



Colorado Springs Police Department

General Order

1703 Mutual Aid

Section 1700– Resource Control

Active Date: 10/31/2024

Supersedes Date: 12/17/2009

.01 Purpose

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for requesting assistance from or aiding other public safety agencies.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 101 First Amendment Rights](#)

[GO 1203 Canine \(K-9\) Unit](#)

[GO 1210 Assemblies & Mass Events](#)

[GO 1220 Incident Command Systems](#)

[DL-1210-01 Assembly & Mass Event Operations](#)

[EOD-01 Regional Explosives Unit](#)

[TEU-01 Tactical Enforcement](#)

.03 Discussion

Public safety agencies may encounter situations that exceed their response capacity. Colorado law specifically allows local governments to provide supplemental personnel and other resources when needed.

.04 Policy

The Colorado Springs Police Department will provide personnel or equipment in response to requests from other public safety agencies or governmental entities if warranted and department resources are available and properly authorized. The Chief of Police or designee may also request assistance from other agencies as needed.

Short-term requests for mutual aid such as a request for officer backup of another agency on a traffic stop (e.g., “assist” or “urgent assist”) are not under the purview of this policy. These

requests are made through the Communications Center like any other call for service.

Requests made pursuant to an active Memorandum of Understanding or Intergovernmental Agreement follow the provisions of the written agreement. Written agreements have the authority of the chief law enforcement officer of the parties. A written agreement requesting law enforcement or public safety assistance from the department will include a liability provision. If applicable, the written agreement should contain either a reference to C.R.S. § 29-5-108 Liability of requesting jurisdiction, or similar liability language drafted in consultation with the Public Safety Attorney.

.05 Definitions

Designee: For purposes of this policy, a staff officer at the rank of commander or above. Generally, this will be a deputy chief, a command-level incident commander, or the staff duty officer in an emergency incident.

Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management (PPROEM): A regional organization made up of personnel from the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County that is responsible for providing mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and coordination for large-scale emergencies and disasters, both natural and human-caused, to residents of El Paso County and Colorado Springs for the purpose of saving lives and preventing property damage.

Receiver Agency: An agency that receives aid from another agency.

Provider Agency: An agency that provides aid to another agency.

.10 Requests to other Agencies

When the Chief of Police or designee determines that assistance from other jurisdictions is needed, they will evaluate the facts, determine the amount of personnel and/or equipment necessary, and estimate the probable duration of the need. The authorization of the Chief of Police or designee must be obtained before making any requests for mutual aid that fall under the purview of this policy.

The Chief of Police or designee will then contact the other jurisdiction(s), specifying the nature and quantity of assistance needed, and the probable duration of the need. The Communications Center can provide contact information for other jurisdictions. If a commitment for aid is obtained, the Chief of Police or designee will re-contact the other jurisdiction, as necessary, for verification of resources, schedules, and conditions of agreement.

If the incident is a large-scale emergency or disaster, the Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management may activate an Emergency Coordination Center (ECC). Mutual aid may be requested and coordinated through the ECC.

.20 Requests by other Agencies

A request from another jurisdiction for emergency assistance should be made by that jurisdiction's chief law enforcement officer or designee directly to the Chief of Police or designee. The requesting jurisdiction must specify the nature and quantity of the assistance needed, and the probable duration of the need. The Chief of Police or designee will verify receipt of the request to the requesting jurisdiction.

After verification, the Chief of Police or designee will evaluate the needs, nature, and quantity of resources requested, and the probable duration of need. The Chief of Police or designee will also evaluate the department's needs and available resources. The Chief of Police or designee will then inform the requesting jurisdiction of the resources Colorado Springs will be able to commit and when they will arrive.

.30 Command

All resources committed under emergency mutual aid requests are under the control and authority of the receiver agency, subject to recall by the provider agency. When an officer is rendering assistance pursuant to any mutual aid agreement, the officer will abide by, and be subject to, the rules and regulations, policies, and standard operating procedures of the Colorado Springs Police Department.

If any substantive rule, regulation, policy or procedure is contradicted, contravened, or otherwise in conflict with a direct order of a superior officer of the requesting agency, the Colorado Springs Police Department's rule, regulation, policy, or procedure will supersede the direct order. The officer will notify a Colorado Springs Police Department supervisor of the situation.

.32 Compensation

The provider agency will compensate its own employees for their work during the emergency, unless other agreements are in place.

.36 Worker's Compensation

The coverage of any police officers under the Worker's Compensation Act of Colorado is not affected by performance of temporary duties for a receiver agency. Such police officers shall

remain covered by Worker's Compensation insurance, while performing such temporary duty, as fully as if they were performing their regular duties within their usual jurisdiction.

.40 Conclusion of Need for Mutual Aid

When the chief executive officer or designee of the receiver agency determines that mutual aid resources are no longer needed, they will authorize the release to their own jurisdiction and will subsequently notify the chief executive officer or designee of the provider agency.

.50 Providing Non-Emergency Mutual Aid

The Chief of Police or designee may authorize non-emergency assistance upon requests from other jurisdictions to the extent that the resources are available (e.g., forensics, criminal investigations). The Colorado Springs Police Department will compensate its own employees for all such work, unless other arrangements have been made with the receiver agency beforehand.