

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURE**

DATE: August 6, 2019

NUMBER: 6.08 - PATROL

SUBJECT: REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE BY COMMON CARRIERS – CODE BLUE PROCEDURES

RELATED POLICY: N/A

ORIGINATING DIVISION: SUPPORT OPERATIONS

NEW PROCEDURE:

PROCEDURAL CHANGE: **NO CHANGES**

SUPERSEDES: DP 6.08 – 10/23/2015

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the identification, response and reporting of “CODE BLUE” circumstances occurring on common carriers.

II. SCOPE

This Department procedure applies to all members of the Department.

III. DEFINITION

The term “common carrier” refers to taxicabs, city transit buses and San Diego Trolley Incorporated (SDTI) trolleys.

The term "CODE BLUE" shall be used to designate an urgent request for police assistance and shall include such situations as robberies, impending robberies, violent disturbances, assaults or other law enforcement needs occurring in or involving any common carrier.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Taxicabs

A "CODE BLUE" report may be received by Communications Division from the taxicab dispatcher by telephone or observed by field officers through a visual device installed on the taxicab.

1. Taxicabs, which operate within the City of San Diego, are required to have "CODE BLUE" lights on top of the cab. When activated by a foot switch, the lights will begin flashing on and off, indicating the need for assistance.
2. In the case of taxicabs equipped with roof mounted "tent" lights, the "CODE BLUE" lights are mounted at the front and rear of the "tent" light. Taxicabs equipped with the traditional roof mounted "taxi" light, have the "CODE BLUE" lights mounted on top of the "taxi" light.
3. The operation of taxicabs is governed by the Metropolitan Transportation Services and officers who encounter problems or have concerns regarding taxicabs should call the MTS at (619) 235-2650.
4. Taxicabs are equipped with two-way radios.

B. City transit buses

"CODE BLUE" reports may be received in the same manner as with taxicabs.

1. City buses are equipped with two-way radios and a hand-activated device, which will alert the bus dispatcher of the need for police assistance.
2. Bus drivers have been instructed to activate the emergency flasher lights to alert field officers of their need for assistance.

C. San Diego Trolley Incorporated (SDTI) Trolleys

1. Trolley Operators, Trolley Code Compliance personnel, contract security and other SDTI field personnel are equipped with two-way radios and may contact the Communications Division via the SDTI Central Control Facility.
2. Routine enforcement action taken by employees of SDTI does not constitute a "CODE BLUE," unless a request for police assistance is made via the SDTI Central Control Facility.
3. SDTI Code Compliance personnel are the only SDTI personnel authorized to make custodial arrests. The booking and transportation to jail of subjects from qualifying arrests should be completed by the arresting SDTI Code Compliance supervisor through the Watch Commander's Office. The booking process is outlined in a memorandum of agreement between the San Diego Police Department and San Diego Trolley Incorporated, and is maintained by the Operations Support liaison at (619) 531-2113.

4. The operation of trolleys is governed by SDTI. Officers who encounter problems in the field should call the SDTI Central Control Facility at (619) 595-4960. Inquires outside of specific incidents should be referred to the Operations Support liaison at (619) 531-2113.
 5. In all incidents involving the delay of a trolley or trolley service, the field supervisor shall ensure that Communications Division notifies the SDTI Central Control Facility to request appropriate SDTI personnel respond to the scene. An SDTI liaison should be included in every incident command post that results or is likely to result in the delay of trolley service.
- D. In all cases, the common carrier dispatcher will notify Communications Division of the following:
1. The existence of a "CODE BLUE";
 2. The location, destination, and route, if known;
 3. The nature of the problem, if known; and,
 4. The vehicle number of the taxicab or bus.
- E. Communications Division responsibility
- Communications Division will receive the notification of a "CODE BLUE" situation, assign a priority to the call, and transmit the information on the appropriate radio frequency or frequencies.
- F. Common carrier stops
1. Officers are requested to stop any common carrier in any instance where suspicious circumstances exist or when it appears the driver may be in need of assistance.
 2. Incidents involving a bus or trolley should be resolved in a manner that minimizes the delay of service in order to maintain existing schedules.
- G. Reporting
1. Stops of common carriers, as a result of "CODE BLUE" circumstances, shall be documented on the Officer's Daily Journal with the following items included:
 - a) Time and location of the stop;
 - b) Nature of the "CODE BLUE" situation;

- c) Common carrier equipment number; and,
 - d) Action taken.
2. Stops of common carriers resulting in enforcement action shall be documented in the appropriate manner (i.e., FI, ARJIS-8, ARJIS-2 etc.).