

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Adopting the )  
Columbia County Deadly Physical ) Order No. 78 -2019  
Force Plan )

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 111 (2007) declared that in each County there is a deadly physical force planning authority consisting of the district attorney, sheriff, a police officer, a nonmanagement police officer and a public member selected by the district attorney and sheriff, a police chief, and a representative of the Oregon State Police selected by the Superintendent of State Police; and

WHEREAS, the planning authority shall develop a deadly physical force plan consistent with Senate Bill 111 (2007) and revisions thereto; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7 of SB 111 (2007) the planning authority shall submit the plan and revisions to the plan to the governing body of each law enforcement agency within the county; and

WHEREAS, the governing body shall approve or disapprove the plan submitted to it within 60 days after receiving the plan, and may not amend the plan; and

WHEREAS, the County received the plan from the Columbia County Sheriff on October 1, 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Deadly Physical Force Plan which is attached hereto as Attachment 1, and is incorporated herein by this reference.

Dated this 16 day of October, 2019.

Approved as to form

By:   
Office of County Counsel

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:   
Henry Heimuller, Commissioner

By:   
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner

By:   
Alex Tardif, Commissioner

# DEADLY PHYSICAL FORCE PLAN



JEFF AUXIER  
COLUMBIA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY



BRIAN E. PIXLEY  
COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF

Columbia County  
Use of Deadly Physical Force  
Planning Authority

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## Members of the Planning Authority

1. Columbia County District Attorney (co-chair)
2. Columbia County Sheriff (co-chair)
3. Chief Deputy, Columbia County Sheriff's Office
4. Lieutenant, Oregon State Police
5. Sergeant, Oregon State Police
6. Municipal Police Chief, Scappoose Police Department
7. Police Officer / Labor Union Representative, St. Helens Police Department
8. Public member at Large
9. Police Officer / Labor Union Representative, Rainier Police Department

On about April 1st, 2008, this Plan was approved by a unanimous vote of the Planning Authority, and submitted for approval to governing bodies of the following jurisdictions. On the 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019, this document was reviewed, revised and adopted by unanimous vote and submitted for approval to the governing bodies.

Columbia County .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of Scappoose .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of St. Helens .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of Columbia City .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of Rainier .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of Clatskanie .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
City of Vernonia .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>
Oregon State Police .....	Approved/ <del>Disapproved</del>

Upon receiving a vote of approval from 2/3 or more of the above jurisdictions, this Plan was submitted to the Attorney General, who approved the Plan on \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

## Preamble

The use of deadly physical force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern both to the public and to the law enforcement community. The purpose of this Plan is not to set the standards for the use of such force, or to be a substitute for agency policy regarding use of force, but rather to provide a framework for a consistent response to an officer's use of deadly physical force that treats the law enforcement officer fairly, and promotes public confidence in the criminal justice system.

## Section 1: Administration

- (1) In the event that a member of the planning authority is unable to continue to serve, a replacement shall be appointed as provided in Section 2(1) of Senate Bill 111, Oregon Laws 2007.
- (2) There shall be nine (9) voting members of the Planning Authority. The approval of the Plan, elements or revisions thereof, shall be by majority vote.
- (3) The presence of 2/3 of the voting members shall be required in order to hold any vote.
- (4) Any meeting of a quorum of the voting members of the Planning Authority is subject to Oregon's open meeting law.

## Section 2: Applicability of the Plan

- (1) This plan shall be applicable, as set forth herein, to any use of deadly physical force by a police officer acting in the course of and in furtherance of his/her official duties, occurring within Columbia County.

## Section 3: Definitions

<b>Agency</b>	Means the law enforcement organization employing the officer who used deadly physical force.
<b>Plan</b>	Means the final document approved by the Planning Authority, adopted by two-thirds of the governing bodies employing law enforcement agencies within Columbia County, and approved by the Attorney General. Any approved revisions shall become a part of the Plan.
<b>Police Officer</b>	Means a police officer or reserve officer as defined in ORS 181.610 and who is employed by a law enforcement agency to enforce the criminal laws of the State of Oregon.
<b>Deadly</b>	Means physical force that under the circumstances in which it is used is

