

SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Guideline

Effective Date: 09/28/2017	Supersedes Policy Dated: N/A – New Policy	Rescinds:	SOG Number: 401.8
Accreditation Index: 41.2.1, 81.2.4			
Part Title: Operations		Chapter Title: Patrol Operations	
Chief of Police:			

Backup Officers

I Policy

It is the policy of the Springfield Police Department to have established procedures for the assignment and response of backup officers. The Springfield Police Department encourages officers to address calls for service in an expeditious manner, but will not give priority to efficiency over the safety of the responding officers.

II Definitions

CAD – Computer-Aided Dispatch

III Procedure

1 ASSIGNMENT OF BACKUP OFFICERS (CALEA 81.2.4(e))

- 1.1 Springfield-Greene County 911 maintains a list of CAD call types, which is reviewed annually by SPD Command Staff. This list includes the priority level assigned to each call type and indicates whether the call should be dispatched for a one-unit or two-unit response.
- 1.2 The CAD system makes recommendations as to the number of officers to assign to a particular call based on the information from the call type list. Dispatchers shall follow these recommendations.
- 1.3 If a single unit is assigned to a two-unit call because they are the only officer in service at that time, dispatch will send a backup officer as soon as assistance becomes available.

SOG 401.8

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- 1.3.1 Single units assigned to calls requiring backup should use appropriate discretion when deciding whether to approach the scene alone, based on the circumstances and established department safety priorities.
 - 1.4 Backup will also be assigned at the request of an officer or at the direction of a supervisor.
 - 1.4.1 While it is an officer's responsibility to request backup, field supervisors should monitor dispatched calls and officer activity for situations in which additional personnel may be needed and make necessary assignment adjustments regarding the number of backup units responding and/or the level of response to an incident.
- 2 **CALLING OFF BACKUP (CALEA 81.2.4(e))**
 - 2.1 The primary responding unit has discretion to call off their backup in certain situations. However, officers shall not call off their backup under the following circumstances:
 - 2.1.1 A crime is reported as "in progress" or an alarm call indicating a crime is in progress;
 - 2.1.2 The suspect is still on scene, in the immediate area, or recently left and likely to be nearby;
 - 2.1.3 The caller is uncooperative or details of the situation are unknown;
 - 2.1.4 A domestic disturbance or other disturbance in which involved parties from opposing sides are present or in the immediate area;
 - 2.1.5 Any call for service in which involved parties are reported to be armed and/or mentally ill;
 - 2.1.6 Any other situation which is likely to present a danger to officers.
 - 2.2 If, after arrival on scene, an officer determines none of the above-listed circumstances apply and additional officers are not needed, they may then have responding backup units disregard.
 - 2.3 Supervisors will monitor officers' requests to disregard backup and override the request when necessary.
- 3 **BACKUP RESPONSE (CALEA 81.2.4(a))**
 - 3.1 Officers will notify the dispatcher whenever they self-initiate backup for another unit.
 - 3.2 The closest available unit shall respond to requests for backup.
 - 3.3 Circumstances of the situation shall dictate whether a non-emergency or emergency response is appropriate. The level of response should be consistent with established guidelines as set forth in SOG 304.1 – Police Vehicle Operation.
 - 3.4 When requesting backup, officers should specify the type of response needed.

