



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT

MANUAL TRANSMITTAL SHEET

Release
Rel. 9-462

Date
07/28/2026

Office Code
HQ-120

Subject: MS9260 Law Enforcement General Order 21 - Officer Involved Shooting

FOIA
Designation P
Letter:

1. Updates, supersedes, or rescinds:

General Order (GO) 21 – Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) contains new policies developed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Office of Law Enforcement and Security (OLES). These directives establish interim policy and procedural guidance for BLM Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) and their supervisors involved in, or responding to, officer-involved shootings.

2. Explanation of Materials Transmitted:

GO-21 is intended to be public-facing and limited in scope. It provides limited details regarding roles and responsibilities, investigative and reporting requirements, and post-incident procedures following an officer-involved shooting involving a BLM LEO.

3. Reports Required:

None

4. Delegations of Authority Updated:

None

5. Filing Instructions: File as directed below.

REMOVE

All of GO 21 (Rel. 9-360)
(Total: 3 pages)

INSERT

All of MS-9260-21(Rel. 9-462)
(Total: 5 Pages)

ERIC KRILEY

Digitally signed by ERIC KRILEY
Date: 2026.07.28 14:22:04
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Eric A. Kriley
Director
Office of Law Enforcement and Security



OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

Order Number **21**

Dated **July 28, 2026**

Number of Pages **5**

Issued by

Director, Bureau of Land Management, Office Law Enforcement and Security

Table of Contents

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. PURPOSE | 4. DEFINITIONS |
| 2. SCOPE | 5. FILE |
| 3. AUTHORITY | AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE |
| | 6. POLICY |

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish the required actions following an Officer-Involved Shooting (OIS) incident. These procedures apply when an on-duty or off-duty Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) discharges a firearm to prevent death or serious bodily harm to themselves or another person.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to all BLM delegated LEOs and their supervisors. It outlines all activities, processes, and practices associated with an OIS incident. Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede applicable law, regulations, and/or Department of the Interior Policy (DOI). In the event of conflict, applicable law, regulation, and/or DOI policy will govern.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. 43 U.S.C. § 1733
- b. 5 U.S.C. § 6329(a) & (b)
- c. 5 C.F.R. § 630(n)
- d. Public Law 117-60

4. DEFINITIONS

9260 – LAW ENFORCEMENT GENERAL ORDERS
General Order 21

Administrative Investigation: An administrative investigation conducted by the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) to evaluate the actions, decisions, and policy compliance of BLM LEO(s) involved in an OIS incident.

Administrative Review: Administrative reviews are generally comprised of a Board of Review, (when applicable). They address matters related to agency policy, procedures, and civil liabilities involving BLM and BLM personnel.

Criminal Investigation:

- a. A criminal investigation will be conducted into the suspect(s) involved in the incident, including the original violation that prompted law enforcement response and the actions that led to the OIS. This investigation will be conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or another agency with jurisdiction and may result in criminal charges against the suspect(s).
- b. A separate criminal investigation will examine the primary officer's use of force in the OIS. This investigation, also conducted by the FBI or an outside agency with jurisdiction, may result in criminal proceedings if the officer's actions are found to be unreasonable or excessive.

Involved LEO(s): Primary and Secondary LEO(s) in an OIS and are responsible for securing the scene and participating in post OIS incident interviews or as directed by the investigative unit.

OIS Incident: Any incident in which an on-duty or off-duty BLM LEO(s) intentionally discharges a firearm at an individual to prevent death or serious bodily harm to themselves or another person, or when a BLM LEO unintentionally discharges a firearm that results in death or serious bodily harm to any individual.

Post-Incident LEO(s): Any BLM LEO(s) or an allied agency LEO who responded to the location after the OIS incident had concluded and the scene had been secured. These officers did not witness the shooting itself but were exposed to the immediate aftermath, including scene conditions, injured parties, or critical post-incident operations.

Serious Bodily Injury: Any bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, unconsciousness, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

5. FILE AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Law Enforcement records will be maintained in accordance with the Law Enforcement General Orders and Handbooks, and the Bureau Records Retention Catalog.

6. POLICY

9260 – LAW ENFORCEMENT GENERAL ORDERS
General Order 21

When a BLM LEO is involved in an OIS incident, a defined series of steps will be implemented to investigate the actions leading up to and during the incident. This policy outlines the required investigative processes as well as the post incident procedures taken to facilitate an involved LEO's health, mental health, and return to duty process.

