

	DELMAR POLICE DEPARTMENT	
	Policy 1.5 Mutual Aid	
	Effective Date: 01/01/15	Replaces: 1-17
	Approved: <u>Ivan Barkley</u> Chief of Police	
Reference: N/A		

I. POLICY

On occasion the need arises to request assistance from or give assistance to a neighboring-law enforcement agency. This need may result from an emergency such as a civil disorder, fire, flood, or other disaster, but most often is requested for backup on calls where officers are at risk and local backup is unavailable. Before the need arises, agencies must clarify and plan emergency procedures. Available county and state support systems shall be used to support critical need operations.

II. PURPOSE

To establish procedures, duties, and responsibilities for providing assistance to, or requesting assistance from another law-enforcement agency and to provide for the use of statewide law-enforcement support systems.

III. PROCEDURE

A. Jurisdiction

1. Generally, the legal jurisdiction of the department stops at the town limits as defined by the charters and ordinances, however, officers also have authority to act as peace officers in other areas within the States when requested through a properly executed mutual aid agreement. This authority may be used for the following reasons:
 - a. Assisting neighboring-law enforcement agencies, the County Sheriff's, Maryland State Police or the Delaware State Police in handling emergency calls and at times when they are unable to respond immediately.
 - b. Assisting neighboring-law enforcement agencies, the County Sheriff's, Maryland State Police or the Delaware State Police when they are in need of assistance in safely completing a task or assignment.

B. Mutual aid

1. For the purpose of this policy, mutual aid is defined as the assistance given or asked for between the department and other law enforcement agencies during emergencies. The circumstances which require mutual aid can include one or more of the following situations:
 - a. Enforcement of laws which control or prohibit the use or sale of controlled drugs;
 - b. Any law-enforcement emergency involving an immediate threat to public safety;
 - c. When executing orders for the temporary detention or emergency custody of people for mental health evaluation;
 - d. Any public disaster, fire, flood, epidemic, or civil disorder.
2. Mutual aid may be requested from or provided to another law enforcement agency by the department at the discretion of the on-duty supervisor. Officers must remember, however, that they are primarily responsible for providing law enforcement service to our jurisdiction. There are generally three levels of mutual aid assistance as follows:
 - a. Short duration, approximately 30 minutes or less, where an additional show of force, backup, traffic control or assistance with prisoner transportation is required.
 - b. Medium duration, approximately one to four hours, where the senior officer on duty may provide or request assistance from the neighboring law enforcement agencies, the County Sheriff, Maryland State Police or Delaware State Police; however, their role is normally confined to a showing of force, backup, transporting prisoners, or traffic control. Division Commanders will be notified immediately if medium duration conditions exist.
 - c. Long duration, more than four hours, full scale assistance required. The on-duty supervisor shall immediately notify the respective Division Commander who will assist in coordinating additional aid as required. The Division Commander shall make immediate notification to the Chief of Police and the Mayor's if the Chief of Police is not available or otherwise directed by the Chief of Police to make notification to the Mayors.
3. Any Mutual Aid support between the department and neighboring law enforcement agencies shall be coordinated in advance through a written agreement. A copy of the Mutual Aid agreement listing all participating agencies can be found in the Communications Center.

4. Mutual Aid Agreements shall be reviewed annually to ensure compliance with National Incident management System requirements.
5. When taking law enforcement actions at the emergency site, including uses of force, officers from this department shall at all times adhere to this department's policies and procedures and utilize only those weapons and tactics that they have been trained and deemed qualified to use.
6. Occasionally it is necessary to request assistance from a federal law-enforcement agency when a major crime has occurred and the suspect may have left the state. The Chief of Police shall decide whether or not to notify the FBI or other appropriate agency.
7. If the department, with the help of neighboring law-enforcement agencies, MSP and or DSP, is unable to cope with an emergency such as a riot or civil disturbance, the Chief may contact the governor's office for National Guard assistance.

C. Statewide law-enforcement support.

1. The department participates in the use of the Delaware Statewide Primary Mutual Aid Radio System (SPMA) and complies with the procedures for its use. A copy of these procedures can be found posted in the department communications office.
2. The department participates in the use of the Maryland Electronic Telecommunications Enforcement Resource System (METERS) and Delaware Criminal Justice Information System (DELJIS) and complies with the procedures for the use of their exchanges. In addition, the department participates in the Uniform Crime Reporting system administered by the Maryland State Police and the Delaware State Bureau of Identification.
3. Some law-enforcement resources may be made available to the department for special use from neighboring law enforcement agencies, Maryland State Police, or the Delaware State Police. These resources include:
 - a. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams
 - b. Canine teams
 - c. Helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft
 - d. Polygraph
 - e. Riot truck and equipment
 - f. Bomb disposal

D. State Law Enforcement Assistance during Declared Emergency or Disaster Situations

1. Only the Governor has the authority to provide State Law Enforcement Assistance during an emergency or disaster situation. State equipment and personnel can be used to support local emergencies or to protect life and property in natural disasters per the governor's authorization. The Chief of Police shall request the Mayor contact the Governor if State Law Enforcement assistance is required.
2. During declared emergencies and disasters, the support listed in section C above is requested through the Mayor in the regular NIMS process.