

# **Patrol**

## **400.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

The purpose of this policy is to define the patrol function and address intraorganizational cooperation and information sharing.

## **400.2 POLICY**

The Missoula Police Department provides patrol services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and will prioritize responses to requests for emergency services using available resources to enhance the safety of the public and department members.

## **400.3 FUNCTION**

Patrol will generally be conducted by uniformed officers in clearly marked law enforcement vehicles in assigned jurisdictional areas of Missoula. The function of patrol is to respond to calls for assistance and reports of criminal activity, act as a deterrent to crime, enforce state and local laws, identify community needs, provide support and assistance to the community and respond to emergencies.

Patrol services include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Responding to emergency calls for service.
- (b) Apprehending criminal offenders.
- (c) Providing mutual aid and assistance to other agencies for emergency and law enforcement-related activities.
- (d) Preventing criminal acts, traffic violations and accidents, maintaining public order and discovering hazardous situations or conditions.
- (e) Responding to reports of both criminal and non-criminal acts.
- (f) Responding to routine calls for service, such as public assistance or public safety.
- (g) Directing and controlling traffic.
- (h) Carrying out crime prevention activities, such as residential inspections, business inspections and community presentations.
- (i) Carrying out community-oriented policing and problem-solving activities, including the application of resources to improve or resolve specific problems or situations and contacting or assisting members of the public in a positive way.

## **400.4 INFORMATION SHARING**

To the extent feasible, all information relevant to the mission of the Department should be shared among all divisions and specialized units on a timely basis. Members should be provided with

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opportunities on a regular basis to share information during the daily briefings and to attend briefings of other divisions or specialized units.

Additionally, information should be shared with outside agencies and the public in conformance with department policies and applicable laws. Members are encouraged to share information with other units and divisions.

#### **400.5 CROWDS, EVENTS AND GATHERINGS**

Officers may encounter gatherings of people, including, but not limited to, civil demonstrations, public displays, parades, sporting events and civic, social and business events. Officers should monitor such events as time permits in an effort to keep the peace and protect the safety and rights of those present. A patrol supervisor should be notified when it becomes reasonably foreseeable that such an event may require increased monitoring, contact or intervention.

Officers responding to an event or gathering that warrants law enforcement involvement should carefully balance the speech and association rights of those present with applicable public safety concerns before taking enforcement action.

Generally, officers should consider seeking compliance through advisements and warnings for minor violations, and should reserve greater enforcement options for more serious violations or when voluntary compliance with the law is not achieved.

Officers are encouraged to contact organizers or responsible persons to seek voluntary compliance that may address relevant public safety concerns.