

Brief reason for the revision:

State law requires law enforcement agencies in a municipality with a population of 50,000 or more or a county with a population of 100,000 or more to compile and maintain criminal information relating to a criminal street gang in the statewide repository operated and maintained by the Texas Department of Public Safety; this index is referred to as “TXGANG”. The inclusion of information in the database is subject to federal records submission/retention requirements (28 CFR Part 23).

In order to comply with the mandates outlined in the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and federal 28 CFR Part 23 regulations, the supervisors and investigators assigned to the APD Gang Suppression Unit frequently rely on accurate and timely intelligence gathered by other members of the Department.

Simply adding the title code “8101—Gang Information” to applicable reports is the most efficient and reliable method for notifying the Gang Suppression Unit of activity involving potential gang members. However, this step is often neglected, despite disseminating multiple training bulletins on the issue. It is easier—and far more common—for employees to reference policy than to search for training bulletins that may or may not be archived in an easily accessible place.

Adding the applicable title code and routing an incident to the Gang Suppression Unit is a quick and easy process that will not add to the workload of supervisors or investigators. However, it will help ensure that the Department can comply with state/federal mandates and better serve the community.

403 Follow-Up Investigations

403.3 CASE ASSIGNMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

[\(g\) Title Code “8101—Gang Information” shall be added to any incident report or investigation involving known or suspected gang activity to ensure the case is routed to the Gang Suppression Unit for any necessary gang-related follow up and documentation, per state and federal mandates.](#)

- [1. The title code can be added at any point during the reporting/investigative process. Examples include: a patrol officer taking the initial report, a patrol supervisor reviewing the queue, an investigative supervisor assigning cases, the lead detective investigating a case, or a crime analyst collating information and developing leads\).](#)
- [2. The title code is not limited to instances in which a gang member is the perpetrator or suspect in a crime; valuable information is often obtained from incidents in which gang members are witnesses or complainants.](#)
- [3. Potential gang-related involvement can be determined by the details contained in the narrative of the report, indicators associated with the individual in the report management system \(e.g., “gang member” or “gang intel” flags\), personal knowledge, or any other reliable source of information.](#)

4. Adding the gang information title code to an incident report shall not impair or alter another Investigative Unit's ability to investigate offenses or title codes that fall under its purview (e.g., Family Violence, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault). Investigative supervisors may coordinate with supervisors from the Gang Suppression Unit to determine which unit should assume primary responsibility for investigating a gang-related case. This is dictated by the nature of the offense, expertise and capabilities of the available investigators, any applicable exigencies, and the availability of requisite resources within the respective units.
5. Patrol personnel and investigators/investigative supervisors are not expected to have comprehensive knowledge or experience of gang-related matters or documentation issues. When in doubt, employees should err on the side of adding the gang information title code to reports so incidents can be reviewed and vetted by the Gang Suppression Unit. The unit's on-call personnel shall be contacted for situations that merit immediate attention (e.g., a gang-related shooting that has just occurred).
6. The Gang Suppression Unit shall serve as the primary point of contact for gang-related investigations originating from or conducted by Department personnel. If an employee encounters compelling circumstances which would reasonably justify the solicitation of assistance from external gang resources (e.g., FBI, ATF, or DPS), the request shall be coordinated through a supervisor assigned to the Gang Suppression Unit for the purposes of deconfliction, continuity of effort, and the efficient deployment of resources.