

Mobile Communications Vehicle

705.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure outlines the function of the Mobile Communications Vehicle (MOBILE COMM) and types of situations that may require its deployment. The policy also identifies the process needed to authorize activation, the personnel authorized to move the vehicle and use the equipment, and the protocol for deployment.

705.2 OVERVIEW

The Mobile Communications Vehicle serves as a tactical communications platform for police personnel during critical incidents such as disasters, civil unrest/protests, major crime scenes, or hostage/barricade incidents. Use of this equipment is also appropriate for large scale events that require advanced coordination of large numbers of police and other safety personnel.

705.3 MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The Mobile Communications Team consists of department personnel, sworn and civilian, appointed by the Office of Emergency Management. The Emergency Management Administrator or his/her designee shall be responsible for training and management of the team.

Only members of the department who have successfully completed a department-approved driver/operator training program will be authorized to drive the Mobile Communications Vehicle.

705.4 AUTHORIZATION

The Mobile Communications Vehicle is a regional asset and may be requested by any Orange County agency for use in a critical incident. Deployment of the Mobile Communication Vehicle to assist an outside agency must be approved by the Chief of Police or designee (a command staff level officer).

Any supervisor may authorize the use of this vehicle for critical incidents within the city. In the event the vehicle is deployed to a critical incident, the Emergency Management Administrator or Administrative Services Commander will be notified as soon as practical. If he/she cannot be contacted, the on-call command duty officer shall be notified.

The Mobile Communication vehicle may be used as a static display for special activities or events only with the approval of a department manager.

705.5 DEPLOYMENT

Once authorized for deployment, members of the Mobile Communications Team will be notified to respond to the police facility or other designated location. Setup, takedown, and movement of the vehicle are the exclusive responsibilities of the members of this team or other authorized personnel.

Irvine Police Department

Policies

Mobile Communications Vehicle

During the course of the deployment and activation, at least one member of the Mobile Communications Team will remain with the vehicle at all times to safeguard the equipment. A member of the team who is qualified to drive the vehicle shall be immediately available to the incident commander at all times during the call-out in the event the vehicle needs to be moved.

705.6 VEHICLE OPERATION

Department personnel shall operate the Mobile Communications Vehicle in a careful and prudent manner, and shall obey all laws of the state and all department orders pertaining to such operation. The Mobile Communications Vehicle requires a Class B driver's license endorsement to operate the vehicle. Department personnel shall possess the required class endorsement to drive the Mobile Communications Vehicle.

Although equipped with emergency lights and siren, the Mobile Communications Vehicle will not respond to any incident with emergency lighting equipment and siren activated (Code 3), unless specifically directed to do so by the Incident Commander or his/her designee.

Anytime the vehicle is moved, regardless of the intended distance to relocation, personnel responsible for moving the vehicle will complete a visual inspection of the exterior and interior. During this inspection, personnel will ensure that:

- (a) All cables and loose equipment are properly stowed.
- (b) All parts of the vehicle and equipment designed to extend outward from the vehicle's frame are retracted. These parts include the side body extensions and the camera/antenna array.
- (c) Any damage discovered is promptly reported.