
Mobile Digital Computer Use

448.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Mobile Digital Computer (MDC) accesses confidential records from the State of California, Department of Justice and Department of Motor Vehicles databases. Employees using the MDC shall comply with all appropriate federal and state rules and regulations.

448.2 MDC USE

The MDC shall be used for official police communications only. Messages that are of a sexual, racist, or offensive nature, or otherwise critical of any member of the Department are strictly forbidden. MDC use is also subject to the Department Technology Use Policy.

Messages may be reviewed by supervisors at anytime without prior notification. Employees generating or transmitting messages not in compliance with this policy are subject to discipline.

All calls dispatched to patrol units should be communicated by voice and MDC unless otherwise authorized by the Watch Commander.

448.2.1 USE WHILE DRIVING

Use of the MDC by the vehicle operator should generally be limited to times when the vehicle is stopped. When the vehicle is in motion, the operator should only attempt to read messages that are likely to contain information that is required for immediate enforcement, investigative or safety needs.

Short transmissions, such as a license plate check, are permitted if it reasonably appears that it can be done safely. In no case shall an operator attempt to send or review lengthy messages while the vehicle is in motion.

448.2.2 DOCUMENTATION OF ACTIVITY

MDC's and voice transmissions are used to record the officer's daily activity. To ensure the most accurate recording of these activities, the following are required:

- (a) All contacts or activity shall be documented at the time of the contact;
- (b) Whenever the activity or contact is initiated by voice, it shall be entered into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system by a dispatcher;
- (c) Whenever the activity or contact is not initiated by voice, the officer shall record it on the MDC.

448.2.3 STATUS CHANGES

All changes in status (e.g., arrival at scene, meal periods, in service) will be transmitted either verbally over the police radio or through the MDC system.

Officers responding to in-progress calls shall advise changes in status verbally over the radio to assist other officers responding to the same incident.

Other changes in status may be entered by depressing the appropriate keys on the MDC's.

Monrovia Police Department

Policy Manual

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448.3 MDC CONSIDERATIONS

448.3.1 NON-FUNCTIONING MDC

Whenever possible, officers will not use units with malfunctioning MDC's. Whenever officers must drive a unit in which the MDC is not working, they shall notify the Communications Center. It shall be responsibility of the Communications Center to record all information that will then be transmitted verbally over the police radio.

448.3.2 BOMB CALLS

When investigating reports of possible bombs, officers will turn off their MDC's. Operating the MDC may cause some devices to detonate.