



COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

“Policing Excellence through Community Partnerships”

Directive Type: General Order	Effective Date: 09-06-2016	General Order Number: 09.03
Subject: Mutual Aid		
Amends/Supersedes: Section 09, Chapter 03, Mutual Aid, 2008	Chief of Police: <i>WA Hinkle</i>	
Distribution: All Personnel	Review Date: July 1	# of Pages: 4

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Providing assistance to other jurisdictions; recovering from terrorist attacks, public health emergencies, natural disasters, critical incidents; responding to officer distress calls; participating in multi-jurisdictional task forces and investigative task forces; and providing adequate security for potential riots during large public assemblies can stretch the resources of a law enforcement agency beyond capacity.

2.0 PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ANOTHER AGENCY

2.1 Officer Distress Calls (10-78)

Columbia Police Department officers must have authorization of their supervisor or the Watch Commander prior to responding to an officer distress call in another jurisdiction.

The supervisor or Watch Commander authorizing the response shall submit an After Action report through the Chain of Command that includes: the nature of the call officers authorized to respond, outcome of the incident to include any injuries or damage to City equipment.

2.2 Short Term Assistance (less than 12 hours)

Watch Commanders, Captains, and members of the Command Staff may authorize the response of officers/equipment for a period not to exceed twelve (12) hours, provided that adequate patrol coverage can be maintain by the Department.

Requests to provide assistance may be receive via telephone or radio. The requesting agency must provide the following information:

- Contact information for the requesting agency’s designated point of contact
- Nature and location of the incident justifying the request
- Number of personnel and/or type of equipment requested
- Anticipated length of time requested resources will be needed
- Location and identity of the individual assisting officers are to report to (Staging Area/Sgt. Smith) Radio frequency of the operation

The Watch Commander shall notify the Duty Captain of all requests for assistance as soon as possible.

The request for assistance shall be included on the Watch Commander's Daily Report and shall contain the following information: the nature and location of the incident, the number of officers/equipment assigned, time assigned officers/equipment were utilized, and any injuries and/or damage to City equipment occurring as a result of the response.

2.3 Long Term Assistance (greater than 12 hours)

Requests to provide assistance anticipated to be greater than 12 hours must be approved by the Chief of Police or City Manager.

3.0 ASSISTANCE BY CONTIGUOUS MUNICIPALITIES

S.C. Code § 5-7-30 extends the authority of a law enforcement agency to provide police protection in contiguous municipalities and in unincorporated areas located not more than three miles from the municipal limits upon the request and agreement of the governing body of such contiguous municipality or the county, including agreement as to the boundaries of such police jurisdictional areas.

4.0 STATE OF EMERGENCY

S.C. Code § 25-1-440 states that when a state of emergency has been declared, the Governor is responsible for the safety, security, and welfare of the State and is empowered with the authority to assign municipal officials emergency duties and functions as outlined in the State Emergency Plan. Additionally, during a public health emergency, law enforcement officers may be deployed to support the distribution of supplies, equipment, materials, and facilities.

5.0 STATE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

S.C. Code § 25-1-450 establishes a plan for mutual assistance utilizing state resources to minimize loss as a result of enemy attack, natural disasters, or man-made emergencies. Under these conditions, the government is responsible for providing state forces and resources to support local governmental emergency operations and coordinating support with local governments from other sources, including the federal government and those unaffected counties of the State, and implement mutual assistance agreements with adjoining states.

6.0 ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

S.C. Code § 5-7-120 authorizes municipalities to send law enforcement officers to other political subdivisions of State upon request in emergency situations and vests responding officers with the same legal authority as those of the requesting jurisdiction.

This statute requires that a complete record of the mutual aid request and the names of responding officers be recorded in the minutes of the next regular or special meeting of the governing bodies of both the requesting and the sending political subdivisions.

6.1 Mutual Aid Agreements

The Police Department's Mutual Aid Agreements and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for establishing emergency mutual aid shall be maintained in the Office of the Chief.

Mutual aid agreements for emergency assistance (pursuant to S.C. Code § 5-7-120) must provide the following information:

- Legal status of each agency and agency personnel entering into the agreement.
- Procedures for requesting assistance.
- Identity of those persons authorized to request assistance.
- Identity of person to whom responding personnel are to report.
- Communications plan to provide responding radio communications IF the both agencies are not a member of the Palmetto 800Mhz radio network.
- Expenditures to be incurred by the requesting agency.
- Procedures for review and revision of the agreement

7.0 OFFICER DISTRESS CALLS

S.C. Code § 17-13-45 extends a law enforcement officers authority, rights, privileges, and immunities when response to distress calls or requests for assistance in adjacent jurisdictions.

8.0 MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL TASK FORCES

S.C. Code § 23-1-210 allows any municipal or county law enforcement officer to be transferred or assigned on a temporary basis to a multi-jurisdictional task force established for the mutual aid and benefit of the participating jurisdictions.

Multi-jurisdictional task forces require the participating jurisdictions to enter into a written agreement that states the conditions and terms of the task force prior to the transfer or assignment of officers.

9.0 INVESTIGATIVE TASK FORCES

S.C. Code § 17-13-45 authorizes law enforcement to exercise jurisdiction within other counties or municipalities for the purpose of criminal investigations.

Investigative tasks forces may only be established by written agreement between the law enforcement agencies involved.

10.0 TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY AND BENEFITS

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 78 of Title 15, when law enforcement officers are sent to another municipality pursuant to mutual aid related statues, the jurisdiction, authority, rights, privileges, and immunities, including coverage under the workmen's compensation laws, and tort liability coverage of the sending municipality are extended to and include the area in which like benefits, authorities, and tort liability coverage are or could be afforded to the law enforcement officers of the requesting political subdivision.

When performing law enforcement duties in the requesting jurisdiction, responding officers have the same authority to make arrests and to execute criminal process as is vested by law in the law enforcement officers of the requesting agency.

When performing law enforcement duties in the requesting jurisdiction officers no longer have the authority to enforce the laws of their "home" jurisdiction.

11.0 REQUESTS FOR RICHLAND COUNTY EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The Richland County Emergency Preparedness Office, by the authority granted in Richland County Ordinance #1076-83, is responsible for coordination of all County and Municipal agencies during a disaster.

In the event of a critical incident, major disaster, or emergency that exceeds the resources of the Columbia Police Department, the Chief of Police, with authorization of the City Manager, can request assistance from

the Richland County Emergency Preparedness Office.

If requested resources are not readily available, the Richland County Emergency Preparedness Office has the ability to request assistance from other County and State agencies, through contact with the State Emergency Preparedness Office.

12.0 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE GUARD

S.C. Code § 25-3-130 allows the Governor to order the South Carolina State Guard into service in case of insurrection, invasion, tumult, riot, breach of the peace or imminent danger thereof or to enforce the laws of the State.

13.0 NATIONAL GUARD OF SOUTH CAROLINA

S.C. Code § 25-1-1840 authorizes the Governor to order the National Guard of South Carolina into service to preserve order large public assemblage upon the written request of the Mayor or the County Sheriff.

In the event of public disaster or imminent danger of war, insurrection, rebellion, invasion, tumult, riot or a mob, etc. the Governor may order the National Guard of South Carolina to perform such duty as he shall deem proper.

14.0 FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

If a unit of the department determines there is a need for assistance from federal law enforcement, any such request shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Chief of Police to determine the need. The Chief of Police, or his designee, may request the assistance of a federal law enforcement agency. The request for federal law enforcement assistance will be made in the most expeditious manner available directly to the appropriate Federal Agency but subsequently will be confirmed in writing.