



*Kern County Sheriff's Office*  
**Policies and Procedures**

<b>TITLE: CRITICAL INCIDENTS</b>		<b>NO: H-100</b>	
<b>APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner</b>			
<b>EFFECTIVE: August 1, 1990</b>	<b>REVIEWED: 10/20/2020</b>	<b>REVISED: 04/01/1996</b>	<b>UPDATED: 11/17/2017</b>

**POLICY**

The primary law enforcement responsibility, should a critical incident develop, is to protect the lives of every person involved in the situation and provide security to other government agencies involved in returning the community to normal status. The success of any crisis plan hinges on a good team approach, good communications, and coordination of the situation by management and supervisory personnel. The Kern County Sheriff's Office has adopted the Law Enforcement Incident Command System to effectively and successfully manage critical incidents.

In addition, it is recognized that pre-planning and training are essential to ensure an efficient, controlled response to critical incidents. For major critical incidents such as earthquakes, floods, and hazardous chemical releases, a Multi-Hazard Functional Plan has been adopted by the county to assist in the response. For lesser critical incidents and special operations such as S.W.A.T. specialized training and procedures have been established.

To aid in the planning and training process, and further clarify the role of the law enforcement incident command system, the following four level response is established.

**Level 1 - DAY-TO-DAY LAW ENFORCEMENT INCIDENTS**

**Examples:**

- Setting up perimeter on burglary in progress;
- Response to robbery in progress.

**Level 2 - CRITICAL INCIDENTS REQUIRING KCSO RESPONSE ONLY**

**Examples:**

- Hostage situations;
- Major narcotics operations;
- Barricaded suspects;
- Jail riots in a small contained office.

### **Level 3 - CRITICAL INCIDENTS REQUIRING MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSE**

#### **Examples:**

- Major airplane crash at Meadows Field requiring C.H.P., Fire, B.P.D. assistance;
- Riots requiring allied agency response;
- Request from other allied agencies for assistance from the Sheriff's Office resources, i.e. S.W.A.T., S.E.R.T., surveillance, perimeter security, etc.;
- Major hazardous materials release.

### **Level 4 - DISASTERS/MUTUAL AID**

#### **Examples:**

- Any incident that occurs that is beyond the capabilities of the Sheriff's Office and requires mutual aid.
- Requests for mutual aid will be made and/or received in accordance with State law and current mutual aid agreements.

#### **Note:**

The modular elements of I.C.S. afford its use as an incident management tool in all four levels of response. For example, one officer may fulfill all functions of I.C.S. on a simple burglary incident. In a disaster, individual personnel would be assigned to each function. It is the responsibility of the incident commander, after weighing the circumstances of the incident, to decide the scope of the I.C.S. structure.

H-100-2

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