



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO

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Sheriff

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Press Release

To: All media outlets
From: Det. Jennifer L. McFarland
Public Information Officer
CC: Latah County Sheriff's Office
Date: 19 August 2005
RE: Changes in service

As of the publication of this release, the Latah County Sheriff's Office will be temporarily changing our response to certain incidents due to factors beyond our immediate control.

As you are all aware, fuel prices have been on a steep increase in the past several months—with no end to the incline in sight. Insufficient allowances were written into the previous budget to accommodate for such increases. As the County heads into the next budget year (October), we are also heading into increased financial burdens due to several factors, including the McMillan trial. Unfortunately, these factors, have forced the Sheriff's Office to restructure our response to crimes.

As always, we will remain a full-time, full-service law enforcement agency, but the public will have to understand certain calls that previously merited personal contact will now be handled by telephone. If you call the Sheriff's Office to report such crimes as: a misdemeanor property crime, a telephone harassment, petit theft (with no suspects), or a non-reportable traffic accident, expect that your call will be handled courteously and professionally over the telephone (the preceding list is not all-inclusive). You might be requested to file a written complaint at the Sheriff's Office rather than have a deputy respond to your home for certain reports. Additionally, we ask that citizens requesting VIN (vehicle identification number) checks bring their vehicle (when possible) along with any pertinent documents to the DMV or to the Sheriff's Office for inspection. Of course when such arrangements cannot be made, we will schedule a specific time for the inspection. Other calls for service might be affected as well.

In an effort to reduce our fuel consumption, deputies will operate in teams and will spend more time on foot-patrol or stationary-radar patrol.

The Sheriff's Office will not reduce any emergency services nor will we falter in our commitment to excellent service and professionalism. We continue to strive to give Latah County reliable and dedicated law enforcement. We hope that these cut-backs are, indeed, temporary and that we will be able to return to our normal procedures as soon as possible.

Any questions or comments regarding this release should be directed to PIO Jennifer L. McFarland.