



Policy Revision Request

Requestor Name Richard Mitchell Emp # 5945

This revision applies to New Policy 03-28-24

If new, recommended section _____

This revision is necessary to comply with Best Practices

Whom does this revision affect? Department

This revision has an unbudgeted financial impact of \$ 0

Brief reason for the revision:

To establish procedures for the utilization of the Austin PD Lake Patrol Unit.

Document the changes or additions to the policy below. Please include the specific policy number. ~~Red strikethroughs~~ are used for deletions and blue underlined for text insertions. Please email completed forms to APDPolicy@austintexas.gov. Use this email for any related questions or issues for policy.

502 Lake Patrol Unit

502.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this order is to establish the guidelines and procedures for utilization of the APD Lake Patrol Unit. The Austin Police Department is responsible for responding to all calls on Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long. The Lake Patrol Unit is on duty 7 days a week, typically from 12pm-10pm, and can immediately respond to incidents on the 3 major waterways. The Lake Patrol Unit is also available to assist and specifically trained in patrol responses involving area creeks such as Barton and Onion Creek.

502.2 UTILIZATION OF THE LAKE PATROL UNIT

(a) The APD Lake Patrol Unit may be requested for the following situations:

1. To locate suspects that have fled on foot from officers or from the scene of a crime and are in or near Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long.
2. A subject is threatening to harm themselves by jumping from a bridge or cliff over a navigable waterway, Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long.
3. Article searches where evidence may have been discarded in Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long. Submerged article searches will be handled by the on-call Dive Team.

4. To locate missing, lost, or injured persons where the subject was last seen in or around Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long. AFD Search and Rescue should also be notified in these instances.

- (b) The APD Lake Patrol Unit has a statutory reporting requirement for all crashes, deaths/injuries, and assaults occurring on the waterways within the City of Austin. Delayed reports should be dispatched to the Lake Patrol Unit.

The APD Lake Patrol Unit shall be contacted for:

1. Any incidents involving injury, serious bodily injury, or death on Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long, or incidents occurring on dry land near the waterway where the scene would be better managed with the assistance of the Lake Patrol Unit.
2. Any death where the subject was found in a stream, pond, or other small body of water (excluding pools and bath tubs), and water is present, particularly if drowning is suspected.
3. Any crash or accident involving a boat, jet ski, canoe, kayak, or other watercraft on Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, or Lake Walter E. Long.

502.3 ON-SCENE PROCEDURES

Officers should not enter any waterway to pursue a subject or to retrieve an item from a waterway.

- (a) Officers should mark the spot, on shore, where the subject was last observed, as well as the direction from that spot and distance from the shore where the object or person was last observed.
- (b) Notify a supervisor of the need for APD Lake Patrol Unit Personnel.
- (c) Request Communications to contact the available or on-call APD Lake Patrol Unit personnel.
- (d) Stay at the location where the suspect was last seen until the APD Lake Patrol Unit arrives.
- (e) Set a perimeter on both sides of the waterway to watch for the subject to exit the water.