

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA POLICY

433.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office authorizes the use of FLOCK SAFETY cameras for law enforcement and community safety purposes. These devices gather and analyze the data to enable the rapid identification and location of vehicles and persons of legitimate interest to law enforcement. The FLOCK SAFETY camera used by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office to convert data associated with vehicle license plates for official law enforcement purposes, including identifying stolen or wanted vehicles, stolen license plates, Amber Alerts, Silver Alerts, and Missing/Endangered Persons.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the use, management, and operation of FLOCK SAFETY cameras by the Skamania County Sheriff's Office. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office is committed to utilizing FLOCK SAFETY cameras to enhance community safety, deter and solve crimes, maintain public trust, and support the overall mission of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office.

433.1.1 FLOCK SAFETY FALCON (LPR)

The Skamania County Sheriff's Office employs the use of the FLOCK SAFETY FALCON, a license plate reader (LPR). It is a system consisting of a camera and related equipment. The LPR camera automatically, and without direct human control, locate, focus on, and photograph vehicles and license plates that come into range of the FLOCK SAFETY camera device. The LPR cameras capture a contextual photo of the vehicle, an image of the license plate, the geographic coordinates of where the image was captured, and the date and time of the recording. The LPR devices capture images of a vehicles rear license plate and transforms that image into alphanumeric characters. That data is then compared to official local, state, and federal database records, and alerts are delivered to authorized law enforcement users when a license plate of interest has been detected.

The LPR system does not intentionally identify any individual or conduct facial recognition analysis. It shall not be used by SCSO staff for the purpose of tracking speed or parking violations, monitoring 1st Amendment expressive activity through its analysis of license plate characters. The data captured by the LPR unit itself is entirely anonymous. Deputies can only identify the registered owner of a vehicle by querying a separate, secure government database of vehicle license plate records, which is registered and controlled by state law and agency policy. The queries will also be audited to determine that the system is being used correctly.

433.2 DEFINITIONS

Detection: The FLOCK SAFETY camera system identifies and captures images of vehicle license plates as they pass through the camera's field of view. This process includes the automated

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA POLICY

recognition and recording of license plate numbers, vehicle characteristics, and the associated date, time, and location data. Detection enables the system to document and store information about vehicles for future analysis and investigation.

Flock Safety Camera Users: Authorized Agency members (users) who may utilize the LPR camera system/equipment. Users may consist of sworn and non-sworn personnel. Prior to using the LPR system, operators must complete agency authorized training.

Hit: Alert from the LPR system that a scanned license plate number may be in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) or other law enforcement database for a specific reason including, but not limited to, being related to a stolen vehicle, wanted person, missing/endangered person, criminal domestic violence investigation, or terrorist-related activity.

Hot List: A list of license plates associated with vehicles of interest compiled from one or more data bases including, but not limited to, NCIC, WACIC, local wanted subjects, Amber Alerts, and Silver Alerts, etc. Vehicles of interest may include, but are not limited to, vehicles reported stolen, displaying stolen license plates, linked to missing/endangered and wanted persons, or flagged by law enforcement agencies due to association with criminal investigations or community safety concerns.

433.3 AUTHORIZED PURPOSES, COLLECTIONS, AND USE OF FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA DATA

In support of the mission of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office law enforcement personnel, who are ACCESS certified, may use FLOCK SAFETY cameras for conducting criminal investigations or investigating community safety concerns. This includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Locating missing children and elderly individuals or other that are vulnerable/endangered, including those associated with Amber, Silver, and Missing Indigenous Person Alerts.
- (b) Locating vehicles that are stolen, wanted, or subject of a criminal investigation.
- (c) Locating witnesses and victims of violent crimes.
- (d) Purposes related to training FLOCK SAFETY users.
- (e) Supporting local, state, federal, and tribal community safety agencies in the identification of vehicles and/or persons associated with criminal investigations, including investigations of serial crimes.

