

**POLICY
407**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
07-22-16**

**Eugene
Police Department**



Watch Commander

407.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Every organization, regardless of size, jurisdiction, or trade, must have one person in charge and accountable for its daily operation. In private sector, this position is commonly referred to as the shift or operations manager; law enforcement commonly refers to this position as the Watch Commander.

The Patrol Division is the primary focus of the Watch Commander, however, the Watch Commander also has operational oversight of all emergent issues that affect the Police Department.

407.2 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Watch Commander is the Chief's designee in all operational deployment decisions of the organization until notified that they have been relieved of responsibility for an incident by a commanding officer of a higher rank. The primary function is to ensure the efficient operation of the Patrol Division at all times, but particularly during situations where there are stresses placed on critical department resources. Examples include:

- Complex and evolving crime scenes involving violence or significant threats to public safety
- Any officer involved shooting or use of deadly force
- A scene of an explosion or bomb threat
- A terrorist threat or act
- Any activation of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Crowd Control Team (CCT), Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) or Explosive Devices Unit (EDU) teams
- Any location where a Patrol Command has been established
- Significant man-made or natural disasters
- Any civil disturbance, protest, strike, or riotous behavior
- Any requests for mutual aid

- Scenes where the media is present and requesting interviews
 - a. Department organizational structure designates the Watch Commander as a lieutenant. If there is more than one lieutenant on-duty normally the senior lieutenant will be the Watch Commander, unless otherwise designated. There may arise an occasion where there is no lieutenant available. When this occurs the senior sergeant on patrol will be the de facto Watch Commander. In these instances that sergeant carries the full authority and responsibilities of the Watch Commander.
 - b. The Watch Commander will brief the incoming Watch Commander on any significant issues that occurred during their shift, or those which could impact the upcoming shift. They will ensure the Watch Commander telephone line and board are forwarded and updated to the incoming Watch Commander.
 - c. Command must be transferred to the new Watch Commander via radio broadcast on Channel 1 to notify all personnel that the transfer has taken place. The appropriate radio broadcast is the following: "Command 6 secure, Command 9 has the watch."

PETE KERNS
Chief of Police