

Major Incident Notification

329.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members of this department in determining when, how and to whom notification of major incidents should be made.

329.2 POLICY

The Shasta County Sheriff's Office recognizes that certain incidents should be brought to the attention of supervisors or other specified personnel of this department to facilitate the coordination of activities and ensure that inquiries from the media and the public may be properly addressed.

329.3 MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR NOTIFICATION

Most situations where the media show a strong interest are also of interest to the Sheriff and the affected Division Commander. The following list of incident types is provided as a guide for notification and is not intended to be all inclusive:

- Homicides
- Traffic accidents with fatalities
- Officer-involved shooting - on or off duty (see Officer-Involved Shooting Policy for special notifications)
- Significant injury or death to employee - on or off duty
- Death of a prominent Shasta County official
- Arrest of a department employee or prominent Shasta County official
- Aircraft crash with major damage and/or injury or death
- In-custody deaths

329.4 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITY

The Watch Commander is responsible for making the appropriate notifications. The Watch Commander shall make reasonable attempts to obtain as much information on the incident as possible before notification. The Watch Commander shall attempt to make the notifications as soon as practicable. Notification should be made by calling the mobile telephone number first and then by any other available contact numbers.

329.4.1 STAFF NOTIFICATION

In the event an incident occurs described in [Policy Manual](#) § 358.2, the Sheriff and Undersheriff shall be notified along with the affected Division Commander.

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329.4.2 DETECTIVE NOTIFICATION

If the incident requires that a detective respond from home, the on-call detective shall be contacted who will then make the decision to notify his/her supervisor.

329.4.3 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

The Public Information Officer shall be called after members of staff have been notified that it appears the media may have a significant interest in the incident.