6.1. OIS REPORTING

When a BLM LEO is involved in an OIS, a defined sequence of actions will be initiated. This sequence may vary by jurisdiction, including differences in which agencies respond to and investigate the incident.

6.1.1 INVOLVED BLM LEO(S)

When a BLM LEO is involved in an OIS, the LEO will take immediate actions to ensure safety and preserve the integrity of the scene within their capabilities. The involved LEO must secure the suspect and area to protect themselves and others, render or summon necessary first aid, and take reasonable steps to preserve evidence barring limitations from injury. Once the scene is safe, the LEO will notify the dispatch center, if not already done, and promptly notify their supervisor.

6.1.2 RESPONDING LEO(S) AND CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION (CSI) TEAM

Uninvolved LEOs arriving on scene will assume responsibility for initial scene management until relieved by the designated investigating agencies. Once the CSI team arrives, their investigative protocols will be implemented and followed for the duration of the investigation.

6.2. MEDICAL AID

As soon as reasonably practicable following an OIS incident and once the scene has been secured, any on-scene LEO must provide or obtain appropriate medical assistance for any subject who has visible or apparent injuries, reports being injured, or requests medical attention.

6.3. SURRENDER OF WEAPON(S)

Once the OIS scene has been determined safe and the appropriate investigating agency has arrived, any firearm discharged by a BLM LEO during the incident must be relinquished to the designated investigator. This investigator may be a law enforcement officer or a crime scene technician responsible for collecting and processing evidence related to the OIS. The weapon should be replaced on scene by a responding officer.

6.4. OIS INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TYPES

There are multiple investigations conducted simultaneously after an OIS incident. These investigations are categorized as criminal, civil, and administrative investigations, and may be dependent on each other. However, each investigation serves a unique purpose. The following procedures are used in the investigation of an OIS.

6.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

The FBI retains primary right of refusal for any OIS investigation involving the murder or assault of a BLM LEO(s), or any allegation that a BLM LEO deprived an individual of rights under color of law. If the FBI declines or is unable to assume the investigation, the appropriate federal, state, county, or local agency with jurisdiction will conduct the criminal investigation.

The investigating agency is responsible for establishing the facts of the OIS incident. Until that agency determines whether the LEO's actions were reasonable, the involved BLM LEO(s) remains under investigation.

6.4.2 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION

The BLM administrative investigation, Board of Review, is an internal review focused on compliance with agency policy, adherence to law enforcement training, shortfalls in policy and training, and the actions of the involved BLM LEO.

6.5. AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDING

All available mobile audio/video recordings, body worn camera footage, and any other known video or audio evidence will be collected at the direction of the investigating agency.

6.6. DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

An involved BLM LEO must provide sufficient information regarding any criminal activity to support the apprehension and prosecution of outstanding suspects. Any such statement will be provided to an investigator from the investigating agency.

6.7. MEDIA

In the event of media inquiries, any release of information must be prepared with input and concurrence from the OLES Media Liaison, the Public Information Officer, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the investigating agency per General Order 32 – Release of Information.

6.8. LEO POST INCIDENT PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Involvement in an OIS may result in physical or psychological injury, including post-traumatic stress. Any involved BLM LEO(s) will be provided appropriate post incident medical care and mental health support.

6.9. PHYSICAL HEALTH

Any involved BLM LEO who sustains injuries will receive medical treatment as soon as possible. The LEO should obtain follow-up care as necessary until all injuries are fully treated and resolved.

6.10. MENTAL HEALTH

All primary and secondary LEO(s) involved in an OIS incident will receive post-traumatic counseling from a Licensed Mental Health Professional (LMHP) experienced in law enforcement OIS incidents.

6.11. CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CISM)

CISM services will be provided to all BLM LEOs involved in an OIS, as well as to any post-incident BLM personnel who experience traumatic stress, psychological impacts, or exposure to the OIS scene.

6.12. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

Any BLM LEOs involved will be placed on administrative leave with pay for up to 10 working days following an OIS. Administrative leave is provided to the involved LEO(s) to allow time to process the incident, participate in follow-up meetings with a LMHP, and gather the information necessary to support a return-to-duty decision.

6.13. LEO RETURN TO DUTY

Due to the potential emotional and psychological impacts of an OIS incident, a Return-to-Duty Support Plan may be implemented to ensure the involved LEO feels fully prepared and confident before resuming operational duties.