433.4 RESTRICTIONS ON COLLECTION OF FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA DATA AND USE OF CAMERA SYSTEMS

All employees of the Skamania County Sheriff's Office, including commissioned deputies and civilian personnel, shall abide by the policies and procedures related to the FLOCK SAFETY

Skamania County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA POLICY

cameras as set forth in this policy. Employees of the Sheriff's Office are prohibited from using FLOCK SAFETY camera technology in the following circumstances:

- (a) All employees shall not use FLOCK SAFETY cameras for non-work-related purposes or otherwise operate the FLOCK SAFETY camera outside of their assigned and legitimate law enforcement duties.
- (b) FLOCK SAFETY cameras may be used to collect data that is within public view but will not be used for the sole purpose of monitoring individual or expressive activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- (c) FLOCK SAFETY camera shall not be used to investigate or issue infractions.
- (d) In no case shall the Skamania County Sheriff's Office's FLOCK SAFETY cameras be used for any purpose other than legitimate law enforcement or community safety purposes.
- (e) Users will not target any persons based on their actual or perceived age, color, creed, criminal history, disability, ethnic background, gender, gender expression or identity, lifestyle, marital status, national origin, political affiliation or beliefs, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, as defined by [RCW 49.60.040](#), social or economic status, to the extent permitted by law, alienage or citizenship status, or any legally protected class.
- (f) Without another clearly articulated nexus to criminal activity associated with Washington State Law, FLOCK SAFETY cameras shall not be used to specifically target or track the movement of vehicles traveling to or from healthcare facilities, including, but not limited to hospitals, clinics, mental health providers, or reproductive health care centers. This restriction applies irrespective of the vehicle's origin, destination, or the medical services sought by the individuals.

433.5 ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFEGUARDS

All saved data associated with FLOCK SAFETY cameras will be encrypted and stored using CJIS standards. The information will be safeguarded and protected by clear policies and procedures that dictate when and how the data can be used. The Skamania County Sheriff's Office will observe the following regarding access, use, and dissemination of stored data:

- (a) All FLOCK SAFETY camera data shall be accessible only through an employee's unique login and password. The system documents all access of LPR information by name, date, time, and reason for access.
- (b) All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored FLOCK SAFETY camera data shall be referred to the public disclosure manager and processed in accordance with applicable law.
- (c) FLOCK SAFETY camera data may be released to other authorized and verified law enforcement officials and agencies when the information is used for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Skamania County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA POLICY

- (d) FLOCK SAFETY camera system audits should be conducted on a periodic basis, but no less than once a year. A report on the audit will be forwarded to the Skamania County Sheriff or designee, for review.
- (e) To the extent possible, vehicle and subject information associated with LPR hits will be verified through separate law enforcement information sources to confirm the information is accurate, up to date, and supports any related contact with the public. Users of LPR data must, to the extent possible, visually confirm that the plate characters generated by the LPR readers correspond with the digital image of the license plate in question and query the plate through WACIC/NCIC to ensure the LPR user is relying on accurate information.
- (f) When searching for vehicles, FLOCK SAFETY camera users will enter the case number, and a reason for the search. If there is no case number associated with the search, users will clearly articulate the law enforcement or community safety reason for the search.

433.6 FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA SYSTEM AUDITS

All access and use of FLOCK SAFETY camera data is logged and stored according to the Washington State Law Enforcement Records Retention Schedule. It will be audited to ensure the system is being used as outlined in this policy. Audit reports contain, at a minimum:

- (a) Ten (10) randomly selected inquiries.
- (b) A case number or incident number associated with the investigative effort generating the query.
- (c) The date and time of access.
- (d) The name of the agency employing the user.
- (e) The name of the law enforcement user.
- (f) The specific data accessed.

The FLOCK SAFETY Camera Administrators shall conduct periodic, documented audits of LPR Detection Browsing Inquiries conducted by FLOCK SAFETY users, to ensure compliance with this policy. These audits will occur annually.

433.7 FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA DATA COLLECTION AND RETENTION

All FLOCK SAFETY camera data uploaded to the Skamania County Sheriff's Office digital evidence management server shall be stored according to the Washington State Law Enforcement Records Retention Schedule. Data and images will only be shared as outlined in this policy or required by law or court rules.

- (a) All non-law enforcement requests for access to stored FLOCK SAFETY camera data shall be processed in accordance with applicable law and court rules.

Skamania County Sheriff's Office

Policy Manual

FLOCK SAFETY CAMERA POLICY

- (b) FLOCK SAFETY stored data (data hosting) and ensures proper maintenance and security of data. FLOCK SAFETY purges this data after thirty (30) days of storage, and it is not recoverable. Data related to criminal investigations or community safety concerns located within the 30-day storage period can be uploaded by Sheriff's Office employees to its digital evidence storage.
- (c) Images and videos that are considered evidence will be stored in accordance with agency policies and procedures.