

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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	Jun. 30, 2023	2
<b>Mounted Unit</b>		



Cross References:

Emergency Operations Manual: 4.2

**I. Introduction**

The Columbus Division of Police Mounted Unit is comprised of specially trained horses and riders that can be utilized to assist Patrol as well as other bureaus or agencies. Each police horse and rider have been trained in criminal apprehension, **support during** riot and crowd control situations, and routine patrol capabilities.

**II. Policy Statements**

A. Sworn supervisors may request the Mounted Unit’s response for the following situations:

1. **Support during** protests or civil disturbances

**Note: Refer to the requirements outlined in the “Civil Disturbance Tactics” section of the Emergency Operations Manual.**

2. Crime scenes
3. Searches
4. Warrant service
5. Patrol/directed patrol
6. Special events

B. Sworn supervisors requesting the Mounted Unit’s immediate response shall contact the **Emergency Communications Center (ECC)**.

C. Recognizing the training, experience, and specialized knowledge of the rider, a police supervisor should not order the deployment of the Mounted Unit unless the rider concurs.

D. Division personnel shall not:

1. Strike or attempt to discipline a horse.
2. Tease or agitate a horse.
3. Attempt to give the horse a command unless the rider is incapacitated.
4. Feed or pet a horse without the rider’s permission.

E. Division personnel shall render aid to an injured rider. If the rider cannot control his or her horse, Division personnel shall contact the **ECC** to request another rider to respond.

- F. If a Division horse becomes loose and Mounted Unit personnel are unavailable, Division personnel shall:
1. Refrain from following or chasing the horse in a marked unit with the beacons, siren or horn activated unless it is necessary for public safety.
  2. Attempt to entice the horse to move to an area where there are few distractions or moving vehicles.
  3. Speak to the horse in a soft tone and use small movements and gestures.
  4. Never approach the horse from the rear.
  5. Attempt to tie the horse to a fixed object or load the horse into an accessible Mounted Unit trailer.
    - a. Remove the lead line from the saddle if the horse is relaxed, and attach it to the large tie ring on the halter, below the horse's chin.
    - b. Attach the other end of the lead line to a secure, fixed object. Do not wrap the lead line around a hand or arm.

