

## Chapter 22

### PATROL

Standards in this chapter relate to the organization, administration, and operations of the patrol component of a police department.

The word "patrol" is used here in its broadest sense. It is considered to be a primary law enforcement function and embraces much more than the act of patrolling. It is defined as a generalized function in which officers engage in a wide variety of activities.

The standards emphasize administrative considerations, such as the organization, assignment, scheduling, and effective use of patrol resources, as well as actual operational practice.

#### 22.1 Organization and Administration

##### 22.1.1 A written directive establishes the functions of the patrol component.

*Comments: A clear definition of function enables officers to know what actions are in concert with department policy and thus facilitates the delivery of services to the community. It is suggested, however, that the responsibilities be described for at least the major job tasks in the patrol force, which may include: (1) preventive patrol; (2) crime prevention activities; (3) called-for services; (4) investigation of crimes; (5) traffic control; (7) maintenance of public order; (8) provision of emergency services; (9) development of relationships between citizens and the department; and (10) reporting of information to appropriate organizational components. (M M M)*

##### 22.1.2 A written directive establishes procedures for communication, coordination, and cooperation between patrol and other department components.

*Comments: The patrol component should encourage and support the exchange of information with specialized and support components for the purpose of coordinating performance. (M M M)*

##### 22.1.3 Law enforcement response to emergencies is available 24 hours a day, every day of the week within the department's service area.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to provide the community with basic law enforcement services. Members of the public should be able to contact a police department at any time and receive immediate response to emergency situations. (M M M)*

**22.1.4** In those departments maintaining 24-hour coverage, procedures for shift change provide for continuous patrol coverage.

*Comments: To provide patrol coverage at all times, shift changes should be staggered. (M M M)*

**22.1.5** If the department has any special-purpose vehicles, aircraft, or boats, a written directive governs their operation and includes the following provisions:

- o a statement of the objectives of their operation or usage;
- o instructions, conditions, and limitations of usage;
- o authorization for use in various situations;
- o qualifications and training for personnel assigned to operate the vehicle, aircraft or boat;
- o designation of person or position responsible for the condition and maintenance of the vehicle, aircraft or boat;
- o a listing of equipment, if any, to be kept in or on the vehicle, aircraft or boat; and
- o a listing of persons or positions authorized to operate the vehicle, aircraft or boat and its equipment.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to establish guidelines for the operation of all special-purpose vehicles, aircraft or boats utilized by the department. (M M M)*

**22.1.6** A written directive designates the methods used for identifying officers during radio transmissions.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to encourage identification systems based on assignment numbers. (M M M)*

**22.1.7** A written directive specifies the procedure for radio communication with interacting departments.

*Comments: A uniform code facilitates communication, cooperation, and coordination among different departments operating within the same general area. (M M M)*

**22.1.8** If the department uses motorcycles, horses or dogs, a written directive specifies the criteria for their deployment.

*Comments: The purpose of this standard is to ensure that motorcycles, horses or dogs are deployed appropriately. (M M M)*

**22.1.9** If the department has a system for receiving specified crime and incident report information by telephone or through the mail, a written directive specifies the criteria for acceptance.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to improve the use of patrol time. Some crime calls do not require the dispatch of a patrol officer and can be effectively handled by receiving information in an alternative manner. (M M M)*

**22.1.10** A written directive describes the circumstances that require the presence of a patrol supervisor at the scene for the purpose of assuming command.

*Comments: Incidents of a serious nature often arise that require the presence of a supervisor who possesses the authority necessary to deal with the problem. (M M M)*

## **22.2** Operations

**22.2.1** A written directive establishes the categories of crimes and incidents that should receive preliminary investigation by patrol officers.

*Comments: The single most important determinant in solving a crime is the information supplied by the victim or witnesses to the immediately responding patrol officer. In general, patrol officers should conduct the preliminary investigation of most cases. In unusually serious or complex crimes, the preliminary investigation may be conducted by specialists. Investigation of certain other crimes may require the presence of investigators in plain clothes during the initial investigation. The circumstances calling for early involvement of specialists should be clearly described by the department. (M M M)*

**22.2.2** A written directive governs the conduct of follow-up investigations by patrol officers.

*Comments: The purpose of this standard is to increase the effectiveness of patrol officers, to enhance their role, and to provide specialized investigators more time to concentrate on complex investigations. The directive should clearly specify which kinds of cases are referred to specialized investigative components. (M M M)*

**22.2.3** A written directive states that every uniformed officer engaged in a field assignment must have access to radio communications.

*Comments: The intent of this standard is to ensure that on-duty uniformed officers have the means for radio communication. (M M M)*

**22.2.4 A written directive establishes procedures for radio communications to and from patrol officers.**

*Comments: Operations are more efficient and officer safety is enhanced when dispatchers and supervisors know the status of officers, their locations, the nature of cases. (M M M)*

**22.2.5 A written directive governs pursuit of motor vehicles, to include:**

- o evaluating the circumstances;
- o Initiating officer's responsibilities;
- o secondary unit's responsibilities;
- o dispatcher's responsibilities;
- o supervisor's responsibilities;
- o forcible stopping;
- o when to terminate pursuit; and
- o inter- and intra-jurisdictional pursuits.

*Comments: The department must balance the necessity for pursuit or apprehension against the probability and severity of damage or injury that may result. When air units are available, they should be used to direct the movement of the initial pursuing units and any other ground units that may be involved. (M M M)*

**22.2.6 A written directive establishes procedures for responding to routine, urgent, and emergency calls.**

*Comments: The department should prioritize calls. These classifications should permit designation of the seriousness of the call. (M M M)*

**22.2.7 Each vehicle used in routine or general patrol service must be equipped with at least the following equipment:**

- o red and blue emergency lights;
- o a siren;
- o a mobile radio transceiver; and
- o emergency equipment.

*Comments: As an emergency vehicle, a patrol car should be equipped with these accessories to increase its effectiveness. Vehicles used for covert purposes do not have to meet this standard. (M M M)*

**22.2.8** A written directive requires the use of occupant safety restraining devices in department vehicles.

*Comments: The use of seat belts is governed by the Motor Vehicle Act. (M M M)*

**22.2.9** Bulletproof vests are made available by departments to officers for hazardous or specialized duty.

*Comments: A directive may specify circumstances when the wearing of body armour is mandatory. (M M M)*

**22.2.10** A written directive establishes procedures for notifying next-of-kin of deceased, seriously injured, or seriously ill persons.

*Comments: The procedures should ensure that notifications are carried out promptly and in a considerate manner. (M M M)*

**22.2.11** A written directive establishes procedures for notifying the following:

- o medical examiner/coroner;
- o street/highway department;
- o public utilities; and
- o news media.

*Comments: The written directive should specify the circumstances requiring notification and establish procedures to ensure that such notifications are promptly carried out. (M M M)*