



ESCAPES

POLICY.

It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office – Adult Jail (DCAJ) to prevent escape and respond quickly to escape attempts and actual escapes. This will help maintain public safety and corrections division security.

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines to prevent escape, confirm actual escapes, and work toward a quick, safe capture of the escaped inmate(s).

OREGON JAIL STANDARDS:

- E-207 Reconciling Counts
- 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 162.175, Unauthorized departure
- ORS 162.135, Definitions for ORS 162.135 – 162.205 (escape)
- ORS 169.076, Standards for local correctional facilities
- ORS 169.340, Liability for escape of a defendant in civil action
- DCAJ Policy [CD8-1, Perimeter Security](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-8-6, Security Checks and rounds](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-8-11, Use of Force in a Corrections Facility](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-8-17, Criminal Acts](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-13-1, Emergency Operations](#)
- DCAJ Policy [CD-13-5, Hostage Situations](#)

DEFINITIONS.

Attempted Escape. When a legally confined inmate attempts to depart without permission.

Escape. Unlawful departure of a person from custody or a correctional facility from legal confinement. The attempted or actual escape, of an inmate from official custody while being escorted outside the security perimeter of the jail or work center.

Unauthorized Departure. A failure to return to custody after any form of temporary release or transitional leave from a correctional facility.

PROCEDURES.

SECTION A: PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

A-1. Prevention. To help prevent escapes, the Corrections Captain will manage the jail in a manner that includes the following:

- a. An objective, risk-based system to classify inmates
- b. A thorough system of security checks, rounds, and searches
- c. Frequent inmate counts
- d. Strict contraband control practices
- e. Proper use of restraints
- f. Constant staff alertness

A-2. Staff Alertness. Corrections staff will stay alert to signs that may include an inmate is planning an escape. Staff will immediately notify a shift supervisor if they notice any unusual activities. Signs of a possible escape attempt or opportunity include the following:

- a. Change in inmate behavior
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. [REDACTED]
- i. [REDACTED]
- j. [REDACTED]

A-3. Crime. Attempted Escape and Escape are crimes and will be referred to law enforcement personnel for investigation.

A-4. Escape Training. The shift operations lieutenants will make sure deputies receive initial and annual refresher training on escape procedures and practices. The training may be in [REDACTED] Training should cover the following topics, which trainers should tailor based on the job needs of the staff members:

- a. Prevention
- b. Response by location of escape

- c. Pursuit decisions
- d. Search methods
- e. Documentation

A-5. Use of Force in Preventing an Escape. Deputies will follow [Use of Force in a Corrections Facility Policy No. CD-8-11](#), when using force to prevent an escape.

[REDACTED]

SECTION B: INITIAL RESPONSE

B-1. Upon discovery that an inmate has escaped from the jail or work center:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]

SECTION C: SHIFT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

C-1. In the event an inmate escapes from the jail or work center, the shift supervisor will:

- a. [REDACTED]
- b. [REDACTED]
- c. [REDACTED]
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. [REDACTED]
- f. [REDACTED]
- g. [REDACTED]
 - 1.) [REDACTED]
 - 2.) [REDACTED]
 - 3.) [REDACTED]
 - 4.) [REDACTED]
 - 5.) [REDACTED]

- 6.) [REDACTED]
- h. Secure the scene (i.e., cell, housing unit, avenue of escape, etc.) and preserve any evidence to prevent its contamination.
- i. Notify the Chain of Command and local law enforcement agencies of the escape.
- j. [REDACTED]
- k. Develop a media release for approval.
- l. Conduct a formal and systematic questioning of witnesses or perpetrator as soon as possible. It is important to obtain information that will assist in the successful outcome of this or future escape situations.
- m. Notifications. For any type of escape, the shift supervisor will have the following persons notified:
 - 1) [REDACTED]
 - 2) Hold agency if the escaped inmate is on hold
 - 3) [REDACTED]
- n. For any escaped inmate, the booking staff will do the following:
 - 1) Using the jail information management system, assign “escaped” in release screen.
 - 2) File a copy of the Incident Report in the custody file.
- o. Ensure copies of all reports are forwarded to the Deschutes County District Attorney’s Office so criminal prosecution may be started when appropriate. Also, initiate disciplinary proceedings.

SECTION D: ATTEMPTED ESCAPE

- D-1.** When corrections staff observe an inmate(s) attempting to exit the jail by an unauthorized method, staff will:
 - a. [REDACTED]
 - b. Order the inmate(s) to halt and use the reasonable necessary force to prevent the escape (refer to [Use of Force in a Corrections Setting Policy No. CD-8-11](#)).
 - c. Respond to affected area to maintain security.
 - d. Remove the offending inmate(s) from the area and search.

