

Outside Agency Assistance

328.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to members when requesting or responding to a request for mutual aid or when assisting another law enforcement agency as authorized by 44-11-101 MCA.

328.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Missoula Police Department to promptly respond to requests for assistance by other law enforcement agencies, subject to available resources and consistent with the applicable laws and policies of this department.

328.3 ASSISTING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, requests for any type of mutual aid assistance from another agency should be routed to the Shift Commander for approval. In some instances, a memorandum of understanding or other established protocol may exist that eliminates the need for approval of individual requests.

When another law enforcement agency requests assistance from this department, the Shift Commander may authorize, if available, an appropriate number of personnel to assist. Members are reminded that their actions when rendering assistance must conform with applicable laws and be consistent with the policies of this department.

Officers may respond to a request for emergency assistance; however, they shall notify a supervisor of their activity as soon as practicable.

A supervisory officer will respond to the scene where the assistance is to be provided, if there is a reasonable expectation that force is likely to be used or there is reason to believe the response will involve significantly greater than normal exposure to liability for the officer or the Missoula Police Department.

Arrestees may be temporarily detained by this department until arrangements for transportation are made by the outside agency.

When transportation assistance is rendered, a report shall be prepared and submitted by the handling member unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

328.3.1 INITIATED ACTIVITY

Any on-duty officer who engages in law enforcement activities of any type that are not part of a mutual aid request and take place outside the jurisdiction of the Missoula Police Department shall notify his/her supervisor or the Shift Commander and Dispatch as soon as practicable. This requirement does not apply to special enforcement details or multi-agency units that regularly work in multiple jurisdictions.

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328.4 REQUESTING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE

If assistance is needed from another agency, the member requesting assistance should, if practicable, first notify a supervisor. The handling member or supervisor should direct assisting personnel to where they are needed and to whom they should report when they arrive.

The requesting member should arrange for appropriate radio communication capabilities, if necessary and available, so that communication can be coordinated between assisting personnel.

328.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

After a mutual aid/outside assistance incident outside of MPD jurisdiction, the responding officer(s) will document their actions in a case report. The case report should contain, but is not limited to:

- a. Type of assistance requested
- b. Reason for assistance request
- c. Location of call
- d. Officers involved
- e. Arrests or citations issued
- f. Injuries sustained
- g. Use of Force
- h. Damages to equipment
- i. Names of all involved