

Portland Copwatch
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March 8, 2016

To: Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum
1162 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Portland Copwatch

Re: List of Law Enforcement Deadly Force Incidents in Oregon 2010-2015

Attorney General Rosenblum:

On October 17, 2014 and January 21, 2015, Portland Copwatch sent you a database of 111 deadly force incidents in Oregon (or involving Oregon law enforcement) from January 2010 to December 2014. While we were contacted by someone from your office suggesting that there would be follow-up regarding your compliance with SB 111 (2007) regarding publishing the incidents in which a person died, we have not heard back again. Another year has passed and there were at least 25 more incidents, which we've integrated into our database, along with 5 incidents from 2013-2014 we discovered in the interim. Below we have done analysis of the 141 incidents, which include 79 deaths that should be part of the AG's report.

We believe with all the attention on a recent shooting in Oregon, now would be a good time for the AG to publish these numbers.

To summarize our updated findings:

* Totals:

- 141 incidents involving 142 civilians
- 131 shootings, 70 ending in death (53%)
- 6 Taser-related deaths
- 2 deaths in custody
- 2 vehicles as deadly force, 1 ending in death

* Location of 140 incidents (excluding one in Washington state):

- The incidents occurred in 22 of Oregon's 36 counties
- The incidents happened in 60 municipalities or unincorporated areas of counties in Oregon.
- The top 5 cities accounted for 63 incidents (45%); the top 5 counties accounted for 95 (68%).

* Agencies involved:

- 50 Oregon agencies were involved including incidents involving multiple agencies
- Most frequently involved were Portland Police (29), Oregon State Police (17), Washington County Sheriffs (10), Salem Police (9), Clackamas County Sheriffs (7), Medford Police (6), and Hillsboro Police (6).

[Note: this list includes 6 new shootings by the PPB, 5 by the OSP, 2 each by Medford Police, Washington County and Clackamas County, and 1 by Salem PD.]

* Broken down by year:

--2010:

--- 22 incidents
----20 shootings, 9 ending in death
----6 in Portland
----1 by US Marshals
----1 with no hits
----2 Taser-related deaths

--2011:

--- 14 incidents
----13 shootings, 5 ending in death
----4 in Portland plus one death in custody
----1 by off duty Federal Protective Service officer
----2 with no hits
----1 death in custody (in Portland, as noted above)

--2012:

--- 28 incidents
----25 shootings, 12 ending in death
----6 in Portland
----1 by US Marshals
----2 with no hits
----3 Taser-related deaths

--2013:**

--- 29 incidents
----28 shootings, 13 ending in death
----2 in Portland
----3 with no hits
----1 Taser-related death

--2014:**

--- 23 incidents
----21 shootings, 16 ending in death
----4 in Portland
----1 death in custody
----1 deadly force using vehicle

--2015:

--- 25 incidents
----24 shootings, 16 ending in death
----6 in Portland
----1 involving US Marshals
----1 deadly force using vehicle ending in death

* Race: We do not have enough information to break down the list by race statewide.

--6 of the 29 Portland shootings/deaths were of African Americans, or 21% of victims in a city that is 6% black.

--At least 8 of the 142 suspects were African Americans, or 6% in a state which is 2% black.

* Gender: All but eight of the 142 suspects were male (94%).
As noted last year, four of the eight cases involving women shot (or tasered) in six years were in 2014.

* Age: The victims ranged in age from 17 to 88.
--Most common ages were 29 (8); 49 (7); 23, 25, 31 and 55 (6); 20, 27, 34 and 37 (5); 22, 28, 30, 44 and 47 (4). [4 of the people we added this year were 55.]
--Average age was 39 [up slightly from 38].

* Veterans: We noted that at least eight of the victims were primarily identified as military veterans in some kind of psychological crisis [with two new such cases in 2015]. We are still unable to track how many of the suspects were in crisis.

