



CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

GO # OPS-013: ESCAPES

EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/01/18

PURPOSE:

This Order establishes protocol for incidents of escapes from custody

POLICY:

A prisoner escape is a high profile incident that poses immediate and urgent danger to the community. In the event of the escape of a prisoner from the custody of any law enforcement agency and/or correctional facility in Chatham County, CCPD employees will follow the protocol outlined in this General Order.

PROCEDURE:

I. COMMUNICATIONS CENTER RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Upon notification of an escape, the Communications Center shall:

1. Issue a BOLO (be on the lookout) via radio transmission on all police channels.
2. Issue a BOLO (be on the lookout) via computer.
3. If the escape from custody was from the CCPD, National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) messages must be sent to surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions regarding the escape incident and description of the escapee(s).
4. If the escape from custody was from a law enforcement agency other than the CCPD or a detention or correctional facility in Chatham County, NCIC and GCIC messages will be sent only by request of the agency from which the escape was made.
5. Send "FAX" lookout information to all CCPD precincts, municipalities, and the Counter Narcotics Team (CNT).
6. Dispatch a uniformed Officer to the scene if the escape occurred in the City of Savannah or unincorporated Chatham County, including detention and correctional facilities.
7. Notify the CCPD Public Affairs Office (PIO).
8. In compliance with Chain of Command protocol, the Communications Center shall:
 - a. Notify appropriate command personnel to include the Chief of Police and Patrol Division Commanders.
 - b. Notify local law enforcement agencies throughout Chatham County.

- c. Notify law enforcement agencies in surrounding counties.

II. FIRST RESPONDING CCPD OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Upon arrival at the scene of an escape from custody, the first responding Officer will:
 1. Notify the CCPD Communications Center of the incident and provide, at a minimum, the following information for BOLOs.
 - Location of escape.
 - Date and time of escape.
 - Weapon possession, if any.
 - Detained for what criminal charges.
 - Last known direction of travel.
 - Name.
 - Known aliases.
 - Race/nationality.
 - Eye color.
 - Skin color.
 - Approximate height.
 - Approximate weight.
 - Approximate age.
 - Scars, marks, tattoos, etc.
 - Identifying jewelry / adornment.
 - Clothing description.
 2. Notify their immediate Supervisor of the incident and details.
 3. Request appropriate assistance such as the Aviation Unit, Canine Unit, Forensics Unit, or additional uniformed personnel.
 4. Request a Criminal Investigator to initiate a follow-up investigation.
 5. If applicable, establish a search perimeter.
 6. The first responding Officer shall complete an Incident Report and fax a copy to the PIO.
 7. Incident Reports will be completed for all escapes from custody, including escapes from other agencies in Chatham County. Incidents Reports will simply be titled, "Escape."
 8. If the escape was from the custody of a CCPD Officer, an Incident Report will be completed by the Officer from whose custody the escape occurred outlining the details of the escape.
 9. If the escape was from the custody of a non-CCPD Officer, within our jurisdiction an CCPD Officer will be dispatched to gather information for a CCPD Incident Report.

III. PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (PIO) RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The PIO will provide the news media with the necessary information for an alert broadcast to the citizens of Savannah-Chatham County, including an advisory as to the police response.
- B. The PIO will request the news media to cancel the broadcast alert when an escapee is captured and returned to custody.

IV. FURTHER ACTIONS

- A. If the escape from custody was from the CCPD, the Criminal Investigator assigned to the incident will be responsible for the filing of escape charges and obtaining warrants for escapees from CCPD custody in accordance with OCGA (Official Code of Georgia Annotated) 16-10-52.
- B. If the escape from custody was from a law enforcement agency other than the CCPD, the affected law enforcement agency will be responsible for the filing of escape charges and obtaining warrants for escapees from their custody.
- C. If the escape from custody was from a detention or correctional facility in Chatham County, the affected detention or correctional facility will be responsible for the filing of escape charges and obtaining warrants for escapees from their respective facilities.

BY ORDER OF:

Original Signature on File

Jeffrey M. Hadley
Chief of Police