

# Obtaining Air Support

## 438.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Best Practice MODIFIED

The use of air support can be invaluable in certain situations. This policy specifies potential situations where the use of air support may be requested and the responsibilities for making a request.

## 438.2 REQUEST FOR AIR SUPPORT

Best Practice MODIFIED

If a supervisor or officer in charge of an incident determines that the use of air support would be beneficial, a request to obtain air support assistance may be made.

- (a) After consideration and approval of the request for air support and fixed wing by the Watch Commander or their designee, the Communications Officer In Charge (OIC) will call a local agency having air support and fixed wing support available. The OIC will apprise that agency of the specific details of the incident prompting the request.

### 438.2.1 CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH AID MAY BE REQUESTED

Best Practice MODIFIED

Air Support may be requested under any of the following conditions:

- (a) When the air support is activated under existing mutual aid agreements
- (b) Whenever the safety of law enforcement personnel is in jeopardy and the presence of air support may reduce such hazard
- (c) When the use of the air support will aid in the capture of a suspected fleeing felon whose continued freedom represents an ongoing threat to the community
- (d) When air support is needed to locate a person who has strayed or is lost and whose continued absence constitutes a serious health or safety hazard
- (e) Vehicle pursuits

While it is recognized that the availability of air support will generally provide valuable assistance to ground personnel, the presence of air support will rarely replace the need for officers on the ground.