<b>Physical Force</b>	readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury, as defined in O.R.S. 161.015(3)
<b>Serious Physical Injury</b>	Has the same meaning as “serious physical injury” as defined in ORS 161.015(8).
<b>Physical Injury</b>	Means impairment of physical condition or substantial pain that does not amount to “serious physical injury.”
<b>Involved Officer</b>	Means the person whose official conduct, or official order, was the cause in fact of the death of a person. “Involved Officer” also means an officer whose conduct was not the cause in fact of the death, but who was involved in the incident before or during the use of deadly physical force, including a “witness officer,” and this involvement was reasonably likely to expose the officer to a heightened level of stress or trauma.
<b>Body-Cam</b>	Means an audio / video recorder that is worn on the person of the officer and is used to create a real-time recording of an incident or event that occurs within the “view” of the camera.
<b>Dash-Cam</b>	Means an audio / video recorder that is mounted on or within a law enforcement vehicle and may include multiple cameras at different locations on or within the vehicle. The Dash-Cam is used to create a real-time recording of an incident or event that occurs within the “view” of the camera(s).

## Section 4: Immediate Aftermath

- (1) When an officer uses deadly physical force, the officer shall immediately take whatever steps are reasonable and necessary to protect the safety of the officer and any member of the public.
  - (a) After taking such steps, the officer shall immediately notify his or her agency of the use of deadly physical force.
  - (b) Thereafter, the officer, if able, shall take such steps as are reasonably necessary to preserve the integrity of the scene and to preserve evidence.
  - (c) Upon request, the officer shall provide a preliminary Public Safety Statement regarding the circumstances of the incident or event as is necessary to protect persons and property, identify outstanding suspects, direction of travel, discharge of firearm(s), preserve any evidence, and to provide a framework for the investigation.

The on-scene supervisor shall use the Public Safety Statement card that is provided by the supervisor's employing agency, as mentioned in section 9(2) and listed in Appendix "A" of this plan, to conduct the Public Safety Statement interview with the involved officer(s). If possible, only the on-scene supervisor and the involved officer should be present during the Public Safety Statement. If multiple officers are involved, the same supervisor should conduct the Public Safety Statement with each involved officer individually.

The on-scene supervisor shall read each of the questions on the Public Safety Statement card provided as-written and shall write down the involved officer's responses.

Details of the incident learned from the Public Safety Statement(s) should be used to guide the course of the investigation.

- (2) If the use of deadly physical force results in physical injury only, the Agency may employ its own resources to investigate and document the incident.
  - (a) This section does not prohibit the Agency from requesting investigative assistance from an outside law enforcement agency.

## Section 5: Serious Physical Injury/Death

When the use of deadly physical force results in death or serious physical injury to any person, in addition to the requirements of Section 4 (1) of this Plan, and notwithstanding agency policy, the following provisions apply:

- (1) Upon the arrival of additional officers, sufficient to manage the scene, each Involved Officer shall be relieved of the above duties set forth in Section 4 (1) of the Plan, and the duties shall be re-assigned to uninvolved police personnel.
- (2) As soon as practicable, each Involved Officer shall leave the scene, as directed by his or her supervisor, and be offered an opportunity for a medical examination. If the officer is not in need of medical treatment, the officer shall be taken to the Agency office or other designated secure location. If requested by the Involved Officer, the officer's union representative shall be notified.

As soon as is practicable, and prior to each officer leaving the scene, if possible, each involved officer will be photographed fully.

- (3) As soon as practicable, the duty weapon of any officer who fired their weapon shall be seized by investigators, and replaced with a substitute weapon, if appropriate. The seizure of the weapon will include a count of expended or

unexpended rounds in the weapon and their relative position in the weapon at the time of the examination by investigators.

Any officer who was in the immediate vicinity where weapons were fired shall have their duty weapon(s) inspected for indication of firing and seized if the weapon reasonably appears to have been discharged. Any weapon seized pursuant to this section will undergo an examination of the weapon as described earlier in this section.

Photographs depicting the results of the above-described weapons examination will be taken of all weapons seized.

(4) Interview of an “Involved Officer”:

As used in this section “interview” refers to formal interview of the officer by assigned investigative personnel that occurs a reasonable time after the incident, and after the officer has had an opportunity to consult with counsel, if so desired.

