



# DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Title: <b>Aircraft Crashes</b>	Effective Date: June 28, 2016	Policy Number: <b>5.18</b>	
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Attachments:	L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff		

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures governing Deschutes County Sheriff's Office response to aircraft crashes.

## II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office to respond to aircraft crashes in order to provide aid to the injured, control traffic, and secure the scene for federal investigators.

## III. PROCEDURE

### A. Initial Response

The first units on the scene will take any actions necessary to save human life. The units must approach the scene with care and be alert for:

1. Survivors or parts of wreckage thrown clear of aircraft.
2. Explosions, which may occur from fuel, oxygen, tires, bombs, munitions or other sources.

The first unit on scene shall contact 9-1-1 Dispatch and relay the following information:

1. Location of crash.
2. Whether or not the plane is on fire.
3. Number of persons injured and needing assistance, to include known or visible injuries.
4. Whether or not buildings are involved and what type (i.e., school, apartment, etc.).
5. Whether or not buildings are on fire.
6. Presence of hazardous materials and/or aircraft fuel.
7. Identification of aircraft by number, company, or military service, if possible.
8. Additional assistance required (law enforcement, fire, medical, etc.).
9. Where arriving law enforcement units should respond to immediately secure emergency access to the crash site.
10. Notify the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

### B. General

While the actual investigation of the crash will be conducted by a federal entity, deputies will carry out the following duties at the scene, if appropriate:

1. Create a perimeter taking into consideration hazardous materials handling (i.e., uphill and/or upwind of crash site).
2. The area should be considered a potential crime scene. See [Policy 7.01 Major Crime Scene Investigation](#).
3. Establish and maintain emergency traffic corridors for arriving law enforcement, fire personnel and medical units.
4. Assist fire and medical personnel if requested.
5. Maintain security at the scene to preserve the scene.
6. Provide traffic control.
7. Provide crowd control.
8. Obtain and document witness names, addresses and contact numbers.

### **C. Precaution**

Just as in motor vehicle crashes, caution should be exercised with the following in consideration:

1. Due to friction or fire resulting from the crash, metal at the crash site may retain heat in a sufficient amount to cause severe injury.
2. Aviation fuel is highly volatile and damaging to the skin.
3. Leakage of possible hazardous cargo transported in the aircraft.
4. Electrical shock caused by downed power lines and damage to the aircraft's internal electrical systems.
5. On military aircraft, do not raise, move or tamper with the armrests of a crew member's seat as they may activate the ejection seats and are extremely dangerous. The seats are marked with a triangle "Danger, Ejection Seat."

Certain types of military and commercial aircraft constructed of resins and graphite will emit an extremely toxic smoke when burning. Deputies should not expose themselves to this smoke as it can be fatal. To the extent possible, the public should be evacuated from the area exposed to this toxic smoke.