



PRESS RELEASE

Sheriff's Office Hosts Multi-Agency Crisis Training

July 10, 2014— Law enforcement often responds to situations involving individuals who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. These incidents require the assistance of trained professionals. The [Washington County Sheriff's Office Crisis Negotiation Unit \(CNU\)](#) regularly trains to assist people in their time of need. The CNU is comprised of Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputies, members of the FBI, and officers from the Hillsboro, Beaverton and Tigard Police Departments.



On July 9, 2014, the CNU hosted a multi-agency crisis training event at Hillsboro High School. Participating in the training were Washington County CNU, Portland Police Bureau, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office with Oregon City Police Department, Western States Hostage Negotiator's Association, Hillsboro Fire Department, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and Washington County Mental Health.

The scenario-based training provided the opportunity for partner agencies to train side-by-side and learn from each other in order to enhance responses both individually and as a group. The training focused on safety for all people involved, then concentrated on active communication with the individual experiencing the mental health crisis or in emotional distress. There were about 80 participants, including volunteer role players to help add the real-life aspect for the negotiators. The crisis scenarios ranged from active threat situations to suicidal situations. The Hillsboro Fire Department and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue used ladder trucks to transport negotiators to the rooftop to negotiate with role players in diverse and hazardous situations (photo attached).

For many years, the Washington County Sheriff's Office has trained deputies and assisted other law enforcement agencies in helping individuals in crisis situations. This training varies from smaller scale situations to large scale multi-agency operations similar to the one yesterday.

The Sheriff's Office is pleased to have this opportunity to train together to provide improved services to the citizens of Washington County and the metropolitan area. The Sheriff's Office would like to thank everyone involved, including the Hillsboro School District for generously allowing the use of their school buildings to facilitate the training in a real-life environment.

The Sheriff's Office urges anyone who hears of, or has knowledge of, someone in a crisis situation to please notify their local law enforcement or a mental health crisis center.

Sergeant Bob Ray

Sheriff's Public Information Officer

Phone: (503) 209-5613

