

Major Incident Notification

327.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

327.2 POLICY

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

327.3 MINIMUM CRITERIA FOR NOTIFICATION

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

- Homicides, suspicious deaths, or deaths related to law enforcement activity
- Traffic crash with fatalities
- Officer-involved shooting, whether on- or off-duty (See the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy)
- Significant injury or death to an employee, whether on- or off-duty
- Death of a prominent Milwaukee official
- Arrest of agency employee or prominent Milwaukee official
- Aircraft, train, boat, or other transportation crashes with major damage and/or injury or death
- In-custody deaths
- A crash involving an agency vehicle
- Full freeway closure
- An arrest of an adult with children present
- Any use of force incident
- Any other incident, which has or is likely to attract significant media attention

327.4 SHIFT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Commander is responsible for making the appropriate notification.

327.4.1 INVESTIGATOR NOTIFICATION

If the incident requires that an investigator respond from home, the on-call Criminal Investigations Division supervisor shall be contacted.

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327.4.2 PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

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