- (a) The interview of the involved officer(s) who discharged a firearm during a use of deadly physical force incident resulting in death or serious physical injury, shall occur after a reasonable period of time to prepare for the interview and taking into account the emotional and physical state of the officer(s). The interview shall occur no sooner than 48 hours after the incident, but may occur later than 48 hours as set by any pertinent Collective Bargaining Agreement, unless this waiting period is waived by the officer.
- (b) The waiting period does not preclude an on-scene preliminary Public Safety Statement interview with the officer(s) to assess and make an initial evaluation of the incident.
- (c) The on-scene supervisor shall take immediate action to stabilize the situation, ensure notification of the appropriate staff and agencies.
- (d) The scene shall be secured and managed consistent with the control of any other major crime scene. Only personnel necessary to conduct the investigation shall be permitted access to the scene. When it is determined that no evidence will be contaminated or destroyed, the officer(s) involved may conduct a “walk through” to assist in the investigation.

The “walk through” will be attended by investigators. Involved officers who participate in the “walk through” may be accompanied by legal counsel, an accompanying officer, or both. The “walk through” will be recorded using either audio or audio/video equipment.



Prior to being interviewed, involved officers may view only those body-cam recordings that were captured by camera(s) that were worn on their own person and may view no other recordings from body-cams worn by other officers.

Prior to being interviewed, involved officers may view only those dash-cam recordings that were captured by audio / video equipment installed on or within the law enforcement vehicle the involved officer was driving or was a passenger in when the law enforcement vehicle arrived at the location the recording was captured, and may view no other dash-cam recordings.

- (5) For at least 72 hours immediately following an incident in which the use of deadly physical force by a police officer resulted in the death of a person, a law enforcement agency may not return an Involved Officer to duties that might place the officer in a situation in which the officer has to use deadly force.
- (6) Officer(s) involved in discharging his or her firearm that results in death or serious physical injury shall immediately be placed on administrative leave until such time as sufficient information exists to determine the justification in the use of deadly physical force and that the officer(s) have had an opportunity for mental health counseling with an outcome that no issues would preclude the officer(s) from performing the duties of a police officer.
- (7) In the 6 months following a use of deadly physical force incident that results in a death, or at any time the jurisdictional agency head deems appropriate, the Agency shall offer each Involved Officer a minimum of two opportunities for mental health counseling. The officer shall be required to attend at least one session of mental health counseling.
  - (a) At agency expense, the involved officer (s) shall be scheduled for an appointment with a licensed mental health counselor for a counseling session with a follow-up session scheduled at a date determined by the mental health professional.
  - (b) The counseling sessions are not to be considered fitness for duty evaluations, and are to be considered privileged between the officer and counselor.
- (8) After consultation with the involved officer, the Agency or officer shall notify the officer's family according to the Agency's SOP, order or other policy regarding such notification.
- (9) As soon as practicable after the arrival of a supervisor, notification shall be made to the District Attorney as provided in Section 7(1) of this Plan.

- (a) This provision does not prevent the Agency from requiring additional notification requirements within their respective agency policies.
- (10) In the event of a use of deadly force that results in death or serious physical injury, the investigation shall be conducted by the Columbia County Major Crime Team (M.C.T.), pursuant to the existing written agreement creating the MCT, which has been adopted and approved by each jurisdiction employing a law enforcement agency. At a minimum, the agreement shall provide for:
- (a) A mission statement.
  - (b) Who will be the supervisor of the investigating officers, and the manner in which conflicts of interest will be resolved.
  - (c) The membership of the team, and the manner for selecting the members.
  - (d) Investigative protocols that do not conflict with the requirements of this Plan.
  - (e) Training of the members in the investigation of use of deadly force incidents.
  - (f) The assignment of at least one officer from an agency other than the involved officer's agency.
  - (g) The assignment of at least one officer from the involved officer's agency.
- (11) In the event that a conflict exists in the use of the M.C.T., the Involved Officer's Agency and the District Attorney shall consult and determine the appropriate manner in which the investigation will proceed.
- (12) The assignment of outside investigative personnel does not preclude the agency involved from conducting an investigation for administrative purposes as established by that agency and as set forth in the M.C.T. agreement. Such investigations may be necessary for civil preparation, determination of policy violations or training issues.
- (13) In order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and prosecution, if one occurs, the scene supervisor and investigative supervisor shall notify all involved officers to refrain from making public statements about the investigation, until

such time as the investigation has concluded and the District Attorney has made a determination regarding the criminal responsibility of all involved persons.

