HOSTAGE SITUATIONS
(Critical Policy)

POLICY.

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

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the direction of corrections staff in the event that a hostage is taken within the jail or work center, 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

DEFINITIONS.

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

Hostage Situations. A hostage situation occurs when a hostage taker declares that he has taken a hostage and restricts the hostage’s freedom of movement without their consent.

Hostage Taker. A person who declares that he has 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 circumstances will inmates be allowed to leave the security perimeter of the jail or Work Center 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 general public.
   b. The safety and welfare of staff.
   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 jail:
   a. Control Center staff and the shift supervisor(s) will be notified immediately.
   b. [Redacted]
   c. [Redacted]
   d. [Redacted]
   e. All non-essential radio communication will cease. (Code “9” the channel)
   f. [Redacted]
   g. All non-essential personnel will be escorted from the jail and accounted for.
   h. [Redacted]
   i. [Redacted]
   j. [Redacted]
   k. [Redacted]
B-2. Corrections staff 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 circumstances will corrections staff promise anything that is not within their authority to provide, comply with any demand made by the hostage taker(s), or offer to substitute himself as an alternate hostage for the original hostage taken.

SECTION C: SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

C-1. In the event a hostage is taken within the jail, the shift supervisor will:

a. Assume a command post in a designated area and initiate an incident log.
b. Notify the appropriate police agencies via 9-911 Dispatch.
c. Determine whether weapon(s) are involved in the hostage situation.
d. Notify the Chain of Command of the hostage situation.
e. Contact a designated hostage negotiator and request his immediate response.
f. Attempt to establish communication with the hostage taker(s).
g. 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.
h. 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

D-1. A peaceful settlement and the preservation of life of the hostage is the primary concern of all personnel involved. Demands made by the hostage taker(s) will be heard and carefully considered.

D-2. 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. 
c. 
d.
D-3. Hostage negotiators have no decision-making authority in jail 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

D-4. The option of using a trained hostage negotiator from outside the Sheriff’s Office will remain at the discretion of the Sheriff.

SECTION E: MULTI-AGENCY ASSISTANCE

E-1. The shift supervisor may request assistance from the Bend City Police and/or the Oregon State Police, as needed.

E-2. The Bend Fire Department will be requested, along with paramedics and ambulances, to assist as needed.

E-3. Maintenance staff will be asked to respond to handle plumbing, heating, cooling, lighting and electrical problems and also

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.

F-3. The area of the hostage taking will be secured and treated as a crime scene until released by the investigating police agency with the concurrence of the shift supervisor.

F-4. All staff involved in the incident will submit incident reports before leaving the jail. The shift supervisor will also submit an incident report.
F-6. The Corrections Captain will conduct a thorough review and de-briefing of the incident as soon as possible to determine cause, effect and any necessary improvements in procedures or tactics. Involved staff will be provided counseling as needed.

F-7. As soon as practical, the DCAJ will return to normal operations.

SECTION G: TRANSPORT HOSTAGE SITUATIONS

G-1. If a hostage situation develops outside the security perimeter of the DCAJ, the deputy involved will:

a. 

b. 

c. 

d.