

## **GENERAL ORDER XXX**

SUBJECT: MUTUAL ASSISTANCE

EFFECTIVE DATE:

REVIEW DATE: 01-04-11

NOTE: This rule or regulation is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an officer's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

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### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform all personnel of the existence and contents of the regional mutual assistance agreement, and this law enforcement agency's obligations under the agreement.

### II. POLICY

The goal of this agency is to provide efficient, high quality law enforcement services to the community during both emergency and non-emergency situations. The purpose of the regional mutual assistance agreement is to enable each agency to more effectively handle emergency recognition of the fact that this agency has a finite amount of resources with which to meet all such incidents, it shall be the policy of this agency to participate in the mutual assistance agreement in order to strengthen our response to emergency situations.

### III. PROCEDURES

#### A. Scope of Agreement

1. The law enforcement agencies in the region have entered into a cooperative agreement whereby each may request temporary emergency assistance from any and all other member agencies.
2. The Mutual Assistance Agreement may be invoked by designated members of this or any other member agency during any emergency situation where there is an immediate threat to life or property, and the requesting agency has determined that it does not have sufficient resources to meet that threat in an adequate manner.

3. Under the terms of the agreement, this agency is committed to the provision of personnel, equipment, and specialized units to a member agency to the extent that it would not endanger primary services to our own jurisdiction.
4. In order to maintain the efficient implementation of the agreement, the Chief of Police, Sheriff or their designate will have the following responsibilities:
  - a. Attendance at regular meetings with other member agency chief executive officers to formulate or revise emergency plans, share information, and assess the general emergency needs of the region;
  - b. Provision of data to member agencies concerning this agency's available manpower per shift, equipment and specialized units, and maintenance of similar information from the other member agencies,
  - c. Timely negotiation of additions to, or renewal of the agreement.
5. The costs of the salaries or wages, pensions, relief and works' compensation for loaned personnel resulting from mutual aid assistance duty shall be the responsibility of the individual agencies providing those services.

#### B. Requests for Assistance

1. In non-emergency situations, requests for mutual assistance shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police, Sheriff or designate in a timely fashion through the chain of command.
2. In the event that this agency requires assistance in handling an emergency, the field supervisor in charge at the scene of the emergency shall contact communications and request that the Chief of Police, Sheriff or designate be advised of the situation. The field supervisor shall provide communications with the following information to the Chief of Police, Sheriff or designate:
  - a. Nature of the emergency:
  - b. Measures taken to bring the situation under control, and why they have proven insufficient: and
  - c. Estimated amount of equipment, personnel, or special units that will be necessary to bring the situation under control.
3. The Chief of Police, Sheriff or designate of each member agency is the designated official permitted to request or authorize emergency assistance.
  - a. Requests may be made by telephone or in writing and are subject to confirmation.

- b. The requesting agency is responsible for providing member agencies with the information necessary to determine the levels of assistance required.
- c. Each member agency is only committed to providing assistance to the extent that it does not endanger primary operations, and may withdraw loaned personnel or equipment where circumstances require redeployment in their jurisdiction.
- d. All member agencies, whether or not requested to provide assistance, shall remain on alert status during the term of the emergency.

#### C. Emergency Scene Responsibilities

- 1. The designated supervisor of the requesting agency shall be in charge at the emergency site. All loaned personnel shall follow his lawful orders. However, where the provided mutual assistance involves the loan of a specialized SWAT, hostage negotiation, bomb disposal, or canine unit, the commander of that specialized unit shall be responsible for the implementation of the missions to be accomplished, as determined and directed by the field commander of the requesting agency.
- 2. When taking law enforcement actions at the emergency site, including uses of force, officers from this agency shall at all times adhere to agency policies and procedures, and utilize only those weapons and tactics with which they have qualified.
- 3. Officers on loan from this agency to an emergency site shall regularly apprise our communications section concerning the continued status of the emergency, line-of-duty injuries or need for relief.
- 4. Officers may only take those law enforcement actions permitted under state law for emergency allocation outside the original appointing jurisdiction.
- 5. Agency personnel providing mutual assistance shall only make arrests for offenses directly related to the emergency situation, and shall assist in the preliminary processing of arrestees as follows:
  - a. Identification of arrestees:
  - b. Control of property obtained from arrestees;
  - c. Completion of arrest certificates;
  - d. Transportation of arrestees: and
  - e. Court duty.

#### D. Federal and State Law Enforcement Agency Assistance

1. Member agencies may request emergency assistance from a federal law enforcement agency where a federal crime is involved, or when the emergency site is an area in which the federal and requesting agency share concurrent jurisdiction.
2. The state National Guard may be contacted for emergency assistance whenever a state of emergency exists in their jurisdiction.

#### AUTHORITY

- A. This policy is issued by the authority of the Chief of Police. Any policy additions, deviations or revisions shall be made only at the direction of the Chief of Police.

By Authority of:

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Charles Brotherton, Jr., Chief of Police