- (14) The Agency shall designate a representative to make an initial public statement about the incident. Such statement shall include:
  - (a) The time and place of the incident.
  - (b) The condition of any suspect.
  - (c) The nature of the use of deadly physical force.
- (15) Prior to a final determination being made by the District Attorney, the District Attorney and the primary investigative agency shall consult with each other and make a public release of information as is deemed appropriate.

## Section 6: Investigation Protocols

- (1) The investigation, at a minimum, shall consist of:
  - (a) Eyewitness interviews.
  - (b) Evidence collection.
  - (c) Scene documentation.
  - (d) Background interviews.
  - (e) Involved Officer interview(s)
- (2) The investigation shall be documented in written reports:
  - (a) The MCT shall include in the Standard Operating Procedure, a provision regarding the filing of reports regarding the criminal investigation. All police reports regarding the criminal investigation shall be made available to the MCT.
  - (b) Following any use of force by a police officer who is employed by any Columbia County law enforcement agency, that results in the death of a person, the employing law enforcement agency, or designee, shall promptly report the following information to the Oregon Department of Justice and to the Plan Administrator:
    - i. The name, gender, race, ethnicity and age of the decedent.
    - ii The date, time and location of the incident.

iii A brief description of the circumstances surrounding the incident.

- (c) All police reports shall be provided to the District Attorney and to the designated Plan Administrator, as identified in Section 10 of this plan.

## Section 7: District Attorney

- (1) When an incident of the use of deadly physical force by an officer occurs, and death or serious physical injury results, the agency shall, as soon as practicable notify the District Attorney's Office.
- (a) Notification shall be made to the District Attorney, Chief Deputy, or other senior member of the District Attorney's staff.
- (2) When a use of deadly physical force by an officer occurs, and death or serious physical injury results, the District Attorney, and/or a senior member of his staff will consult with the agency regarding the investigation and implementation of the other elements of this plan.
- (3) The District Attorney has the sole statutory and constitutional duty to make the decision on whether to present a matter to a Grand Jury.
- (a) Preliminary Hearings will not be used as a method of reviewing an officer's use of deadly force.
- (b) The District Attorney will consult with the investigating agency and make the decision on whether to present the case to a Grand Jury.
- (1) The timing of the decision will be made by the District Attorney at such time as he/she has determined that sufficient information is available to competently make the decision.
- (c) If the District Attorney decides to present a case to the Grand Jury, the District Attorney shall promptly notify the investigating agency, the involved officer's agency, and the involved officer's representative.
- (d) If the District Attorney decides that the investigation reveals that the officers use of deadly force was justified under Oregon law, and that Grand Jury review is unnecessary, the District Attorney shall so notify the Agency, the involved officer, the involved officer's representative, and the public.
- (4) If the use of deadly physical force results in physical injury to someone other than a police officer, upon completion of the investigation, all investigative information shall be forwarded to the District Attorney for review.

## Section 8: Debriefing

The use of deadly physical force by an officer has the potential to create strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with an officer's ability to function. These reactions may be manifested immediately, or over time. Further, these reactions may occur not only in an officer directly involved in the incident, but also in other officers within the Agency.

The requirements of this section provide a minimum framework, and are not intended to take the place of Agency policy. Agencies are encouraged to develop formal procedures to deal with an officer's stress response following a use of deadly force incident. Such policies should include a procedure that is implemented from the time of the incident and continue over time.

- (1) Upon a final determination by the District Attorney, the Agency shall conduct an internal review of the matter for compliance with agency policy. Such review, at a minimum shall include a review of the incident with the involved officer.
- (2) If the incident is of such a magnitude that agency-wide morale is implicated, the Agency shall take such steps as it deems necessary to ensure professional police services are provided, and to develop strategies to restore morale.
- (3) Each agency shall provide for a process for any officer who makes a request, to participate in a critical incident debriefing.
- (4) If available, agencies should encourage officers to take advantage of Employee Assistance Programs, and if appropriate, agencies should request assistance from other agencies that may have in place formal programs for dealing with critical incidents.

