



Policy 705

Subject

PROCEDURE FOR ASSIST AN OFFICER CALL

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By Order of the Police Commissioner

POLICY

Controlled Response. It is the policy of the Baltimore Police Department (BPD) to provide an appropriate level of controlled response to an officer in need of emergency assistance. In responding to a call to assist an officer (Signal 13), members shall proceed in such a manner as to minimize the risk of injury to members of the BPD and the community.

REQUIRED ACTION

Member

1. An assist an officer call (Signal 13) may be initiated either by a telephone call to the Communications Unit or by an officer in the field. In either instance the Communications Unit shall transmit a Signal 13 in the following manner:
 - 1.1. A unique alert tone followed by a voice broadcast, "Signal 13," and the officer's location.
2. The dispatcher shall then assign (acknowledge) one primary unit and one backup unit, plus a designated supervisory unit to respond to the scene.
3. Assigned units shall proceed to the scene in an expeditious and safe manner. See Policy 1503, *Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit Policy*.
4. Vehicles not equipped with both emergency lights and siren shall be driven in keeping with all traffic laws at all times.

NOTE: In the event the primary unit is not equipped with both emergency lights and siren, or this equipment is not functioning, the operator of the unit shall immediately notify the dispatcher. The dispatcher, when so notified, shall immediately dispatch a primary unit equipped with both emergency lights and siren.

5. After the primary unit and backup units have been dispatched, any other BPD units in the immediate vicinity that intend to respond shall request permission to respond from the Shift Commander.
6. Upon receiving approval to respond, notify the Communications Unit of your unit number prior to responding.
7. It shall be the responsibility of the first unit on scene to advise the Communications Unit of the status of the call: unfounded, no additional units needed, additional units needed, and whether

or not a prisoner transport vehicle is required. The Communications Unit, upon receiving information that the call is unfounded or no additional help is needed, shall immediately simulcast a 10-32, "Sufficient units on the scene at (state location). Responding units, return to your posts."

Shift Commander

1. Approve/Disapprove requests to respond to a "Signal 13."
2. Deny requests to respond when distance precludes reasonable response capability from areas not proximal to the incident.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Policy 1503, *Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuit Policy*

RESCISSION

Remove and destroy/recycle General Order G-5, *Procedure for Assist an Officer Call*, dated 17 December 2001.

COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

This policy is effective on the date listed herein. Each employee is responsible for complying with the contents of this policy.