As of today, the only indictment for an officer in any of these cases that we know of ended with the unfortunate suicide of Portland Officer Dane Reister last May, whose prosecution for a 2011 shooting was never carried out as an appeal from the Multnomah District Attorney was pending at the time of his death. We continue to encourage the AG's office to look into the idea of special prosecutors for these incidents, since local DAs are unlikely to pursue charges in cases involving officers they need to convict criminal suspects in their daily court proceedings.

We hope to hear back from you soon.
dan handelman
Portland Copwatch

**Added 2 shooting deaths in 2013 and 3 in 2014 to previous totals.

NOTES:

(A) Explanation of data other than shootings by Oregon law enforcement (or not in Oregon) resulting in injury or death:

---Shootings with no hits are included because the officer(s) intended to injure or kill the suspects, so the incidents should be tracked as deadly force anyway and investigated as attempted homicides.

---Incidents involving federal agencies within Oregon's borders should be of concern to the State.

---The incident near Lincoln City in 2014 in which an officer using a patrol car struck a suspect who was on foot should be counted as deadly force, especially since the suspect ended up in critical condition. The incident in Klamath Falls in 2015 saw the officer hit the suspect's car, causing his death.

---An incident in Wishram, Washington involved deadly force by a plainclothes officer from The Dalles.

(B) Breakdown of incident data:

--By location (140 incidents in Oregon): 31 in Portland; 11 in/near Salem; 8 in/near Medford; 7 in Aloha; 6 in Hillsboro; 3 in Beaverton, Eugene, Fairview, in/near Grants Pass, Gresham, Klamath Falls, and McMinnville; 2 in Eagle Point, Lebanon, Pendleton, Roseburg, in/near Silverton, in/near The Dalles, and Tigard; and 1 each in or around Albany, Ashland, Astoria, Athena, Bend, Bethany, Boring, Brownsville, Clackamas County, Colton, Cornelius, Elgin, Forest Grove, Gladstone, Happy Valley, Hermiston, Hubbard, Lakeview, Lincoln City, Madras, Molalla, Mt. Angel, Myrtle Creek, Newport, North Albany, Oakridge, Ontario, Oregon City, Redmond, Reedsport, Sandy, Scappoose, Sisters, Springfield, St. Helens, Talent, Turner, Warren, Winchester Bay, Woodburn, Yachats and Yamhill County.

--By county: 37 in Multnomah; 21 in Washington; 16 in Marion; 12 in Jackson; 9 in Clackamas, 5 in Douglas and Lane; 4 in Umatilla and Yamhill; 3 in Columbia, Deschutes, Josephine, Klamath, Lincoln, and Linn; 2 in Benton and Wasco; and 1 each in Clatsop, Jefferson, Lake, Malheur, and Union.

--By agency: Portland Police (29-including 1 SERT), Oregon State Police (17-including 1 SWAT), Salem Police (9), Washington County Sheriffs (10-including 1 TNT), Clackamas County Sheriffs (7-including 2 SWAT), Hillsboro Police (6), Medford Police (6), Marion County Sheriffs (5), Jackson County Sheriffs (4), Beaverton Police (3), Eugene Police (3), Fairview Police (3), Gresham Police (3), The Dalles Police (2), Douglas County Sheriffs (2), Forest Grove Police (2), Klamath County Sheriff's Office (2), Klamath Falls Police (2), Reedsport Police (2), Springfield Police (2), and 1 each by Astoria Police, Bend Police, Benton County Sheriffs, Columbia County Sheriffs, Cornelius Police, Deschutes County Sheriffs, Eagle Point Police, Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution, Elgin Police, Gladstone Police, Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Hermiston Police, Lebanon Police, Linn County Sheriff's Office, McMinnville Police, Milwaukie Police, Mt. Angel Police, Myrtle Creek Police, Newberg-Dundee Police, Newport Police, Ontario Snake River Corrections Officers, Pendleton Police, Roseburg Police, Silverton Police, St. Helens Police, Tigard Police, Woodburn Police, Yamhill County Sheriff's Office, and Yamhill Police; also three shootings by US Marshals and one off duty Federal Protective Service officer, one which involved the Department of Justice and two with Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. [Note that police in Athena, Bend, Linn County, Newport, Roseburg and Yamhill County are new to this list.]