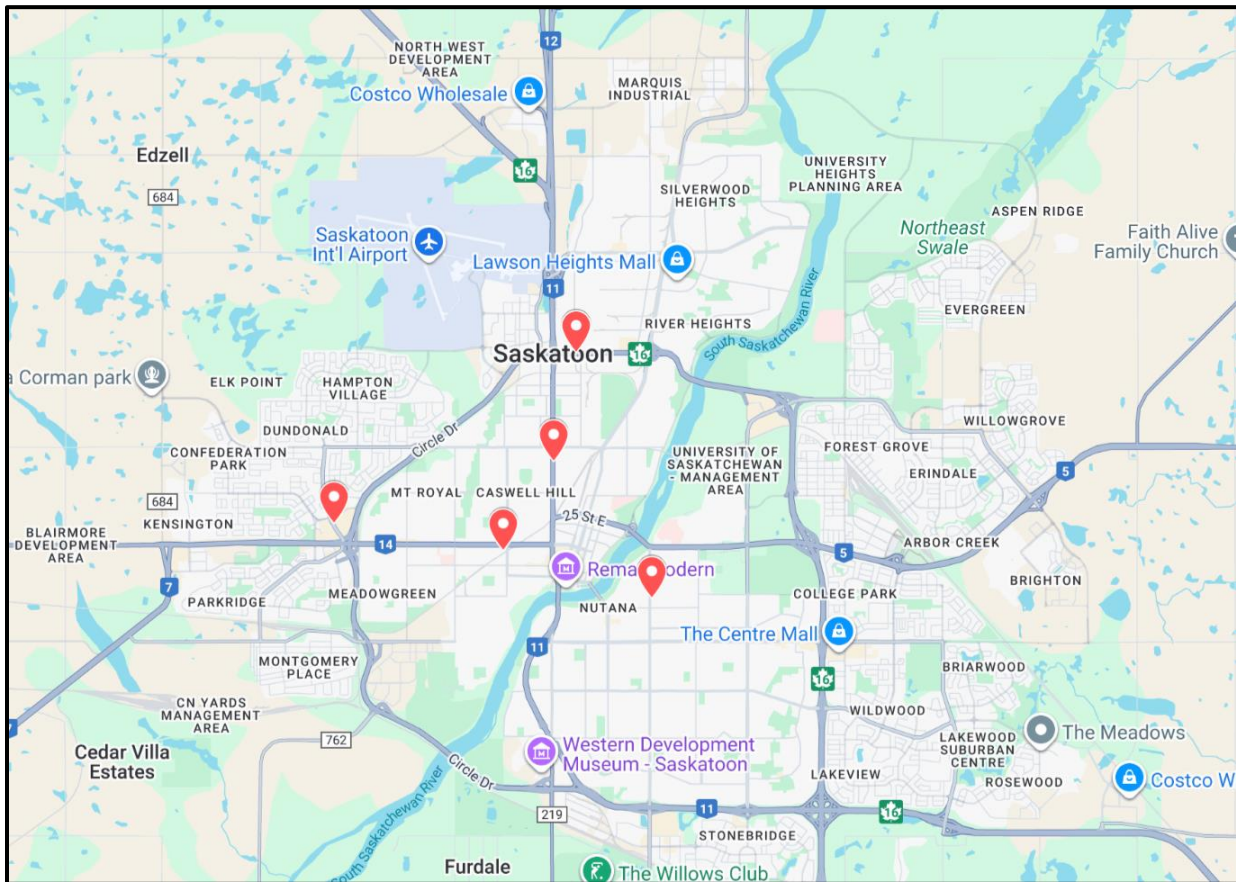


Key Findings:

- In 2025, only two contact interviews exceeded five minutes:
 - One was a person found in public who, upon first observation, appeared to be in medical distress. After conversation with police, the person was found to be agitated & disheveled but sober & safe, not requiring medical (or other) assistance;

- The other was a person found in an industrial area of the city after-hours who claimed to be engaging in business activity but for which no businesses nearby were open. The contact interview revealed no cause for enforcement action.
- The remaining three contact interviews all lasted five minutes or less;
- The most common reason (three of five) was out of concern as to a person’s purpose based on their actions, behavior or demeanor.

