



Kern County Sheriff's Office – Communications Section

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: CODE 33			NO: F-500
APPROVED: Commander John Carpenter			
EFFECTIVE: November 30, 1993	REVIEWED: August 21, 2025	REVISED: August 21, 2025	UPDATED: August 21, 2025

POLICY

At times it is necessary for the Communications Center to limit radio traffic and radio availability to emergency traffic only to allow immediate access to field units involved in an operation or incident. Code 33 will be used for this purpose. Use of the radio during Code 33, which is not for emergency traffic, will be prohibited.

Code 33 may be initiated by field personnel involved in an event, a field sergeant or commander. Code 33 may also be initiated by a dispatcher when information indicates an immediate threat to an officer's safety exists.

DEFINITION:

CODE 33: Emergency radio traffic only, including but not limited to: Crimes involving weapons, in progress crimes with violence or the potential of violence, open doors on alarm calls, and any situation where a deputy or dispatcher feels there is a need for restricted radio traffic due to an emergency situation.

CODE 30: Emergency radio traffic is clear. Resume normal radio traffic.

PROCEDURE A - INITIATING CODE 33

If code 33 is initiated, the dispatcher will:

- Broadcast the code 33 by stating the following information, in the order listed:
 - Code 33, unit and location

PROCEDURE B - MOVING CODE 33 TO A BACK UP CHANNEL

If Code 33 is going to remain in effect for an extended period of time and the field supervisor requests the Code 33 be moved to a different radio channel, the dispatch supervisor will:

- Check the amount and type of radio traffic on all other channels to confirm such a request

- would not overly impact them.
- Approve or deny the request.

If approved by dispatch supervisor, the dispatcher will:

- Advise all involved units to move the incident radio traffic to the channel that has been assigned.

If the request for back up Code 33 channel is denied by the dispatch supervisor, the dispatch supervisor or designee will:

- Advise the on-scene field supervisor the request has been denied.

PROCEDURE C - CLEARING CODE 33

After the on-scene deputy or incident supervisor advises the dispatcher the situation is Code 4 or code 30 the dispatcher will:

- Broadcast Code 30 and/or code 4 and identify the channel the Code 33 was on.