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MANAGEMENT

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Subject: MS9260 Law Enforcement General Order 22 - Law Enforcement Operations

FOIA
Designation P
Letter:

1. Updates, supersedes, or rescinds:

Updates General Order (GO) 22 - Law Enforcement Operations, Release. This version of GO-22 will be made available externally.

2. Explanation of Materials Transmitted:

This GO will provide external entities with the policy and procedures for Law Enforcement Operations within the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) law enforcement program.

3. Reports Required:

None

4. Delegations of Authority Updated:

None

5. Filing Instructions: File as directed below.

REMOVE

All of GO 22 (Rel. 9-360)
(Total: 2 Pages)

INSERT

All of MS-9260-22, (Rel. 9-464)
(Total: 7 Pages)

ERIC KRILEY

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Eric A. Kriley
Director
Office of Law Enforcement and Security



LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

Order Number

22

Dated

August 17, 2026

Number of Pages

7

Issued by

Director, Bureau of Land Management, Office Law Enforcement and Security

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order (GO) is to establish a clear and consistent framework of expectations to guide the operations of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) to ensure they perform in accordance with laws, policies, and standards.

2. SCOPE

This GO applies to all BLM LEOs and their supervisors. It applies to all activities, processes, and practices related to law enforcement operations. Nothing in this policy is intended to supersede applicable law, regulation, and/or the Department of Interior (DOI) policy. In the event of any discrepancies, the applicable laws, regulations, and policies of the DOI shall govern.

3. AUTHORITY

- a. 5 U.S.C. § 301 – Departmental Regulations
- b. 43 U.S.C. § 1733 – Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 – Authority to make regulations.
- c. 18 USC § 5038 – Use of Juvenile Records
- d. 49 CFR § 175.10 – Exceptions for passengers, crewmembers, and air operators

- e. 49 CFR § 1544.219 – Carriage of accessible weapons
- f. 49 CFR § 1544.221 – Carriage of prisoners under the control of armed law enforcement officers
- g. Collective Knowledge Doctrine
- h. 28 U.S.C. § 2672 note (Pub. L. 105–277, § 101(h); Pub. L. 106–58, § 623) – Federal Tort Claims Act

4. DEFINITIONS

All Terrian Vehicle (ATV): A motorized off-highway vehicle designed for travel on four or more low-pressure or non-pneumatic tires, having a seat to be straddled by the operator and handlebar for steering control.

Arrest: A physical, constructive restraint, or detention of an individual performed by a BLM LEO with the purpose of taking the individual into custody.

BLM LEO: A DOI employee sworn and commissioned to: enforce criminal statutes; carry firearms; execute and serve warrants; and search, seize, make arrests, and perform such duties as authorized by law.

Communications Center: The facility where a public safety agency or agencies participate in receiving calls for service and dispatching them to law enforcement and emergency service personnel.

Due Regard: The standard of care a reasonable officer would exercise in the same situation or under similar circumstances.

Emergency: A sudden, urgent, usually unexpected event or set of circumstances requiring immediate action.

Emergency Response: Operation of a law enforcement vehicle in non-pursuit circumstances where an LEO believes it necessary to proceed expeditiously for the purpose of responding to an emergency.

Law Enforcement Emergency Response Vehicle: A marked or unmarked motorized vehicle utilized by law enforcement that is equipped with emergency lighting and siren.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Also known as a side-by-side, Sand Rail, Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) or dirtbike and is a common term interchangeable between different off-road vehicles.

Prisoner: Same as arrestee/detainee; a person who has been arrested and is under the supervision of LEOs or correctional officers.

Probable Cause: When the BLM LEO possesses articulable facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a criminal offense has been committed, is being committed, is about to be committed, or that evidence of a crime is present in a specific location.

Reasonable Suspicion: When the BLM LEO possesses articulable facts and circumstances that would lead a reasonable officer to believe that criminal activity has been committed, is being committed, or is about to be committed. The standard demands more than an unparticularized hunch or feeling, but less than the level of certainty required for probable cause sufficient to make an arrest or obtain a search warrant.

Recovery Position: The recovery position, also referred to as the lateral recumbent position, is the positioning of a person on their side to allow for airflow and any drainage from their mouth and nose, and positioning the arms and legs in a stabilizing manner.

Restraints: Devices that are intended to limit a person's arm and leg movement but not intended to cause physical pain.

Temporary Detention: A time limited detention of a person for investigative purposes based upon reasonable suspicion that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit a crime, under circumstances that do not amount to probable cause for arrest.

Tire Deflation Device (TDD): Device that utilizes sharp hollow spikes to penetrate the tires of a vehicle. The spikes remain in the tire(s) of the vehicle, allowing air to pass through the spikes for a gradual deflation of the tires.

Vehicle Pursuit: An attempt by an LEO, operating a law enforcement vehicle, to apprehend one or more occupants of another moving vehicle that is actively evading apprehension or have otherwise disregarded an LEO's signal to stop.

Vehicle Stops: A temporary detention of a vehicle and its occupants by a BLM LEO to investigate a possible crime or violation of law.

5. FILE AND RECORDS MAINTENANCE

Law enforcement records will be maintained in accordance with the Law Enforcement General Orders and Handbooks, and the Bureau Records Retention Catalog.

6. POLICY

6.1 EMERGENCY LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE RESPONSE

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BLM LEOs responding to an emergency, or when in the pursuit of an actual or suspected criminal offender, are authorized to operate law enforcement vehicles or vessels with emergency warning equipment activated to detain the offender and/or facilitate an expedited response to an emergency. BLM LEOs must operate with due regard when operating a law enforcement vehicle, including in cases of emergency response.

