

WEBER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		POLICY AND PROCEDURES	
SUBJECT: News Media Access to Incident or Crime Scenes		CHAPTER/SECTION NO.: 40.5	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/7/03		REVIEW DATE:	
AMENDS/SUPERSEDES: See attached sheet		APPROVED: <u>    <b>** On File **</b>    </u> <b>SHERIFF</b>	
STANDARD NUMBER: 54.1.3			

## 40.5 Policy

- 40.5.1 News media representatives, including photographers, will have the same rights of access to a crime scene, major fires, natural disasters, or other catastrophic events as the general public. News media representatives will:
- A. Be allowed within designated outer perimeters and/or,
  - B. Be directed to locations identified by incident command for media staging purposes.
- 40.5.2 If the media is granted access to a crime scene, or other event, the following will pertain:
- A. Restrictions by this Office on access of news media representatives to the scenes of crime or major events will be when such access or entry would:
    - 1. Interfere with public safety (police, fire or other emergency) operations.
    - 2. Damage, alter, or destroy evidence.
    - 3. Present or increase a danger to other persons.
  - B. If allowed access beyond the outer perimeter of crime scenes or other events, news media representatives including photographers, must be supervised at all times by the Office PIO, command officer, or other designated deputy

sheriff to assure public safety and prevent any alterations of conditions or damage to possible evidence.

- C. This subsection will not be interpreted as meaning this Office may grant access to buildings or areas that would not otherwise be available to the news media.
- D. An explanation by the PIO or other command officer of why it is necessary to restrict access will be made to the news media representative involved. Absent exigent circumstances, this explanation will be furnished at the time access is restricted.
- E. All access to incidents of a major or sensitive nature, may be approved by the Incident Commander after notifying the Sheriff or his/her designee of the incident.