



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS  
MISCELLANEOUS POLICY/PROCEDURE**

**Policy No. 7310** Date Issued: September 23, 2009  
Section: 7300 – Allied Agencies Date Revised: July 11, 2012  
Accreditation Standards:

**SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL (CHP)**

**APPROVED:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Kidd, Interim General Manager

**1.0 Policy**

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is a state police agency with full police powers and jurisdiction throughout the state of California, and is considered an “allied agency.” Their primary mission and responsibility is to provide traffic safety and enforcement on all public roadways within the unincorporated areas of the county; and to provide law enforcement services and protection for all state owned properties and facilities within the county.

In Santa Cruz County, CHP units are deployed from their local office in Aptos. The office is also open to the public during regular business hours. The CHP Dispatch Center is located in Monterey County (call sign “Monterey”) and is responsible for the 24-hours dispatch services of three counties: Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito.

**2.0 Procedure**

2.1 Responsibility and Jurisdiction

2.1.1 Traffic Accidents and Incidents

2.1.1.1 The CHP has responsibility and jurisdiction to investigate all traffic-related accidents and incidents on public roadways within the unincorporated areas of the county. Additionally, they have jurisdiction for certain incidents involving DUI, Reckless Driving and Hit and Run on private property.

## 2.1.2 California Vehicle Code

2.1.2.1 The CHP has the responsibility to investigate and enforce violations of the California Vehicle Code, including all reports of stolen vehicles (including boats, aircraft, tractors, etc.).

## 2.1.3 Roadway Conditions and Safety

2.1.3.1 The CHP has the responsibility to monitor and maintain roadway safety and conditions, including hazards due to blockades, debris, detours, signage and signal failures, etc, on all public roadways within the unincorporated areas of the county. Because of this responsibility, they are also the 24-hour Dispatch Center for the state Department of Transportation, (Cal Trans) Division.

## 2.1.4 Public Property / Private Property

2.1.4.1 The CHP has the responsibility to investigate all motor vehicle accidents resulting in fatalities or injuries, hit and run, or any reports of impaired driving, whether on public or private property within the unincorporated areas of the county. This responsibility includes cases involving farm, construction, or recreational vehicles (including off-road motorcycles and ATVs).

## 2.1.5 Sheriff's Office – MOU

2.1.5.1 Notwithstanding this policy, the CHP has entered into a MOU with the Sheriff's Office, outlining jurisdictional responsibilities for specific types of incidents within the unincorporated areas of the county. The MOU (aka CHP/SHERIFF Call Handling Guidelines) is available to dispatchers in the "reference" section of the Intranet, and should be reviewed whenever a dispatcher is unsure of, or attempting to determine jurisdiction or responsibility.

## 2.1.6 State Facilities

2.1.6.1 The CHP has the responsibility to provide all law enforcement services and protections within all state facilities and properties located throughout the county.

## 2.2 Notification/Dispatch

2.2.1 In general, when a Netcom dispatcher receives a report that has been determined to be within the responsibility or jurisdiction of the CHP, the caller should be transferred directly to the Monterey Dispatch Center for interrogation by CHP dispatchers. In the event that a caller cannot be transferred directly to CHP, all information regarding the incident should immediately be relayed to CHP. In both instances, the Netcom dispatcher should create a CAD incident

and, after the transfer, close the incident with the Disposition Code “CHP”.

## 2.3 Cover Resource

- 2.3.1 As with all allied agencies, dispatchers should always consider the CHP as a law enforcement resource for cover or assistance anywhere within the county. The CHP radio frequencies can be monitored at Netcom and limited communications can be established between Monterey and Netcom centers via “cross-channel” techniques. Additionally, most CHP field units are equipped with SO Red and CLEMARS frequencies.