6.2 TRAFFIC STOP

A vehicle stop is justified when the BLM LEO has reasonable suspicion or probable cause to believe that the occupant(s) of the vehicle has committed or is attempting to commit a crime over which the BLM LEO has jurisdiction.

6.3 VEHICLE PURSUIT OPERATION

BLM LEOs are authorized to initiate vehicle pursuits without supervisory approval. BLM LEOs involved in a pursuit must continually evaluate the risks to the public, involved personnel, and occupants of the fleeing vehicle, and terminate the pursuit when the risks outweigh the need for immediate apprehension. A pursuit does not include situations where:

- a. BLM LEOs are attempting to close the time and distance gap to initiate a traffic stop, or
- b. The driver of the vehicle may be unaware of the BLM LEO's commands, is not immediately yielding, and is not jeopardizing the safety of other motorists and/or pedestrians.

6.3.1 TERMINATION OF PURSUIT

A vehicle pursuit shall be terminated whenever the BLM LEO or supervisor determines that the risks to the safety of the public or involved personnel outweigh the need for immediate apprehension.

6.4 BLM LAW ENFORCEMENT RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM

A BLM LEO is authorized to allow members of the public or family members to accompany them during the course of their duties, including riding in a law enforcement vehicle. A BLM LEO Supervisor must approve all ride-alongs.

6.5 TIRE DEFLATION DEVICE (TDD) USE PARAMETERS

BLM LEOs confronted with a vehicle which refuses to stop are authorized to utilize TDDs to slow or stop that vehicle. The BLM LEO deploying the TDD must be trained in the use of the TDDs they are deploying. BLM LEOs are authorized to deploy TDDs that are commercially

available and common in law enforcement use. BLM LEOs will deploy them in accordance with GO 14 – Use of Force and corresponding SOPs.

6.6 ARRESTS

BLM LEOs are authorized to make arrests based on probable cause or pursuant to a valid warrant issued by a court, provided that the arrest falls within the LEO's lawful authority and jurisdiction. BLM LEOs must conduct arrests in accordance with the United States Constitution and corresponding SOPs.

6.6.1 ARRESTS PROCEDURES

All arrests made by BLM LEOs must be in accordance with applicable federal and/or state laws, relevant court decisions, related legal procedures, and the provisions of this section unless otherwise directed by a court.

6.6.2 ARRESTS OF JUVENILES

All arrests made by BLM LEOs involving juveniles must be in accordance with applicable federal and/or state laws, relevant court decisions, related legal procedures, and the provisions of this section unless otherwise directed by a court.

6.7 HANDCUFFING, SEARCH, AND TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

BLM LEOs must take precautions while handcuffing, searching, and transporting prisoners to protect the lives and safety of LEOs, the public, and people in custody.

6.7.1 HANDCUFFING

BLM LEOs will handcuff individuals with hands behind their back unless circumstances dictate otherwise (e.g., a person's physical limitations, or medical condition, and/or when a belly band/chain is used).

6.7.2 SEARCHING OF PEOPLE

BLM LEOs are authorized to search individuals when conducted pursuant to consent, a valid warrant, a recognized exception to warrant requirements, or a lawful arrest. Any weapons, evidence, or items associated with criminal activity discovered during the search shall be secured in accordance with applicable law and policy.

6.7.3 SEARCH INCIDENT-TO-ARREST

BLM LEOs are authorized to perform a warrantless search incident to the arrest of a person, of the arrestee's body, and the area within the arrestee's immediate control.

6.7.4 STRIP AND BODY CAVITY SEARCHES

Strip and body cavity searches may be necessary to ensure LEO safety and security or to seize evidence of criminal activity. When more than one effective search option is available, the least invasive form of search will be conducted. These forms of search are highly intrusive and shall only be conducted within the limits of legal authority, out of public view, and with due regard for human dignity.

6.7.5 SICK OR INJURED PRISONERS

A prisoner who is injured, ill, or claims a need for medical attention shall be taken to a medical facility. These cases must be well-documented. When it is reasonable to do so, the prisoner's injuries should be photographed before and after medical treatment.

6.8 TRANSPORTATION OF PRISONERS

Prisoners should be transported in a prisoner compartment unless transportation is necessary by other means based on operational requirements. During transport, BLM LEOs must ensure that all prisoners are properly handcuffed as outlined in this GO and corresponding SOPs, and that seat belts are securely fastened.

BLM LEOs are prohibited from using restraints to secure a prisoner to the transporting vehicle or handcuffing prisoners to LEOs. Opposite sex prisoners should not be transported together in the same prisoner compartment, if feasible.

6.8.1 AIRCRAFT TRANSPORT

BLM LEOs are authorized to transport prisoners via aircraft between jurisdictions. In such cases, BLM LEOs will follow procedures set forth in corresponding SOPs.

6.8.2 ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORT METHODS

Transporting prisoners using alternative modes of transportation, such as snowmobiles, horses, boats, or ATVs, may be required. BLM LEOs are authorized to select the appropriate transport method based on operational requirements.

6.9 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BLM LEOs are authorized to be medically qualified at several different provider levels. Training and continuing education will be provided by BLM Operation Medical Unit and in consultation with medical direction. BLM LEOs who respond to medical emergencies must provide medical services at their provider level until advanced medical personnel arrive.

6.10 NALOXONE (NARCAN) ADMINISTRATION

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BLM LEOs must follow the guidelines for training, carry, and use of Narcan to effectively treat and reduce potential fatalities associated with opioid overdoses in accordance with the DOI Narcan Program Guidelines.