

SUBURBAN MUTUAL ASSISTANCE RESPONSE TEAMS

DEFINITIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

The Suburban Mutual Assistance Response Teams (S.M.A.R.T.) is a law enforcement mutual aid system operating in Southeastern Wisconsin.

The purpose of S.M.A.R.T. is:

1. To provide immediate extra law enforcement officers and equipment at the scene of law enforcement emergencies.
2. To provide for automatic and systematic response of law enforcement officers.
3. To provide for contractual responsibilities and liabilities.
4. To provide broad area coverage.
5. To foster a cooperative spirit for law enforcement emergency planning.
6. As a general rule, mutual aid personnel will supplement the requesting agency's forces, and as such, should not be assigned to hazardous duties when adequate personnel from the requesting agency exists.

S.M.A.R.T. does not relieve a community of its responsibility to provide adequate personnel and equipment for day- to-day law enforcement operations. Each community has its first line of defense and its reserves. A community may only resort to S.M.A.R.T. when a law enforcement emergency has caused its law enforcement agency to exceed its own routine capabilities.

DEFINITIONS

Aiding Agency - An agency furnishing law enforcement officers and equipment to a requesting agency.

Incident - A situation that potentially threatens or causes loss of life and/or property or exceeds the physical and organizational capabilities of a law enforcement agency. Generally, the word "Incident" within this document refers to situations (emergencies) connected to a law enforcement response to severe storms, floods, hazardous material incidents, transportation accidents, large fires, public disorders, major crimes, barricaded subjects, hostage situations, searches, traffic control, terrorist activities and other similar occurrences.

Mutual Aid - A prearranged written agreement and plan whereby regular response and assistance is provided in the event of incidents from a requesting agency by the aiding agency in accordance with the law enforcement incident assignments as developed by the Police Chiefs/Sheriffs of the participating law enforcement agencies.

S.M.A.R.T. Dispatcher - Pre-determined law enforcement communications centers responsible for the coordination and assignment of law enforcement mutual aid personnel under this plan. The Primary Dispatch Center will handle most requests for mutual aid. The Alternate Dispatch Center will handle the activities should the primary dispatcher become involved in an incident or be unavailable.

Police Incident Area - A geographic area in which a Police Incident Location exists.

Police Incident Assignment Sheet - A form used by S.M.A.R.T. dispatchers to record the response to a mutual aid request.

Police Incident Card - A printed form containing details of personnel to respond to a specific law enforcement plan level request. It includes a series of law enforcement response levels (Plans) designed to meet the needs of varying degrees of incidents (emergencies).

Law Enforcement Officer - Any person as defined in Section 165.85(2)(c), Wis. Stats., and who is on full and unrestricted duty status.

Squad Car - A law enforcement vehicle that is equipped with mounted or portable warning lights and has communications equipment.

Staging Area - A predetermined location outside the immediate incident area where law enforcement personnel and equipment will assemble.

Staging Area Coordinator - An officer assigned to coordinate activities at the staging area.

THE POLICE INCIDENT CARD

The Police Incident Card consists of a series of personnel response levels designed to meet the needs of varying degrees of emergencies. At the same time, the plan insures that aiding agencies maintain adequate personnel levels in their own communities.

A S.M.A.R.T. Level 1 Incident requires five (5) law enforcement officers to respond to a staging area. If an incident continues to escalate and more personnel are needed, the aiding agency can initiate additional levels. Each level brings five (5) additional officers and squad cars to the staging area.

The Police Incident Card contains the following information:

1. Agency Name and Phone Number - The name and phone number of the agency for which the Police Incident Card was developed.
2. Police Incident Assignments – A chart which lists eight (8) Police Incident Plan levels.
3. Police Incident Staging Areas - A listing of up to four (4) locations (staging areas) within the jurisdiction. Each area is identified by a unique designator. A staging area name, address and location description is provided for each staging area.

