

**River Bend Police Department**  
**Mutual Aid Policy**  
**General Order 19**  
Effective 05/29/2014

**19.01** **Policy:** It is the policy of the River Bend Police Department to support other agencies and to request support from other agencies that have existing signed mutual aid agreements, however, ensuring protection of the Town of River Bend is the first priority. The Chief of Police, may enter into written mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies to allow for the quick and efficient exchange of services, personnel, and/or equipment during a law enforcement emergency.

**19.02** **Requesting Mutual Aid:** There may be times that the on duty officer may need additional assistance during their shift assignments. They can request mutual aid via Craven Communications or if the agency is on the same radio system, they can request it directly to that agency. Officers must be clear in requesting mutual aid, by those words, so the responding officers are covered under NC General Statute to provide assistance.

**19.03** **Responding to Mutual Aid Requests:** Officers of the River Bend Police Department may respond to mutual aid requests coming directly from the requesting agency or through Craven Communications.

**19.04** **Guidelines for Response:** The senior officer on duty must determine, using benchmarks, whether a response to a request for mutual aid is appropriate. Benchmarks for making this determination include:

1. Protect the life of an Officer
2. Protect the life of a citizen
3. Assist in a traffic stop, alarm call, domestic, assault or other potentially violent call
4. Provide assistance during an investigation
5. Protect property
6. As may be requested.

**19.04.01** **Additional factors:** Also to be factored in would be the location of the response, the length of time needed at the scene, status of calls for service, and ability to respond in a timely fashion.

**19.05** **Single Officer on Duty Response:** If there is only one officer on duty, of course their response must be limited so as not to subject the Town of River Bend and its citizens to potential hazard. Therefore the incidents to which a response is requested must be of an urgent nature.

**19.05.01 Guidelines for these responses:**

1. Urgent in nature
2. To protect life or property
3. Short lived in duration (20 minutes or less)
4. Within 5 miles of Town Hall.

**19.05.02 Extension of Mutual Aid:** If the mutual aid is to be extended past the 20 minutes or past the 5 mile limit, permission is needed from the Sergeant, or if unavailable, the Chief of Police.

**19.06** **Multiple Officer on Duty Response:** If there are two officers on duty, one officer may be available to respond to mutual aid requests. Under extreme cases-both officers may respond; Second officer is limited to 20 minutes and must be approved by either the Sergeant or Chief of Police. Same extension from 19.05.02 apply to this response.

**19.06.01 Guidelines for these responses:**

1. Assist other agencies with manpower needs
2. Not a critical situation (i.e. checkpoints, event traffic control, etc.)
3. Will return upon the need for the primary officer to leave for police matters

**19.07** **Special Major Circumstances:** There may be times where it may be necessary to have both duty officers to respond. These would be limited and narrowly focused. The Chief of Police or designee must approve any dispatch of all on duty police personnel in response to a mutual aid request involving a major law enforcement emergency.

**19.07.01 Guidelines for these responses:**

1. Critical in nature
2. Extreme disorder requiring all available manpower
3. Not sufficient resources in the immediate area to handle the situation
4. Safety of the River Bend officer responding would be enhanced by an additional officer.
5. The responding officers will respond in separate vehicles, and as soon as practical, one officer will return to the town limits of River Bend, when additional support arrives on scene.
6. River Bend Officers are to follow River Bend Policies during all mutual aid circumstances and are held accountable for violations while under mutual aid.

**19.08** **Requirement:** This department is not required to respond to a request for mutual aid assistance if, in the opinion of the Chief of Police or his designee, such response would interfere with or jeopardize the police protection and safety of citizens or property within the Town of River Bend or if the requested assistance is otherwise unavailable.

**19.09** **Arrest and Other Powers:** River Bend police officer rendering assistance under an emergency mutual aid request shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities as if he or she were performing his or her own duties in River Bend; however, such powers, duties, rights, privileges, and immunities may be exercised only while responding to an emergency request for assistance under mutual aid. Ref. NCGS 160A-288, 90-95.2

**19.10** **Adherence of Policy:** River Bend police officer rendering emergency assistance under mutual aid shall do so at the direction of and under the control of an official designated by the requesting agency; however, no officer shall be required to perform any act which would violate the policies and procedures of the River Bend Police Department.

**19.11** **Notification Requirements** - Officers shall adhere to the following notification requirements when exercising police authority within the jurisdiction of another cooperating agency:

1. Any officer exercising police authority within the jurisdiction of another cooperating agency shall make prior notification to that agency and the officer's immediate supervisor.
2. Whenever prior notification is not possible due to exigent circumstances, such notification shall be made as soon as it becomes practical.
3. The normal point of contact for such notification to another agency could be the Communications Center of the agency in question. The officer making the notification should obtain the name of the person receiving the notification and include it in his/her offense report.
4. In addition to notification made to the normal point of contact, officers should also coordinate their efforts with special units or officers assigned to similar duties within their agencies. The intent of this additional notification is to avoid problems which may result when the operations of the different agencies may conflict because each is unaware of the other's intentions.

**19.12** **Public Statements** - Prior to release of any information or statements to the media in connection with any mutual aid request for emergency law enforcement assistance or action covered by this General Order, notice shall be made to the agency head or highest ranking officer available at any other cooperating agency involved. When practicable, the press release will be provided to the involved agency for their review prior to release to the media.

**END**