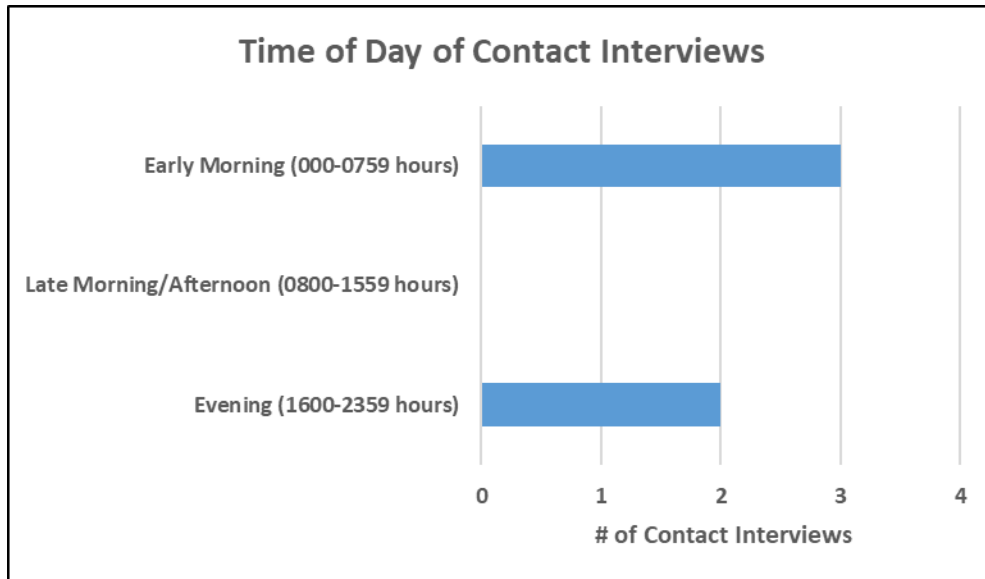
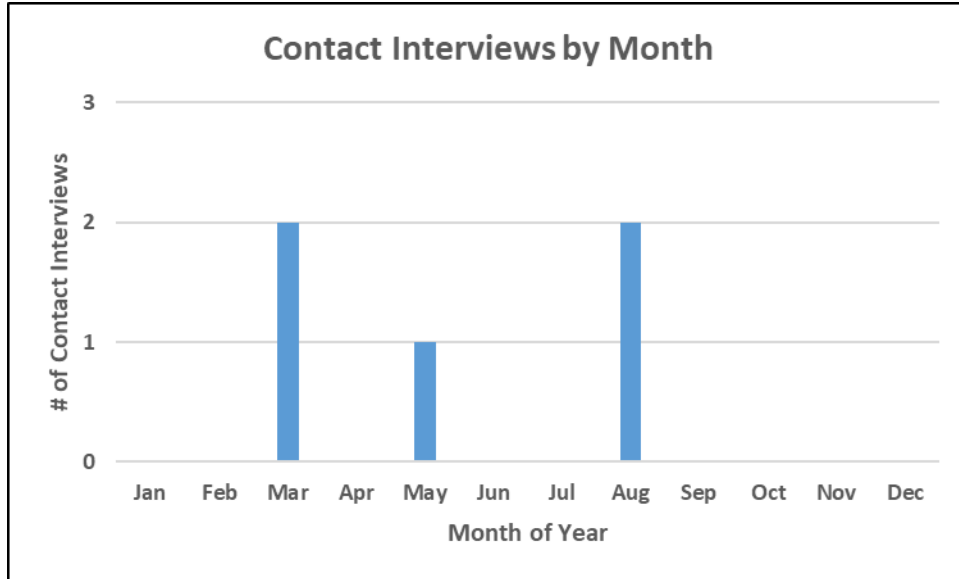
Geographic Distribution



Key Findings:

- Contact interviews were distributed over varying neighborhoods and patrol districts;
- No individual neighborhood saw more than one contact interview conducted in 2025.

Temporal Distribution



Key Findings:

- All five contact interviews were clustered in the months of March, May and August;
- All contact interviews occurred between the hours of 1600 overnight to 0759 hours.

Policy Audit Process

Each contact interview submitted between January 1 and December 31 of 2025 was reviewed to determine its validity as a contact interview. The results were tabulated to provide the data on the above charts and tables, recording the date, time, duration and location attached to each report and then

determining validity with notations indicating the reason why a submitted report did not meet the threshold for being a contact interview.

Because the total number of submitted reports is very small, each event can be individually reviewed rather than auditing contact interviews using a statistical sampling process.

Additionally, none of the submitted contact interviews were captured by a body worn camera. SPS Policy & Procedure regarding body worn cameras states that an officer, when equipped with a body worn camera, shall activate the camera for “any contact with a member of the public where that contact is for an investigative or enforcement purpose” and specifically prohibits recording, with a body worn camera, “policing activities that are not investigative or enforcement related”. SPS Policy & Procedure also defines a contact interview as being “a contact with the public initiated by a SPS member *for the purpose of obtaining information not related to a specific incident or offence*” [emphasis added]. Consequently, the definition of a contact interview would preclude the recording of a contact interview with a body worn camera, and the parameters for using body worn cameras excludes their use for interactions meeting the definition of a contact interview.

One of the submitted contact interview reports had a recording associated to it captured by the police vehicle’s in-car camera system, as the person was approached by a police officer who activated the police vehicle’s emergency lights prior to making the approach. That interaction’s recording was reviewed and found to be within policy guidelines.

Bias Assessment

The contact interview audit for 2025 continues the trend since policy implementation & training adoption whereby no contact interview reports were submitted on prohibited grounds. None of the submitted reports indicate explicit or implicit bias, exclusive language, offensive terminology, or otherwise indicate the initiation of a contact interview for a reason prohibited by SPS policy or human rights legislation.

CONCLUSION:

Policy compliance by SPS members regarding contact interviews remains very high, with members submitting no reports of contact interviews on prohibited grounds. All reports deemed not to be contact interviews were determined to be legitimate interactions based on statutory authority, investigative activity or by the involved person initiating contact with police themselves. The overall number of contact interviews continues to approach near-zero submissions, with the trend extending through 2025.

Written by: Nolan Berg, Inspector, Patrol Division, Inspector
Reviewed by: Tonya Gresty, Superintendent, Patrol Bureau
Approved and Submitted by: Darren Pringle, Deputy Chief Operations