



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**



POLICY NUMBER	
OPR:34	
EFFECTIVE DATE: 02/15/2008	ORIGINAL ISSUED ON: 12/06/2006
REVISION NO: 1	

SUBJECT: PATROL OPERATIONS

1.0 PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide uniform officers with established procedures for patrol operations which is considered to be the primary law enforcement function of the Uniform Bureau of the New Mexico State Police.

2.0 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department of Public Safety to deliver the most efficient and effective patrol-related services to the communities it serves. As such, commissioned officers of the Department engaged in patrol operations shall ensure that their patrol activities are consistent with established procedures outlined in this policy.

3.0 APPLICABILITY

This policy is applicable to commissioned uniformed officers of the New Mexico State Police.

4.0 REFERENCES

- A. Authorized Emergency Vehicles - 66-7-6 NMSA, 1978**
- B. CALEA Chapter 41 – Patrol**

5.0 DEFINITIONS

NONE

6.0 PROCEDURE

A. Responsibilities of Uniform Section

1. The responsibilities of the Uniform Bureau of the New Mexico State Police may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Preventive patrol operations oriented toward the prevention of crimes and accidents, maintaining public order and the discovery of hazardous situations.
 - b. Responding to calls for service involving, but not limited to, enforcement of state laws, investigation of traffic accidents and criminal offenses, response to requests for assistance by the public and other agencies as well as emergency situations as they arise.
 - c. Working in cooperation with other law enforcement agencies and performing duties in a manner which inspires public confidence.

B. Patrol Coverage

1. The Uniform Bureau of the New Mexico State Police is to maintain coverage 24 hours a day if feasible to ensure that on-duty personnel are available to respond to requests for police services. In areas where 24 hour coverage is not maintained,

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district commanders will ensure that officers are available to respond to situations as they arise. This does not mean putting officers “on call.”

2. Uniformed officers should be assigned to shifts based on resources, evaluation of calls for service and command staff approval. These assignments may be subject to change at any time based on departmental needs.
3. The frequency of shift rotation, assignment to service areas, and determination of days off will be determined and adjusted by each district commander as necessary.

C. Shift Briefings

1. At the beginning of each shift, or as soon as feasible, a briefing will be given to officers by radio communication, telephonic conversation, CAD system, or by any other means available. The information shall, if available, consist of the following:
 - a. Information regarding daily patrol activity with particular attention given to unusual situations posing known police hazards in the respective districts.
 - b. Notifying officers of changes in schedules and assignments.
 - c. Notifying officers of new directives and/or changes to directives.
 - d. Uniform supervisors evaluating officers’ readiness to assume patrol responsibilities.
 - e. Criminal and narcotics investigators shall receive the same patrol shift briefings to facilitate information sharing at the request of a patrol supervisor.

D. Responding to Routine and Emergency Calls

1. Procedure for Responding to Routine Calls
 - a. Routine/Non-Emergency Response - A routine/non-emergency response is appropriate when the reporting party does not present a life-threatening situation but meets criteria for some level of response. This response is usually appropriate when the reporting party is reporting an incident that can be handled over the telephone or in person. This response does not justify lights and sirens. Units will respond observing all applicable traffic regulations and traffic control devices.
 - b. Officers shall always exercise due care when responding to any type of call.
2. Responding to Emergency Calls
 - a. Emergency Response - An emergency response is appropriate when the reporting party presents criteria which includes a life threatening situation where failure to respond on an emergency basis could jeopardize life and property. This response requires lights and sirens.
 - b. Officers shall always exercise due care when responding to emergency calls.
 - c. Officers shall respond to emergency calls pursuant to the criteria described in State law, 66-7-6, NMSA 1978, Authorized Emergency Vehicles. This section of State Law does not relieve the driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons nor does it protect the driver from the consequences of his/her reckless disregard for the safety of others.

