



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: MULTI-AGENCY RADIO PATCHING			NO: H-1600
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: May 1, 2003	REVIEWED: 10/20/2020	REVISED: 00/00/00	UPDATED: 10/20/2020

POLICY

Occasionally the need arises for multi-agency radio patching (the linking of different radio frequencies through the “patch” function of the dispatch console). For the purpose of better facilitating multi-agency radio communications in the event of a major incident, the Sheriff's Office policy is to use all available technology to ensure the best possible communications link. Any time a radio patch is initiated, the agency requesting the patch will handle the radio communications throughout the duration of the incident unless otherwise requested.

No changes in this policy and procedure will be made without consulting allied agencies involved.

Circumstances which would warrant a multi-agency patch would include, but are not limited to:

- joint agency operations;
- probation/parole searches;
- major events (search and rescue, officer involved shootings, multi-agency SWAT operations, etc.);
- natural disasters.

PROCEDURE A: Sheriff's Office Initiated Patch

Should the need for a radio patch arise, the officer wishing the patch will:

- Notify a field supervisor, who will contact the on-duty Watch Lieutenant or affected Division Commander, to determine if the incident warrants a multi-agency patch.

If the incident does, in fact, warrant a multi-agency patch the on-duty Watch Lieutenant will:

- Have the Communications Center Supervisor call the on-duty Communications Supervisor of the desired agency and request a radio patch.

Directive A-1:

Under no circumstances will officers directly contact the communications center for a multi-agency patch without first seeking the approval of a supervisor, and all requests for radio patching will be initiated at the discretion of the on-duty Watch Lieutenant or affected Division Commander.

Procedure B: Allied Agency Initiated Patch

If an allied agency should request a radio patch with our agency, the Communications Center Supervisor will:

- Immediately notify the on-duty Watch Lieutenant or affected Division Commander that a request for a patch has been made.
- Once approved, the Watch Lieutenant will make a determination as to the number of units necessary to assist with the incident and advise the Communications Center Supervisor.
- Once the patch is completed the Communications Center will issue a “single tone alert” and direct the necessary units to appropriate Sheriff’s frequency for a multi-agency patch.

Directive B-1

Once the patch has been approved and completed, officers will be directed to the appropriate Sheriff’s frequency where they will identify themselves by call-sign and communicate in “clear-text” throughout the duration of the incident. This will help eliminate confusion, as many agencies use agency-specific codes, which may not be understood by other agency employees.

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