

**CITY OF OCONOMOWOC POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

DATE: September 7, 2020

HISTORY: September 25, 2019
October 15, 1999

SUBJECT: Field Response

POLICY NUMBER: 99-051

I. INTRODUCTION

Every effort must be made to effectively manage the deployment and utilization of field personnel. It is recognized that some assignments require the utilization of more than one officer, while others can easily and safely be handled by a single officer. Coordination and control of field officers, as well as the assignment of a sufficient number of field officers to handle various type of calls, are critical to officer safety and effective police operations.

It is also important to recognize that the priority given to assignments should not be equal and calls should not be assigned in the same order as they are received without consideration given to priority or alternate responses.

II. POLICY

- A.** This department generally operates single officer field units, therefore, backup units should be assigned to certain types of calls which are likely to require the presence of more than one officer. Telecommunicators are principally responsible for identifying incidents requiring more than one officer and assigning the closest available backup unit. Field officers should also be alert to situations which have the potential need for more than one officer and should request backup if appropriate.
- B.** Unless an assignment requires more than one officer, only the officer assigned should respond. Unnecessary backup reduces patrol coverage in other areas.
- C.** Response to field assignments should be handled consistent with established priorities. Emergency assignments require handling with an emergency response. Immediate assignments should be handled expeditiously, but not with an emergency response.

III. GUIDELINES

- A.** Backup required assignments are those requiring the assignment of at least two officers and include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Actual or potential presence of dangerous weapons or violent behavior
 - 2. Domestic disputes
 - 3. All warrant service attempts, or calls for service involving a known wanted subject
 - 4. Crimes in progress
 - 5. Suspicious activity
 - 6. Multiple subjects at the scene (UAD parties, etc)
 - 7. Alarm calls
- B.** Emergency assignments are the following types of calls:
 - 1. A felony in progress or just completed; to include hold up and burglar alarms

2. A misdemeanor in progress involving violent or dangerous actions and destruction/theft of property
 3. The need to take lifesaving actions
 4. Officers requesting emergency assistance
- C.** Immediate assignments are the following types of calls:
1. A felony offense where evidence collection is likely to assist investigations
 2. An officer requesting assistance with a call, but the officer is not in danger
 3. Any offense where a suspect is being held or is in view
 4. The opportunity to prevent a crime, preserve order or protect property
 5. Traffic accidents where a continuing hazard exists or the movement of traffic is obstructed
 6. Any other circumstance requiring immediate response in the interest of good police community relations
 7. A matter for which a supervisor has directed expeditious handling
- D.** Telecommunicators should not create the impression that a field response to a routine call is made within less than one-half hour. Good judgment, tact and diplomacy will aid telecommunicators in effectively complying with this guideline.
- E.** An officer assigned to a call, has primary responsibility for the handling of that call unless relieved of that responsibility by a supervisor. Other officers assigned to respond, do so to assist the primary officer.

IV. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY MAY BE AUTHORIZED ONLY BY THE CHIEF OF POLICE

This policy is effective immediately
and will supersede any directives or understandings in conflict