

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order
No.205

Effective Date
11-01-1995

Revised Date
12-07-2017

Subject: Escape by Prisoner

Reviewed 12/7/17

POLICY

It is the policy of this department to treat escapes by prisoners as a major incident. All possible resources will be deployed to ensure the capture of an escaped prisoner as soon as possible.

This procedure is limited to the escape of a prisoner only. This procedure will not address attempting to take someone into custody who resists arrest by flight. The following procedure will be in three (3) parts: field response, communications response and documentation.

PROCEDURES

I. Field Response

- A. The officer who discovers the escape is responsible for making the notification to Communications and for coordinating the initial search efforts. Once this has been accomplished, he will notify his supervisor who will assume command.
- B. Time is crucial in providing communications with a description of the prisoner, his last known location and his direction of travel. This information will be transmitted immediately upon discovering an escape.
- C. The supervisor in command will summon as many additional units as necessary to conduct a thorough search. Only when all leads have been exhausted, will the search be abandoned. Only the supervisor in command or his superior will have the authority to end a search. All subordinate units assigned to the search will remain at their posts or within their assigned areas until notified.
- D. Once the escapee has been arrested, he will be processed as any other prisoner (with additional charges as necessary).

II. Communications Division Response

- A. Once a Communications Officer is notified an escape is in progress, the CO will initiate an emergency net and designate a channel for this emergency traffic only.
 1. From this point, until the designated supervisor declares the search abandoned or the escapee is captured, communications on the designated channel will be restricted.
 2. It will be the discretion of the involved field supervisor or uniform commander to determine at what point the situation is under control and to lift the emergency net on the channel.
 3. All other units not involved in the search who might normally monitor the involved channel may be temporarily directed to an alternate channel.

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- B. The communications operator will then notify his/her supervisor of the escape.
- C. The Communications supervisor will be responsible for contacting the Sheriff's Office and State Police and providing them with the suspect's description. Communications will be responsible for coordinating communications with these agencies as necessary.

III. Documentation

- A. The officer who was guarding the prisoner at the time of escape will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. All reports relative to the escape.
 - 2. Booking the prisoner if he is arrested during the officer's tour of duty and obtaining a warrant for the prisoner's arrest, if he is not.
 - 3. The officer in custody of the prisoner at the time of the escape will immediately provide CIU with a copy of the offense report so CIU can make a temporary NCIC entry. After the initial search of the area a warrant shall be secured (for the charge that led to the arrest and the escape) and provide CIU with a copy for NCIC entry (excluding misdemeanor charges which are not included in NCIC).
- B. The supervisor in charge of the incident will be responsible for the following:
 - 1. A complete investigation and report of the incident including a critique of performance(s) or procedures which led to the escape.
 - 2. A report on the ensuing searches, including recommendations for future such incidents.
 - 3. A verbal report to the commander on call immediately after the incident.
- C. A copy of the supervisor's reports will be forwarded to the Bureau Commander.
- D. If the escapee was arrested for homicide, armed robbery, aggravated burglary, forcible or aggravated rape, aggravated or second degree kidnapping, interference with child custody, aggravated escape, aggravated arson or any attempt of those crimes or as a fugitive from another jurisdiction wanted for a similar type crime or as fugitive from a Federal agency or was a mental patient being held for observation, the supervisor of the Criminal Bureau will be notified.
 - 1. As soon as practical, the supervisor will assign the manpower necessary to continue the investigation and locate the escapee.
 - 2. The Media Relations officer on call will also be notified in this event.

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- E. If the escapee was arrested for any other felony, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the Criminal Bureau through normal channels.

- F. If the escapee was arrested for a misdemeanor, a copy of the report will be forwarded to Misdemeanor Investigations for follow-up. No NCIC entry shall be made.