
Inter-Agency Communication for Cross-Border Events

810.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In an effort to enhance public safety and inter-agency communication, the San Leandro Police Department will utilize the Alameda County Inter-Agency Communication guidelines during incidents that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.

810.2 DEFINITIONS

EBRCS - the East Bay Regional Communications System is the radio communication system utilized by most agencies within Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Patch - the connection of two different radio channels onto one channel for the purpose of shared transmissions.

PSAP – a Public Safety Answering Point or dispatch center.

810.3 NOTIFICATIONS

When incidents have the potential to cross over into other agencies' borders, notifications should be made in a timely manner and before units enter, if practical. Notifications should include, at least, the nature of the incident, the number of officers involved, and the notifying agency should clearly communicate whether or not they need assistance. If appropriate, the notifying agency should provide contact information for the supervisor in charge of the event.

810.4 INITIATING AGENCY

The agency in control of a pursuit or other critical incident that crosses into another jurisdiction's boundaries will retain control of the incident until the Watch Commander requests that the agency with immediate jurisdiction takes control.

If both agencies agree, the initiating agency will transfer control of communications and the incident to the agency with jurisdiction.

The Watch Commander from the agency with control will determine how to manage communications from the options below.

810.4.1 RADIO COMMUNICATION OPTIONS

- (a) Ask all participating agency units to turn to the controlling agency's primary or designated channel (if possible).
- (b) If participating units do not have access to the controlling agency's channel, the initiating agency should request a mutual aid channel from the Alameda County Sheriff's Office.
 1. Ask all participating units to move to the mutual aid channel.

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2. The initiating agency may patch their own channel to the mutual aid channel if their units are not in the position to switch to the mutual aid channel.
- (c) If none of the other options are viable, agencies should remain on their own channel and provide a face-to-face interface for communications at the street level, while the dispatch centers will relay updates via phone to the other PSAP.

810.4.2 UNIFIED COMMAND

The controlling agency should establish and utilize unified command.

810.4.3 PLAIN ENGLISH

- (a) When operating on another agency's channel or on mutual aid channels, use only plain speech for their radio communications. Radio codes should be avoided to limit confusion.
- (b) Unit identifiers should include the agency name and the identifier assigned by the agency and normally used by that unit to identify themselves, for instance, "San Leandro Police 1L21," to easily identify the units and the agency to which they belong.

810.4.4 TESTING

- (a) The Alameda County Sheriff's Office will develop and coordinate a county-wide testing schedule as outlined in the Inter-Agency Communications Testing Training Plan.
 1. Testing will occur on a monthly basis.
 2. Proctoring the test will rotate monthly to different agencies.
 3. Testing will include switching to a mutual aid channel and/or patching to a mutual aid channel.

810.4.5 CONSIDERATIONS

- (a) Some agencies identify their compass directions differently. Direction should be clearly established using landmarks and/or street and nearest cross street. For example, units traveling on E 14th Street would say "traveling on E 14th Street, from 159th Avenue towards 160th Avenue."
- (b) When agencies are patched together on EBRCS, and an OFFICER NEEDS HELP button is pushed, the controlling agency will receive the transmission. If unable to identify the operator, a roll call or similar tactic should be utilized to identify the officer in possible distress.
- (c) Switching channels during a pursuit may create an officer safety hazard; the timing of the channel switch should be considered to avoid this hazard.
- (d) Termination of pursuits rests with the controlling agency.
- (e) Supervision of the pursuit likewise rests with the controlling agency.
- (f) Considerations should be made by units operating in a non-standard uniform, including civilian clothing with a vest and/or undercover attire not immediately identifiable to other officers/deputies, to identify themselves as law enforcement:

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1. Any unit who participates in a pursuit in a non-standard uniform shall advise dispatch of their own description, including physical descriptors and clothing descriptions. Dispatch shall relay this information to all channels participating in the incident and ensure this information is passed on to other agencies who may be involved.
2. Officers/deputies in non-standard uniforms shall also advise dispatch of any other information with regards to officer safety and identification, including descriptions of other units in non-standard uniforms and a description of their vehicle if using an unmarked unit.

810.5 INTER-AGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TESTING TRAINING PLAN

- (a) Testing the Inter-Agency Communications plan will be done on the first Monday of each month. If there is a federal holiday, the testing will be on the second Monday of the month.
- (b) The proctor of the test will rotate on a monthly basis and will be in alphabetical order of agencies on the EBRCS system.
- (c) The testing time will commence at - 0800, 2000 and 0300. This will allow each shift to test on a monthly basis.
- (d) Prior to each test, the proctor agency will call the on-duty Alameda County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Supervisor to confirm ALCO Law 3 is available.
- (e) Each agency will have at least one-unit switch to the ALCO Law 3 channel.
- (f) The proctor agency will announce on the mutual channel that the testing is about to begin.
- (g) The proctor agency will then patch their main channel to the mutual aid channel for a roll call.
- (h) The proctor agency will call out each agency alphabetically. San Leandro Communications will respond first with "San Leandro PD Dispatch copies." Then a field unit will respond with SLPD and the appropriate unit number. Example, "SLPD 1L71 copies."
- (i) The proctor agency will complete the Alameda County Testing Roll Call form and send to Alameda County within a week of testing. Each year the testing records will be submitted to ACCPSA.
- (j) Once all agencies have acknowledged the roll call the proctor agency will announce the Inter- Agency Communications test is complete all agencies switch back to their main channels.
- (k) The proctor agency will undo the patch of their main channel to the mutual aid channel and advise the on duty ACSO Dispatch Supervisor that the mutual aid channel is clear.
- (l) It's recommended that each agency sets an alert on the testing day to remind the dispatchers to participate.