



# DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Title: <b>Hostages/Barricaded Subject Incidents</b>	Effective Date: June 28, 2016	Policy Number: <b>5.26</b>
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Attachments:	Pages: 3  L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff	

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy to provide general guidelines for handling hostage/barricaded subject situations.

## II. POLICY

In hostage/barricaded subject situations, it shall be the policy of the Sheriff's Office to consider the lives of the hostages, civilians, and deputies involved to be of the utmost importance, and the Sheriff's Office respects the sanctity of human life.

Whenever possible the Sheriff's Office will:

- enhance the prospects of peacefully resolving the incident through communication with the suspect;
- develop and maintain the ability to use alternative approaches to resolve the incident should communications fail; and
- in hostage situations, make every reasonable effort to effect the safe release of the hostages.

## III. DEFINITIONS

*Barricaded Subject* is any individual who is reasonably believed to be a threat to commit serious bodily injury or death to hostages, deputies, or others in the community and who is in a stronghold position. (Distraught individuals barricaded in a location without hostages or threat to others are evaluated separately from this policy)

*CERT* is the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team.

*Hostage* is any person held by another against his will by force or threat of force, expressed or implied.

*SOT* is the Special Operations Team.

## IV. PROCEDURES

### A. Patrol Deputies

Patrol deputies confronting hostage/barricaded subject incidents shall not initiate tactical actions other than those necessary to protect the lives and safety of themselves or others consistent with this agency's [Use of Force Policy](#). Deputies shall:

1. Notify a supervisor of the incident and circumstances.

2. Contain and isolate the incident scene, establishing an inner containment perimeter to provide a reasonable degree of safety while maintaining contact with the incident scene, and as time and resources permit, establish an outer containment perimeter to control pedestrian and vehicular traffic into the area;
3. As soon as possible, assess the situation for injuries or casualties. Evacuate injured persons to a location where medical attention and transportation to a medical facility is possible; and
4. Whenever possible, evacuate occupants of affected residences and businesses to a point beyond the perimeter.

#### **B. Incident Commander**

The ranking deputy at the scene shall be in command until specifically relieved by a supervisor. The Incident Commander shall:

1. Inform the Watch Commander about the nature and circumstances surrounding the incident. If the Incident Commander is also the Watch Commander, they shall designate another to take over command of the patrol team. Units not actively involved in the incident should utilize Channel Two for routine traffic.
2. Ensure development of a communications/negotiations process and a tactical team response.
3. Ensure establishment of an inner and outer perimeter, command post, tactical operations center, negotiations center, and a staging area for deputies and others arriving for assignment. Careful consideration shall be taken to determine the most advantageous and safe location for each of the aforementioned.
4. Ensure that responsibility for traffic and crowd control is established, and that routes for emergency vehicles as well as pursuit or surveillance vehicles have been designated. Designate a location to interview witnesses, released hostages, and others.
5. Ensure that necessary equipment from the fire department is made available at the staging area together with any other units or equipment, such as canine teams, chemical agents and/or less lethal projectiles, aviation, precision riflemen, hostage negotiations personnel, or an emergency response team.
6. Ensure that emergency medical services are advised and available, if necessary, to respond to the scene.
7. The Incident Commander should take steps necessary to resolve the situation while awaiting arrival of the emergency response team and hostage negotiating personnel.
8. If the situation becomes complex and drawn out, assign a press center and a deputy for press liaison in accordance with policy.

#### **C. Additional Considerations**

1. Control communications in and out of suspect's location.
2. Do not allow neighbors, friends or relatives to enter the scene.
3. Do not substitute law enforcement officers (or others) for the hostages.
4. Identify procedures for control of other utilities to building.
5. Obtain floor plans of suspect location, if possible.
6. Anticipate changing conditions in vicinity, such as school dismissal times, darkness, or traffic density changes.

#### **D. Resources**

The Incident Commander shall evaluate the situation as soon as possible and determine the resources needed to control and resolve the situation. The actual implementation of the following shall, however, be delegated to another supervisor or designee. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Initiate the local mutual aid agreement to obtain assistance from local jurisdictions.
2. Initiate a call-up of off-duty deputies, reserves, and other personnel.
3. Initiate the Incident Command System, if appropriate.
4. Designate marksmen, riflemen, less-lethal projectile deputies and entry teams as necessary.
5. Request SOT and/or CERT as a tactical resource, if appropriate. (In cases where both hostage negotiators and SOT and/or CERT are used, ensure communications between them and establish responsibilities of each.)
6. Hostage Communications Team. (In cases where both hostage negotiators and SOT and/or CERT is resourced, ensure communications between them and establish responsibilities of each.)
7. Request ambulance, rescue, fire, and/or surveillance equipment, if appropriate.
8. Authorize use of force and chemical agents.

#### **E. Hostage Communications Team**

The individuals assigned to the communication function at the incident should:

1. Provide any requested information to the Incident Commander.
2. Provide trained primary and secondary negotiators and, as available and necessary, a negotiations investigator. A minimum of two negotiators should be on scene at all call-outs.
3. Obtain all pertinent information about the hostage taker, the hostages, hostage site, and other barricaded subjects.
4. Provide detailed, in-depth reports of the incident and statements of the suspect(s).
5. Debrief released hostages.

## **V. REPORT AND REVIEW**

Hostage/barricaded subject incidents are critical incidents and will be reported via an incident report and reviewed by command.