



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Title: Fire Incident Response	Effective Date: June 28, 2016	Policy Number: 5.24	
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Attachments:	L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff		

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide members of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office with structured guidelines to coordinate Sheriff services with those of the fire department during a fire emergency.

II. POLICY

It shall be the policy of this agency to closely assist and support emergency fire operations with those services which protect and enhance the saving of life and property.

III. RESPONDING TO FIRE INCIDENTS

A. Procedure for Response

1. Deputies responding to reports of fire shall respond accordingly.
2. If practical, deputies should not pass responding fire equipment.

B. Traffic Enforcement

1. If following or observing the fire equipment as it is proceeding to the scene, deputies should be alert for motorists failing to yield right-of-way or following fire equipment in violation of Oregon Revised Statutes.

IV. DUTIES OF DEPUTIES AT THE FIRE SCENE

A. Deputy's Arrival Prior to Fire Equipment

1. If deputies arrive at the scene prior to the fire equipment, they will be expected to take whatever action might be appropriate in the preservation of life but should not become involved in the actual fighting of the fire.
2. If appropriate, the on-scene commander should initiate the Incident Command System. Refer to [Policy 5.20, Incident Command System](#).

B. Traffic and Crowd Control

Sheriff's Office personnel at the scene shall direct their efforts towards traffic and crowd control.

1. *Street Closure.* Access streets around the burning structure or area should be closed to vehicular traffic.
2. *Blocking Access.* The patrol unit should not block access or exit of fire or other emergency equipment.

3. *Fire Line.* If the fire is a wildfire or range fire, the Sheriff's Office Incident Command System should be activated and utilized.

In the event of a structure fire, the following shall apply:

1. If an existing physical line, such as a curb, parking strip, or sidewalk is used as a line, the crowd will be more manageable as they will have a reference point from which to consider their own position.
2. If the fire appears to be of major size, the crime scene tape carried in all patrol units should be utilized to form the line.
3. The possibility of spectators congregating at the rear of the burning building should be considered and addressed to ensure their safety.
4. Deputies should note peculiar actions of some crowd members or occasional remarks that may provide useful sources of information in fires of unknown or suspicious origin if the fire is ultimately proven to be an arson fire.

C. Incident Appraisal

The first deputy arriving shall make an appraisal of the situation as to the necessity of additional resources, such as ODOT and Sheriff's Office personnel, to close the area to traffic.

D. Criminal Investigation

If arson or other crime is suspected or a death is discovered, the initial deputy at the scene will contact the ranking fire department official and the detective supervisor so that investigation may be commenced immediately.

E. Protection of Equipment and Personnel

Deputies shall protect fire equipment and personnel from any actions of people at the scene which may jeopardize fire-fighting operations.