REQUESTING A S.M.A.R.T. RESPONSE

1. The shift commander is authorized to request a S.M.A.R.T. response of any level which, in their opinion, is required to bring a situation under control.
2. After determining the scope of the incident and Plan level needed to bring the situation under control, the requesting community, through its law enforcement dispatcher, will immediately contact the S.M.A.R.T. dispatcher and provide the following information:
 - A. THE NAME OF THE REQUESTING AGENCY AND SUPERVISOR.
 - B. THE POLICE INCIDENT STAGING AREA NUMBER REQUESTED.
 - C. THE POLICE INCIDENT PLAN LEVEL REQUESTED.
 - D. THE NATURE OF THE INCIDENT.
 - E. ANY OTHER SPECIAL DETAILS OR INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING PERSONNEL.

S.M.A.R.T. DISPATCHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. If the Primary S.M.A.R.T. Dispatcher's community is involved in the incident or is unavailable, the Alternate S.M.A.R.T. Dispatcher will assume responsibility for coordinating the notifications.
2. The S.M.A.R.T. Dispatcher will check the corresponding Police Incident Card and notify those departments due to respond to the requesting agency's incident.
3. Agency's due to respond will acknowledge the mutual aid request and, unless otherwise directed, immediately dispatch the required personnel to the appropriate Staging Area.

4. If an agency cannot, because of an existing situation, immediately send the required personnel due on an incident, they must notify the S.M.A.R.T. dispatcher immediately so that fill-in personnel can be assigned from the next Plan Level.

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO A REQUEST

1. Unless otherwise directed, each law enforcement officer assigned to respond to a Police Incident will respond in uniform in a squad car. No law enforcement officer will respond to a mutual aid request unless directed by his/her agency.
2. ALL RESPONSES BY AIDING AGENCIES SHALL BE NON-EMERGENCY ONLY! NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. Responding law enforcement officers shall be properly equipped for extended duty and changing weather conditions.

OPERATIONS AT THE STAGING AREA

1. The requesting agency will assign an officer to act as the Staging Area Coordinator. The Staging Area Coordinator will report to the Staging Area and deploy the S.M.A.R.T. personnel as requested by the Incident Commander.
2. The staging area coordinator will create and maintain an assignment record for officer safety and accountability purposes.
3. The responding personnel shall remain at the staging area until deployed or released by the staging coordinator.
4. The staging area coordinator is in command of the staging area, and all responding officers are under the command of the staging area coordinator. Once deployed to a specific task, that officer shall then be under the command of the Incident Commander or designee.

OPERATIONS AT THE EMERGENCY SITE

1. The initial responsibility of the requesting agency at the incident site is to evaluate the extent of the emergency situation and take immediate steps to insure that adequate law enforcement personnel and equipment are made available.
2. The Incident Commander of the requesting agency shall assume full responsibility and command for operations at the scene. The Incident Commander will assign personnel and equipment of the aiding agency to positions when and where he/she deems necessary. Some suggested uses of mutual aid personnel are:

- a. Provide care and aid to injured
 - b. Search and rescue operations
 - c. Evacuation
 - d. Traffic and crowd control
 - e. Perimeter security
 - f. Maintain regular law enforcement service
3. As a reminder, mutual aid personnel will supplement the requesting agency's forces, and as such, should not be assigned to hazardous duties when adequate personnel from the requesting agency exists.
4. Due to differences in ten-signals, plain text will be used in contrast to codes and ten-signals.
5. When possible, the Incident Commander or his/her designee should call the responding agency and advise how long they will be keeping their personnel.

TERMINATING A S.M.A.R.T. RESPONSE

1. The Incident Commander of the requesting agency shall insure that mutual aid personnel are released and returned to duty in their own communities as soon as the situation is restored to the point which permits the requesting municipality to satisfactorily handle it with its own resources.
2. Whenever the Incident Commander determines S.M.A.R.T. officers are no longer needed, the Incident Commander shall terminate the S.M.A.R.T response. Notice of said termination shall be made to the S.M.A.R.T. dispatcher.
3. The order in which personnel are returned to duty in their own communities is at the discretion of the Incident Commander.

History:

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