


# OGDEN CITY POLICE

## Office of the Chief

**Policy No: 46**

Subject Weber/Morgan Critical Incident Task Force	Effective Date August 2020
Department Police	Replaces Policy Dated March 2018
Division All Police Personnel	Review Date August 2024
Authorized Signature 	

**NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only and does not enlarge an officer’s civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this agency, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.**

**I. Purpose**

The Weber/Morgan Critical Incident Task Force (“task force”) has been formed to assist in the successful investigation and prosecution of critical incidents occurring in Weber and Morgan counties. Critical Incidents include, but are not limited to, the following: homicides, child kidnappings, suspicious missing person cases, active shooter/assailant cases, and conflict of interest cases. The task force may also be utilized upon request to assist Weber and Morgan counties deal with events involving mass fatalities. The primary purpose of the task force is to provide personnel and specific resources for the effective investigation and prosecution of critical incidents. Additionally, the task force is committed to training law enforcement officers in contemporary investigation and prosecution techniques. The task force should be viewed as an academic experience and utilized as such.

**II. Policy**

It is the policy of the task force to provide effective strategies for the successful investigation and prosecution of critical incidents that occur within Weber and Morgan counties. The task force, when called upon, will support all law enforcement agencies by providing manpower, training, and investigation assistance in all critical incident cases.

### **III. Organization**

- a. Executive Board. The executive board will be comprised of at least five representatives from the local law enforcement agencies representing the task force and one representative from the Weber County Attorney's Office. A chairperson of this board will be selected by the Weber and Morgan county police chiefs and sheriffs. The chairperson will hold the position for a term of three years. Upon the expiration of the term, the chiefs and sheriffs will either rename the chairperson to another term or nominate a replacement. The chairperson will choose the other representatives to serve on the executive board. The executive board will develop task force policies, procedures, and rules. The executive board will be responsible to report to all chiefs and sheriffs concerning task force activities.
- b. Task Force Commander. One commander will be chosen by the executive board. The commander must be a minimum rank of sergeant or have a minimum of five years investigative experience. The commander will be responsible for the daily operation and management of the task force. The commander will also be the immediate supervisor of all members of the task force while the task force is actively investigating a critical incident. The commander will name two squad leaders who will report directly to the commander. The commander will be the direct contact between the task force and the jurisdiction in which the critical incident occurs.
- c. Squad: A number of officers from several jurisdictions who are working with the task force under the immediate supervision of a squad leader. There will be two squads on the task force. All participating police departments within the two counties will be given an opportunity to provide the task force with a minimum of one officer to work with the task force.
- d. Squad Leader: Two squad leaders will be named from the task force. Each will be responsible for the immediate supervision of the members of the squad under their command. Each squad leader will coordinate the duties of their squad and report directly to the task force commander.
- e. Jurisdictional Supervisor. The ranking on scene supervisor from the jurisdiction of occurrence prior to the presence of the lead investigator.

- f. Lead Investigator. The investigator with the overall responsibility for the investigation. This investigator is assigned from and by the jurisdiction of occurrence.

#### **IV. Procedures**

- a. The task force may be called upon to assist in critical incidents referred to in the policy statement that occur in Weber or Morgan counties. If a case involves an incident where a police officer may be the actor, victim, or custodial officer, where a fatal injury, custodial death, or injury caused by a dangerous weapon occurs, the Officer-Involved Critical Incident Protocol will be invoked and control. The task force team would be available to assist in any officer-involved critical incident cases upon request.
- b. When any of the prior described incidents occur in Weber or Morgan counties, the jurisdictional supervisor will immediately secure the crime scene with an inner and outer perimeter and not allow anyone into the inner perimeter. The outer perimeter should be formed at a reasonable distance from the inner perimeter to preserve the integrity of the entire scene and no one but investigating officers, task force members, crime scene investigators, the deputy medical examiner, county attorney representatives, and emergency medical personnel (when necessary) will be allowed inside the outer perimeter. The officer in charge of crime scene security must document all persons entering the perimeter and any person entering must complete and submit a written report. The lead investigator, crime scene investigator, medical examiner, county attorney, and the task force commander shall be notified by phone by the jurisdictional supervisor as soon as practical. The task force commander and jurisdictional supervisor will make a determination regarding the utilization of the team at this time. If it is decided that the task force is needed, a staging area will be identified with input from the commander and jurisdictional supervisor.
- c. The task force commander will contact one or both squads, depending upon the amount of manpower needed. Text message paging will be utilized through the Weber Metro Dispatch center to notify members of the task force as to the staging area and time to meet with their squad leader.
- d. The task force commander, or designated squad leader, will immediately meet with the jurisdictional supervisor and coordinate inner and outer perimeter security.
- e. The inner perimeter shall stay undisturbed until the task force

commander, or squad leader, lead investigator, the medical examiner (when applicable), and the crime scene investigator arrive at the scene.

- f. The lead investigator and the task force commander, or designated squad leader, will assess the situation and develop a prioritized list.
- g. The lead investigator has primary responsibility for the resolution of the incident and must be at the center of the information loop. The task force commander and squad leaders must work closely with the lead investigator, especially in the critical early stages to ensure rapid organization, direction, and information flow.
- h. As squad members complete their assignments, they will report to their respective squad leaders who will continually forward the information to the task force commander. The task force commander will communicate with the lead investigator and the county attorney representative to evaluate the investigation.
- i. In cases where the task force commander is not available to respond to a critical incident, he will designate in advance the squad leader to assume responsibilities. The squad leader assuming the duties of the task force commander will designate a member of his squad as the acting squad leader.
- j. All press releases will be made by the lead investigator or jurisdictional supervisor following input received from the task force commander and county attorney representative.
- k. All squad members involved in any aspect of the investigation will complete a written report within 48 hours of the original call out and investigation and submit the report to the squad leader. The squad leader will be responsible for reviewing and approving the report before the squad member is allowed to leave. The squad leader will then submit the report immediately to the task force commander. The task force commander will immediately give copies of the reports to the lead investigator. All reports will be passed along as soon as they are made available.

## **V. Additional Resources**

- a. A list of officers throughout the county who speak foreign languages will be compiled and made available to the task force commander for assistance. Call out of these officers will be made by the task force commander through the on duty supervisor of the jurisdiction where the officer is employed.

- b. As per state law, the Office of the Medical Examiner will be immediately notified on all homicides. The medical examiner representative will coordinate with the task force commander, the lead investigator, and the crime scene investigator at the scene.
- c. The Weber/Morgan Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) Unit will be called on all homicides. The crime scene investigator will coordinate with the task force commander, the lead investigator, and the medical examiner representative at the crime scene.