E. Use of Authorized Emergency Equipment

1. The proper use of emergency equipment is essential to the safety of the officer, motorists, and pedestrians. Officers have broad discretion in the use of this equipment; however, the following procedures should be followed unless unusual conditions exist:
 - a. Officers shall utilize emergency equipment when authorized to do so given the nature of the calls for service (non-emergency, emergency) or while conducting traffic patrol. When a situation is encountered, which in the officer's best judgment indicates the need for emergency equipment, the officer is authorized to do so. Officers will take into account that the law does not exempt police officers or any driver of an authorized emergency vehicle from liability should the driver fail to drive with due regard for the safety of all persons even though the emergency equipment may be in operation.
 - b. Nothing in this policy shall contradict state statute in reference to operating emergency vehicles.

F. Officers Responsibility in Emergency Situations

1. Circumstances requiring first responder notifications in emergency situations may include but not be limited to:
 - a. Traffic crashes - Investigating officers may require additional resources including, but not limited to:
 1. Supervisory personnel
 2. Department Crash Reconstruction Team to assist with complex crash investigations/scenes.
 3. New Mexico Department of Transportation for assistance with traffic control.
 4. Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Officers.
 5. Office of the Medical Investigator for crashes involving fatalities.
 6. Emergency medical services to assist with crashes involving injuries.
 7. Fire services.
 8. Towing services.
 - b. Incidents - While investigating incidents, officers may require additional resources including, but not limited to:
 1. Supervisory personnel.
 2. Criminal Investigations Section personnel.
 3. Narcotics Investigations Section personnel.
 4. Criminal Enforcement Unit personnel.
 5. New Mexico Department of Transportation.
2. Procedure for first responder notifications in emergency situations
 - a. Upon arrival at an emergency situation, officers shall, as soon as practical, assess the need for and request appropriate resources.

- b. The investigating officer shall utilize the police radio system to request appropriate resources and/or personnel. The officer shall clearly communicate the type of resource requested to the telecommunicator. In the event the police radio system is not functioning, the investigating officer may utilize other methods to communicate information to the telecommunicator, such as cellular telephone.
 - c. The telecommunicator shall make contact with the requested resource and will notify the requesting officer of any pertinent details relating to the request, e.g.; resource is en route, estimated time of arrival, etc.
 - d. The investigating officer shall continually evaluate the emergency situation for purposes of determining the need for additional resources/assistance. The investigating officer shall maintain contact with the telecommunicator and provide appropriate updates concerning the need for additional resources and/or personnel.
3. The responding officer shall ensure the district supervisor is notified of the situation, as appropriate and necessary. The responding officer may utilize the telecommunicator, via police radio, to relay information or may use other means to communicate directly with the supervisor as the situation dictates.

G. Vehicle Equipment

1. All department vehicles used in patrol operations (whether marked or unmarked) shall be equipped with emergency lights and sirens. This equipment must be maintained in operational condition at all times.
2. Officers are responsible for maintaining issued equipment and replenishing supplies within their units as needed. At a minimum, every patrol officer within the New Mexico State Police will carry the following items in their assigned unit.
 - a. First Aid Kit
 - b. Shovel
 - c. Axe
 - d. Stop Sign
 - e. Fire Extinguisher
 - f. Flares (Fuses)
 - g. Camera
 - h. Tape (Digital) Recorder
 - i. Binoculars
 - j. Roller Meter
 - k. Officers may carry other equipment as desired. However, equipment not listed on the Officer Vehicle Inventory Form must be authorized by the district commander.
3. Officers are required to wear their seatbelt at all times while operating a state police vehicle. In those instances where in the officer's judgment a seatbelt may be an endangerment to the officer's safety, the seatbelt may be temporarily removed. On routine patrol operations, seatbelts shall be worn at all times by all occupants, including prisoners in transport.

H. Roadblock Restrictions

Commissioned employees shall not participate in the use of any roadblock at which motorists are detained for the purpose of using drug-sniffing dogs or any roadblock which drug-sniffing dogs are employed without reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that a particular detained person or vehicle is involved in a violation of the drug laws.

7.0 ATTACHMENTS:

NONE

8.0 APPROVAL

APPROVED BY: s/John Denko
DPS Cabinet Secretary

DATE: February 15, 2008