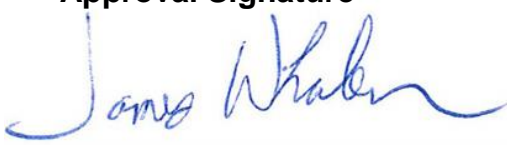


**Department of Public Safety**  
**Police Division**  
**Policies and Procedures**

<u><b>Title</b></u>	<u><b>SOP Number</b></u>
<b>Officer Backup and Appropriate Response Levels</b>	<b>9.1.301</b>
<b>Approval Signature</b>	
	
<b>James L Whalen</b>	
<b>Reviewed/Revised by</b>	<b>Pages</b>
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## ***Officer Backup and Appropriate Response Levels***

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to provide direction for instances where officers will backup fellow officers and to identify situations where backup officers will be dispatched automatically. This policy also provides guidance for appropriate response levels.
- II. **Policy:** It is the policy of the University of Cincinnati Police Division (UCPD) to respond to calls for service and officer-initiated runs with an appropriate response level

### **III. Definitions:**

**Emergency Calls for Service:** A call for police service involving, but not limited to, crimes in progress, felonies, accidents with injuries, and other life-threatening situations or inherently dangerous situations that demand an immediate response, including an officer in need of assistance.

**Urgent Calls for Service:** A call for police service requiring officers to proceed immediately and directly to the call, but not at the level of an emergency response.

### **IV. Procedure:**

- A. Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD)
  1. The CAD system will automatically recommend an appropriate personnel response level for each call for service based on call type. For example, the CAD system will recommend a two-officer response for a mental health call, and a one-officer response for a door unlock.
  2. Emergency Communication Dispatchers (ECD) will dispatch the appropriate response level the CAD system recommends for each call.
  3. If there are not enough available units to dispatch the recommended number of officers for the call, the ECD will ask the patrol supervisor for guidance on properly staffing the call.
- B. Officer Request for Backup
  1. An officer may request a backup officer(s) respond at any time based on the situation.
  2. Once dispatched as a backup officer(s), the officer(s) shall respond as an urgent call for service, unless based on information available to the officer or at the request of the officer(s) on scene, the call is elevated to an emergency call for service.
  3. Once on scene, backup officer(s) should take direction from the requesting officer on what is needed to secure, stabilize and deescalate the scene.
- C. Emergency Backup Request and Emergency Banner
  1. Upon receipt of a verbal request for emergency assistance from an officer, the ECD will immediately broadcast an "officer needs assistance" notification over all police talk-groups, dispatch units to the last known location of the officer and

## ***Officer Backup and Appropriate Response Levels***

notify the patrol supervisor.

2. The ECD will also immediately contact the appropriate closest neighboring police jurisdiction(s) (Cincinnati, Blue Ash, Clermont County, etc.) to provide emergency assistance to the officer.
3. Once there is adequate assistance on scene and/or the officer needs assistance call is cancelled, the ECD will immediately broadcast a cancellation message over all police talk-groups.
4. Upon receipt of an activated emergency banner from an officer's radio or mobile data computer (MDC), the ECD will immediately dispatch an officer to the units last known location.
5. The ECD will attempt to check on the officer by conducting a "tone alert". If there is no response from the officer, the ECD will immediately notify the patrol supervisor for guidance

### **D. Mutual Aid**

1. Officers will be dispatched to backup personnel from other agencies who request assistance in accordance with applicable mutual aid agreements.

### **E. Appropriate Response Levels**

1. As soon as reasonably and safely possible, the officer(s) on the scene of a run will make a determination of the appropriate response level (minimum number of officers required to safely and efficiently handle the run) and either request additional officers or disregard any unneeded officers.
2. Once a scene is secured, stabilized or deescalated, personnel no longer needed to safely, effectively and efficiently handle the incident shall clear the scene.
3. As necessary, the shift supervisor will assess incidents where numerous officers are engaged with the public and make a determination of the appropriate response levels.
4. Should the public inquire as to why the UCPD response levels are as they appear, the shift supervisor will respectfully provide a response supporting our tactics at the earliest opportunity. Such response shall only be provided when it does not interfere with an ongoing police operation, or by a member not associated with the operation.

### **References:**

UCPD Policy 1.1.200 Jurisdiction and Service Boundaries  
UCPD Policy 9.1.300 Response to Emergency, Non-Emergency and Urgent Calls  
UCPD Policy 11.1.100 UCPD Communications Center