



GENERAL ORDER:	6.16
CHAPTER:	Operations Support
SUBJECT:	Special Purpose Vehicles and Animals
ISSUED DATE:	November 13, 2017
REVISION DATE:	December 24, 2019
NOTES:	
RELATED ORDERS:	General Order: 5.07 & 5.11 ETS P&P, 8.05, LES P&P 10.07, EOD P&P 4.04, SRU P&P 3.03, OES P&P 7.08 & 7.15. Replaces LES P&P 8.06
ATTACHMENTS:	1: Special Response Unit Vehicle Equipment Inventory Log

PURPOSE: To establish procedures for the accountability, acquisition and operation of special purpose vehicles and animals for law enforcement purposes

POLICY: The Alameda County Sheriff's Office policy shall be to account for, acquire, and operate special purpose vehicles and animals pursuant to established procedures, in order to enhance law enforcement effectiveness.

PROCEDURE:

- A. When circumstances dictate the need for special use vehicles or animals, on a day to day basis or one-time event basis, the following procedures will be employed for acquisition, operation, and accountability of the special vehicle or animal.
- B. Alameda County Office of Emergency Services (OES): The following resources are available through OES, upon request by Agency members;

1. FOUR WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES:

- a. Four wheel drive vehicles are routinely available during regular business hours and on a "call out" basis during non-business hours. Four wheel drive vehicles are included but not limited to:
 - i. Bearcat - Refer to SRU P&P 3.03 (Tactical Response Vehicles)
 - ii. Hummer Vehicles
 - iii. Ford Escapes
 - iv. Ford Explorers
 - v. Chevy Tahoes

- vi. GMC 3500 Trucks
 - b. Authorization to request a four wheel drive vehicle will be obtained from the Watch Commander/Sergeant. The request will be directed to the OES Coordinator or after hours to the on-call OES coordinator.
 - c. Generally, dependent on the need, there are no special qualifications required to operate a four wheel drive vehicle, however OES will provide an operator if requested. Use of a four wheel drive vehicle will be limited to the operation for which the vehicle was requested.
 - d. The vehicle will only be used when it can be operated safely and within the manufacturer's guidelines.
 - e. OES vehicles and equipment inventory are maintained by the OES Volunteer Coordinator.
 - i. Any equipment or supplies utilized that require maintenance or replacement, are to be reported to the coordinator upon returning the vehicle.
 - ii. Personnel who use OES vehicles and equipment shall ensure that the vehicle and/or equipment are returned in proper operating condition.
 - f. Any damage to equipment and/or vehicles that may have occurred during the use will be documented on the appropriate report form with a copy being provided to the OES Volunteer Coordinator as soon as practical. Refer to General Order 5.11 (County Vehicle Accident/Damage Reporting).
2. HORSES:
- a. Horses are available to access remote areas not serviced by roads, or which are too rugged for a four wheel drive vehicle.
 - i. Horses and riders are available through the OES Mounted Posse.
 - ii. A roster of Posse members is available through OES.
 - iii. The horses are the personal property of the Posse members.
 - b. Authorization to request mounted services will be obtained from the Watch Commander. The request shall be directed to the OES Coordinator or after hours to the on-call OES Coordinator.
 - c. Mounted services will be provided at the discretion of the horse owner. The horse owner is responsible for providing any necessary equipment. Refer to OES P&P 7.15.
 - d. The Posse member will be responsible for identifying the aspects of the search the horse is capable of performing.
 - e. Members of the Mounted Posse are not Sworn Peace Officers and have no peace

officer powers. Posse Members that are utilized for Crime Prevention, are only to "Observe and Report" any criminal activity.

3. CADAVER CANINES

- a. Canines used for the purposes of detecting deceased persons are of value on occasion in certain types of investigations.
 - i. Cadaver Canines and handlers are available through the OES Volunteer Coordinator.
 - ii. A roster of Cadaver Canine Handlers is available through OES.
 - iii. The canines are the personal property of the volunteer.
- b. Authorization to request cadaver canine services will be obtained from the Watch Commander. The request shall be directed to the OES Coordinator or after hours to the on-call OES Coordinator.
- c. Cadaver Canine services will be provided at the discretion of the canine's owner. The canine owner is responsible for providing any necessary equipment. Refer to OES P&P 7.08.
- d. The Canine Handler will be responsible for identifying the aspects of the search the canine is capable of performing.

4. SEARCH, RESCUE AND LIGHTING VEHICLES

- a. These specialized vehicles are routinely available during regular business hours and on a "call out" basis during non-business hours.
 - b. Authorization to request search and rescue vehicles will be obtained from the Watch Commander/Sergeant. The request will be directed to the OES Coordinator or after hours to the on-call OES coordinator.
 - c. Only search and rescue volunteers (Reserve Deputy Sheriffs) are authorized to operate these vehicles and equipment. OES will provide an operator.
 - d. The vehicle will only be used when the vehicle can be operated safely and within the manufacturer's guidelines.
 - e. OES vehicles and equipment inventory are maintained by the OES Volunteer Coordinator.
- C. BICYCLES: Bicycle operations, accountability and use procedures are established in Law Enforcement Services Division Policy and Procedure 10.07.
- D. OFF ROAD MOTORCYCLES: Off road, dual purposes motorcycle operations, accountability and use procedures are established in Eden Township Substation Policy and Procedure 8.05.

- E. ON ROAD (ROADWAY) MOTORCYCLES: Procedures addressing motorcycle operations are located in ETS P&P 5.24.01 and DPS P&P 7.05.
- F. SPECIAL RESPONSE VEHICLES (SRU): Refer to SRU P&P 3.03 for procedures addressing Tactical Response Vehicles.
- G. EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DETAIL (EOD) VEHICLES: Refer to General Order 5.07 and EOD P&P 4.04 for procedures addressing EOD Call Outs, and use of EOD Bomb Vans and Trailers.
- H. Polaris, Off-Road Vehicles, and any other All-Terrain Vehicles may only be driven by those staff who have completed a training course approved by the Regional Training Center.