- e. Secure the scene and inmate's property (i.e., cell, housing unit, avenue of escape, clothing, etc.) and preserve any evidence to prevent its contamination.

D-2. In the event of an inmate(s) attempted escape [REDACTED] the shift supervisor shall:

- a. Notify the Chain of Command of the attempted escape.
- b. Conduct a formal and systematic questioning of witnesses or perpetrator as soon as possible.
- c. Forward copies of all reports to the Deschutes County District Attorney's Office so criminal prosecution may be started when appropriate. Also, initiate disciplinary proceedings.

SECTION E: UNAUTHORIZED DEPARTURE/WALK AWAY

E-1. Inmates approved and released on a pass or furlough that do not return at the time and date listed on the *Special Pass Form No. 306* are considered unauthorized departures.

E-2. When corrections staff discovers that an inmate has not returned from an approved pass/furlough as scheduled, staff will review the inmate's Special Pass form to verify the date and time the inmate was to return.

E-3. If the inmate failed to return as scheduled, the shift supervisor will check with corrections staff to ensure the inmate has, in fact, not returned.

E-4. Inmates will be declared an unauthorized departure 30 minutes after the scheduled time for return. Inmates who are late, but return within the 30 minute period of time, will be considered for disciplinary action.

E-5. The shift supervisor will try to contact the inmate at the telephone number the inmate listed on the Special Pass form. If contact is made, the shift supervisor will attempt to secure the inmate's immediate return.

E-6. If the inmate cannot be located or refuses to return, the shift supervisor will initiate Supervisory Authority Warrant proceedings charging Unauthorized Departure. Once the warrant is validated, 911 Dispatch will be notified and the following information provided:

- a. The inmate's name and physical description.
- b. The amount of time the inmate is overdue.
- c. The inmate's last known whereabouts.
- d. [REDACTED]
- e. The inmate's last known address.
- f. The inmate's custody status (i.e., sentenced, un-sentenced, felony, misdemeanor, etc.).
- g. Any pertinent information that may assist in the inmate's capture.

E-7. The Chain of Command will be notified of the unauthorized departure.

SECTION F: ESCAPE DURING WORK CREWS OR OTHER TRANSPORT

F-1. In the event an inmate should break custody while being escorted outside the jail or work center, the escorting deputy will order the inmate to halt. If the inmate refuses to halt, the deputy will use the reasonable necessary force to prevent the escape (refer to DCSO Policy 5.01 Use of Force and [*Use of Force in a Corrections Setting Policy No. CD-8-11*](#)).

F-2. If the deputy is unable to prevent the inmate from escaping, the deputy will immediately notify 911 Dispatch, by the most expedient means available.

F-3. The deputy will report the following information to the 911 Dispatch and/or other appropriate authorities:

- a. The escort deputy's exact location.
- b. The inmate's name, description and date of birth.
- c. The inmate's direction of travel.
- d. If the inmate is in restraints.
- e. Whether the inmate is considered dangerous or not.
- f. The inmate's home address.
- g. [REDACTED]
- h. Any other information that may help the authorities capture the inmate.
- i. Notify the shift supervisor.
- j. Notify the chain of command.

F-4. Deputies will base a pursuit decision on what best prevents more inmates from escaping and best protects the public from harm. Deputies will consider their location, the classification of the remaining inmates, and the possible harm and risk the remaining inmates and escaping inmate pose when making a decision to pursue.

F-5. [REDACTED]

F-6. If the inmate that was attempting to break custody is apprehended, the deputy that captured the inmate will:

- a. Restrain the inmate.
- b. Notify the appropriate authorities of the inmate's capture.
- c. Return the inmate to the jail or the nearest police agency.

- F-7.** In the event an inmate should break custody while being escorted outside the jail or work center, the shift supervisor will:
- a. Notify the Chain of Command of the escape
 - b. The shift supervisor will assist law enforcement agencies in the gathering and investigating information that may help in the recapture of the inmate.

SECTION G: POST ESCAPE

- G-1.** Incident Reports shall be written by all staff involved and submitted to the shift supervisor prior to the end of the shift. The shift supervisor will also submit an incident report.
- G-2.** The Corrections Captain will assign a lieutenant to perform a thorough review and debriefing of the incident to determine; cause, effect, and any necessary improvements in procedures or tactics. The lieutenant's findings will be submitted in writing to the Corrections Captain.
- G-3.** The Administrative Lieutenant will ensure any involved staff are provided counseling as needed.
- G-4.** As soon as practical, the DCAJ will return to normal operations.

FORMS USED:

- Incident Report (JMS)
- Media Release
- Special Pass Form No. 306
- Supervisory Authority Warrant (Unauthorized Departure)