## Section 9: Reporting, Training, Outreach

- (1) Each law enforcement agency within Columbia County shall promulgate a policy addressing the Use of Deadly Physical Force by its police officers. Each law enforcement agency within Columbia County shall submit a copy of their policy addressing the use of Deadly Physical Force to the Administrator of the plan for inclusion in the plan. The Administrator of the plan shall include the policy from each agency in the plan and ensure that all policies are submitted by agencies as required. Each law enforcement agency within Columbia County, shall include in the agency policy regarding the Use of Deadly Force, a provision regarding engaging members of the community in a discussion regarding the agency's policies on the use of deadly force, and well as discussions regarding the use of deadly force by the agency's personnel.

- (2) Each law enforcement agency within Columbia County shall provide a copy of this Plan to every officer, incorporate the plan into agency policy documents and provide training to officers on the implementation of the plan. Additionally, each agency will provide necessary materials to supervisors of their agency so the supervisors have the Public Safety Statement questions listed in Appendix "A" available for use at the scene of a use of deadly force investigation.
- (3) Upon the conclusion of the investigation, the announcement by the District Attorney pursuant to Section 7(3) of this Plan, and the debriefing, the Agency shall complete the Attorney General's report regarding the use of force, and submit the report to the District Attorney, Plan Administrator (see Section 10) and the Attorney General.
- (4) Each agency that is a signer to this agreement shall abide by the conditions and requirements set forth in Senate Bill 111 and in ORS 181.640 or any subsequent DPSST rule or O.A.R. developed pursuant to the bill. Each agency shall develop an internal monitoring system to ensure compliance with this section.
- (5) Pursuant to Section 10 of this agreement, a Plan Administrator will be selected. The Plan Administrator will take steps to publicize the existence and content of this plan, including but not limited to public meetings and discussions and media releases. The Plan Administrator will cause public notification of this plan to occur on an annual basis.
- (6) Prior to the adoption of this Plan, the Planning Authority shall take steps to engage the Columbia County community in a discussion regarding the purpose of the Plan, and the elements contained therein. Such steps shall include, but are not limited to general public release of the draft, discussion with the media, providing the draft to agency employees, union representatives, elected officials, and members of relevant boards or commissions.

## Section 10: Fiscal Impact

- (1) At the conclusion of each fiscal year following the adoption of the Plan, each agency shall submit to the administrator of the Plan, a report outlining the fiscal impact of each element of the Plan as described in Sections (a) to (e) of Section 2 (4) of Senate Bill 111, Oregon Laws 2006.

The administrator of the plan shall be selected pursuant to a majority vote of the members of the Deadly Physical Force Planning Authority from willing candidate agencies.

## Section 11: Plan Revision

- (1) The Planning Authority shall meet, at least, annually to review and discuss the operation of the Plan and the MCT.
- (2) If a revision of the Plan becomes advisable, based on the experience of agencies signing this agreement, the Planning Authority shall meet and discuss such a revision. If the Planning Authority adopts a revision, such revision shall be submitted for approval as provided by Senate Bill 111.

## Section 12: Signatures

### CITY OF ST. HELENS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Scholl, Mayor

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Walsh, City Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

### CITY OF SCAPPOOSE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Burge, Mayor

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

### CITY OF COLUMBIA CITY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casey Wheeler, Mayor

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney



**CITY OF RAINIER**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Cole, Mayor

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**CITY OF CLATSKANIE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Manager

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF VERNONIA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rick Hobart, Mayor

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Administrator

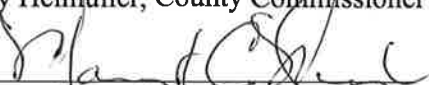
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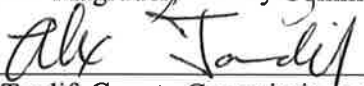
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Attorney

**COUNTY OF COLUMBIA**

By:   
Henry Heimuller, County Commissioner

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

By:   
Margaret Magruder, County Commissioner

By:   
Alex Tardif, County Commissioner

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Hanson, County Counsel

**OREGON STATE POLICE**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lt. Andrew Merilla