



HOSTAGE SITUATIONS (Critical Policy)

POLICY.

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (AJ) to ensure hostage situations are handled in a manner that provides the maximum possible protection to the hostage(s), safeguards the lives of members, inmates and the public, and to prosecute the individuals responsible for the hostage situation.

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this policy is to provide member guidelines in the event a hostage is taken within the AJ, or during the escort of an inmate outside the jail.

OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- E-601 Emergency Planning

REFERENCES:

- ORS 161.235, Use of Physical Force in Making an Arrest or in Preventing an Escape
- ORS 161.239, Use of Deadly Force in Making an Arrest or in Preventing an Escape
- ORS 161.265, Use of Physical Force to Prevent an Escape (from a correctional facility)
- ORS 169.076, Standards for Local Correctional Facilities
- DCSO [Policy 5.26 Hostage/Barricaded Subject Incidents](#)
- DCSO Policy 3.43 *Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team*

DEFINITIONS.

Hostage. A hostage is any person (deputy, non-sworn members, visitor or other person) who is held by another person against their will for the purpose of escape, monetary gain and/or other reasons.

Hostage Situations. A hostage situation occurs when a hostage taker declares they have taken a hostage and restricts the hostage's freedom of movement.

Hostage Taker. A person who declares they have taken a hostage.

Negotiator. A person authorized to talk with the hostage taker(s), but cannot make any decisions.

PROCEDURES.

SECTION A: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A-1.** Under no circumstance will inmates be allowed to leave the security perimeter of the AJ as a result of a hostage situation.
- A-2.** Any person taken as a hostage, regardless of rank, has no authority while being held a hostage. Any order given by a hostage is not valid.
- A-3.** Priorities in handling hostage situations include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The safety of the public.
 - b. The safety and welfare of members.
 - c. The safety and welfare of the hostage(s).
 - d. Prevention of death or serious bodily injury to the hostage(s).
 - e. The welfare of the inmate(s).
 - f. Protection of property.
 - g. The restoration of order.
 - h. Identification of the participant(s), arrest and legal prosecution.

SECTION B: INITIAL RESPONSE

- B-1.** Upon discovery of the taking of a hostage within the AJ:
 - a. Control Center members and the shift supervisor(s) will be notified immediately.
 - b. Notify 9-1-1 Dispatch.
 - c. Notify the Captain.
 - d. [REDACTED]
 - e. [REDACTED]
 - f. [REDACTED]
 - g. All non-essential radio communication will cease. (Code "9" the channel)
 - h. [REDACTED]
 - i. [REDACTED]
 - j. [REDACTED]
 - k. [REDACTED]
 - 1) [REDACTED]
 - 2) [REDACTED]
 - 3) [REDACTED]
 - 4) [REDACTED]
 - l. [REDACTED]

m. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- B-2.** Members will communicate with the hostage taker(s) only to the extent necessary to calm the person(s) and, if possible, determine the reason for the hostage situation. Under no circumstance will members:
- a. Promise anything that is not within their authority to provide.
 - b. Comply with any demand made by the hostage taker(s).
 - c. Offer to substitute themselves as an alternate hostage.

SECTION C: SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- C-1.** In the event a hostage is taken within the jail, the supervisor will:
- a. Assume a command post in a designated area and initiate an incident log.
 - b. Notify 9-1-1 Dispatch.
 - c. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - d. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
 - e. Determine whether weapon(s) are involved in the hostage situation.
 - f. Notify the Chain of Command.
 - g. The Sheriff or designee will direct SWAT response.
 - h. Contact a designated hostage negotiator and request their immediate response.
 - i. Attempt to establish communication with the hostage taker(s).
 - j. Conduct a formal and systematic questioning of witnesses, released hostage, or perpetrator as soon as possible. It is important to obtain information that will assist in the successful outcome of this or a future hostage situation.
 - k. Forward copies of all reports to the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office so criminal prosecution may be started where appropriate. Also, initiate disciplinary proceedings.

SECTION D: HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS and SWAT DEPLOYMENT

- D-1.** SWAT will be deployed at the direction of the Sheriff or designee. See DCSO Policy 3.43, *Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team*.
- D-2.** The SWAT Commander shall be responsible for developing the tactical plan to resolve the situation.

- D-3.** Members of the Negotiations Team are under the direction of SWAT Commander(s). Members participate in operational planning and the agency’s negotiations in the response and resolution of a critical incident.

- D-4.** A peaceful settlement and the preservation of life of the hostage is the primary concern of all members involved. Demands made by the hostage taker(s) will be heard and carefully considered. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- D-5.** The designated hostage negotiator will attempt to negotiate with the hostage taker(s) and should:
 - a. Listen to the hostage taker(s) to gather as much information as possible
 - b. [REDACTED]
 - c. [REDACTED]
 - d. [REDACTED]
 - e. [REDACTED]
 - f. [REDACTED]
 - g. [REDACTED]
 - h. Relay information to incident command post.

- D-6.** Hostage negotiators have no decision-making authority in AJ hostage situations. They serve as intermediaries between the hostage taker(s) and the command post. During negotiations the following items are non-negotiable:
 - a. Release of hostage taker(s) or another inmate from custody
 - b. Providing weapons
 - c. Exchange of hostages
 - d. Immunity from prosecution

SECTION E: MULTI-AGENCY ASSISTANCE

- E-1.** The Incident Commander will evaluate the situation and determine the resources needed to control and resolve the situation. See DCSO *Policy No. 5.26, Hostages/Barricaded Subject Incidents*.

- E-2.** Emergency Medical Services (EMS) will be requested to assist as needed.

- E-3.** Building Maintenance Unit members will be asked to respond to handle plumbing, heating, cooling, lighting and electrical problems [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

SECTION F: HOSTAGE SITUATION RESOLUTION

- F-1.** Upon resolution of the hostage situation, all participants will be checked for injuries.

- F-2.** The hostage taker(s) will be isolated, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- F-3.** The area of the hostage taking will be secured and treated as a crime scene until released by the investigating LEO and shift supervisor.
- F-4.** As soon as practical, the AJ will return to normal operations.
- F-5.** All members involved in the incident will submit incident reports before leaving the jail. The shift supervisor will also submit an incident report.
- F-6.** The Captain will conduct a thorough review and briefing of the incident as soon as possible to determine cause, effect and any necessary improvements in procedures or tactics. Involved members will be provided counseling as needed.

SECTION G: TRANSPORT HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

- G-1.** If a hostage situation develops outside the security perimeter of the AJ, the deputy involved will:
 - a. Notify 9-1-1 Dispatch.
 - b. [REDACTED]
 - c. [REDACTED]
 - d. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]