



Boulder Police Department Policy and Procedure

	Subject: Mutual Aid		General Order: 111
	Effective: October 22, 2024 Reviewed: October 15, 2024	Replaces: GO 111 July 6, 2000	Approved by:  Chief Stephen Redfearn
General Order Topic(s): 111-1 Legislation and Liability 111-2 Requesting Mutual Aid 111-3 Providing Mutual Aid 111-4 Emergency Mutual Aid 111-5 Specialized and Other Mutual Aid 111-6 Interagency Agreements 111-7 Emergency Assistance		Accreditation Standard(s): LE 46.1.3 Statutory References: C.R.S §29-5-103, 29-5-104, 29-5-108 B.R.C Related General Orders:	

POLICY

The department recognizes the nature of law enforcement and the demands placed on department resources sometimes necessitate sharing resources with other agencies to handle emergency or large-scale events. The department supports the concept of mutual aid in both receiving and providing assistance when such events occur.

DEFINITIONS

MUTUAL AID: Assistance requiring personnel, specialists, or other resources for an event too large, complex, or dangerous for an agency to handle on its own, or assistance requiring the commitment of any number of resources over an extended period of time.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Quick response to an emergency situation to assist another officer in a local jurisdiction, typically lasting only a short period of time.

PROCEDURES

111-1 Legislation and Liability

Colorado Revised Statute 29-5-103 governs the legal status of agencies acting under mutual aid. In accordance with Colorado Revised Statute 29-5-108, any liability which results from the negligent acts of personnel of a providing jurisdiction is imposed upon the requesting jurisdiction.

111-2 Requesting Mutual Aid¹

- A. Once it is determined that mutual aid from another agency is necessary, the Chief of Police or a designee contacts the chief law enforcement official of the agency from which assistance is needed and specifies the nature, quantity, and probable duration of the assistance.
- B. The chief law enforcement official, or designee, of the outside agency determines whether mutual aid will be provided and notifies the Chief of Police or a designee as to the resources committed and expected at the time of arrival.
- C. All resources committed are under the control of Boulder's Chief of Police, subject to recall by the providing agency. The agency providing aid compensates its employees according to its compensation guidelines.
- D. When aid is no longer needed, loaned resources are released by the Chief of Police or a designee. A letter of appreciation is prepared and sent to the chief law enforcement official of the provider agency.

111-3 Providing Mutual Aid

The chief law enforcement official of the agency seeking aid must contact Boulder's Chief of Police and specify the nature, quantity, and probable duration of the assistance. Based on available information and local staffing concerns, the Chief of Police then makes a determination as to what resources can be committed to the requesting agency. The requesting agency is then notified as to the resources committed and their expected time of arrival.

- A. The City Manager is notified of mutual aid responses as soon as practical. Requests for the long-term use of department resources must receive prior approval from the City Manager.
- B. All resources committed to an outside agency are under the control of the outside agency, subject to department recall. The department compensates its employees according to current contractual agreements.

111-4 Emergency Mutual Aid

In the event that an outside request requires an immediate and emergency response to a situation, a watch commander makes the determination as to the level of response and assigns resources as needed. The Chief of Police is then notified as soon as possible as to the nature of the request and the department's response.

111-5 Specialized and Other Mutual Aid

The Chief of Police may authorize non-emergency aid to assist in special situations, events, or investigations requiring additional or specialized resources such as investigative expertise, accident reconstruction, consultation, training, bomb technicians, SWAT, K-9s, crime scene processing, etc.

¹ CALEA 46.1.3 d

111-6 Interagency Agreements

In the interest of public and officer safety and due to the close proximity and working relationships with other jurisdictions, the Chief of Police, with the approval of the City Manager, may enter into interagency agreements with other jurisdictions to assist each other in the performance of lawful duties upon the request of the other agency.

111-7 Emergency Assistance

Nothing in this policy prevents officers from responding to an urgent or emergency situation in close proximity to Boulder's jurisdictional boundaries to assist when an officer from an outside jurisdiction has requested such assistance.