

Outside Agency Assistance

351.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Best Practice

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members when requesting or responding to a request for mutual aid or when assisting another law enforcement agency.

351.2 POLICY

Best Practice MODIFIED

It is the policy of the Indio Police Department to promptly respond to requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies, subject to available resources and consistent with the applicable laws and policies of this department.

351.2(a) DEFINITIONS

- 1. Emergency:** Any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether natural or caused by man, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population, substantial damage to or loss of property, or substantial harm to the environment and is beyond the capacity of an individual department to effectively control.
- 2. Mutual Aid:** As used herein, mutual aid refers to the provision and receipt of assistance between departments that are signatories to the mutual aid agreement in response to a formal request for assistance from an authorized departmental officer and dealing with an emergency as defined in the Agreement. It does not include assistance to other jurisdictions wherein officers are automatically dispatched under terms of a contract or informal agreement between jurisdictions.

351.3 ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Best Practice

Generally, requests for any type of assistance from another agency should be routed to the Watch Commander's office for approval. In some instances, a memorandum of understanding or other established protocol may exist that eliminates the need for approval of individual requests.

When another law enforcement agency requests assistance from this department, the Watch Commander may authorize, if available, an appropriate number of personnel to assist. Members are reminded that their actions when rendering assistance must conform with applicable laws and be consistent with the policies of this department.

Officers may respond to a request for emergency assistance, however, they shall notify a supervisor of their activity as soon as practicable.

Arrestees may be temporarily detained by this department until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency. Probation violators who are temporarily detained by this department will not ordinarily be booked at this department. Only in exceptional circumstances,

Indio Police Department

Indio PD Policy Manual

Outside Agency Assistance

and subject to supervisor approval, will this department provide transportation of arrestees to other facilities on behalf of another agency.

When transportation assistance is rendered, a report shall be prepared and submitted by the handling member unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

351.3.1 INITIATED ACTIVITY

Best Practice

Any on-duty officer who engages in law enforcement activities of any type that are not part of a mutual aid request and take place outside the jurisdiction of the Indio Police Department shall notify his/her supervisor or the Watch Commander and the Dispatch Center as soon as practicable. This requirement does not apply to special enforcement details or multi-agency units that regularly work in multiple jurisdictions.

351.4 REQUESTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

Best Practice MODIFIED

If assistance is needed from another agency, the member requesting assistance should, if practicable, first notify a supervisor. The handling member or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

The requesting member should arrange for appropriate radio communication capabilities, if necessary and available, so that communication can be coordinated between assisting personnel.

351.4(a) REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY

1. Supervisors shall notify command staff of any mutual aid request for assistance as soon as safe and practical.
2. Before requesting assistance from another department, the supervisors shall ascertain the following:
 - a. Nature of the emergency.
 - b. Measures taken by officers to bring the situation under control and why they have proven insufficient.
 - c. Estimates of the amount of equipment, personnel, or special units that will be necessary to bring the situation under control.
3. Requests may be made by telephone or via police dispatch.
4. The requesting department is responsible for providing member departments with the information necessary to determine the type and amount of assistance required.
5. Each member department is only committed to providing assistance to the extent that it does not endanger primary operations and may, with proper notice, withdraw loaned personnel or equipment where circumstances require redeployment in their jurisdiction.

351.4(b) EMERGENCY SCENE RESPONSIBILITIES DURING MUTUAL AID REQUEST

Indio Police Department

Indio PD Policy Manual

Outside Agency Assistance

1. The supervisor of the requesting department shall maintain command of the emergency site.
2. All loaned personnel shall follow his or her lawful orders.
3. Where the provided assistance involves the loan of a specialized SWAT, hostage negotiation, bomb disposal, or canine unit, the supervisors of that specialized unit shall be responsible for implementation of the mission, as determined by the incident commander of the requesting department.
4. When taking law enforcement actions at the emergency site, including uses of force, officers from this department shall at all times adhere to this department's policies and procedures and utilize only those weapons and tactics that they have been trained and deemed qualified to use to maintain legal and policy compliance.

351.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Best Practice

Incidents of outside assistance or law enforcement activities that are not documented in a crime report shall be documented in a general case report or as directed by the Watch Commander.