



# SPECIAL EQUIPMENT UNIT

9429

## POLICY STATEMENT

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The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Investigations Unit administers the Special Equipment Unit (SEU). The Special Equipment Unit is a statewide program, whose employees and associated specialized equipment function as resources for special assignments and extended or complex investigations.

SEU is responsible for the acquisition, inventory, and deployment of all Department owned law enforcement equipment with surveillance technology, regardless of funding sources used to purchase the equipment

This responsibility is intended to ensure limited resource deployment is prioritized to the greatest need and threat to the State Responsibility Area (SRA), statewide.

## DEFINITION(S)

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**Surveillance Technology:** any electronic device or system with the capacity to monitor and collect audio, visual, locational, thermal, or similar information on any individual or group. This includes, but is not limited to, drones with cameras or monitoring capabilities, automated license plate recognition systems, closed-circuit cameras/televisions, fixed cameras, International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI) trackers, global positioning system (GPS) technology, software designed to monitor social media services or forecast criminal activity or criminality, radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, biometric identification hardware or software, and facial recognition hardware or software.

It does not include standard public agency hardware and software in widespread public use and not used by the law enforcement agency for any surveillance or surveillance-related functions, such as televisions, computers, printers, portable handheld cameras, fingerprint scanners, cellular or standard telephones, and two-way radios, portable handheld audio recorder or other similar electronic devices.

**Automated License Plate Recognition System:** Searchable computerized database resulting from the operation of one or more mobile or fixed cameras combined with computer algorithms to read and convert images of registration plates and the characters they contain into computer-readable data.



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## AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Authority	Responsibilities
Deputy Chief of Investigations Unit	Supervise the Special Equipment Unit
Battalion Chief - SEU	Supervise personnel, acquire, inventory, and deploy all Department owned Law Enforcement surveillance equipment.
Peace Officers	Assist SEU with deployment and maintenance of SEU equipment.

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## RELATED FORM(S) / LINK(S)

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- [Procedure 9429-1: SEU Personnel/Equipment Deployment and Release](#)
- [Procedure 9429-2: Public Utility Company Contacts](#)
- [Procedure 9429-3: SEU Equipment Acquisition and Accountability](#)
- [Procedure 9429-4: SEU Training](#)
- [Procedure 9429-5: Automated License Plate Recognition System](#)
- [Procedure 9429-6: SEU Annual Report](#)

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## AUTHORITY

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- [Civil Code Section 1798.29](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.5](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.51](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.52](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.53](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.54](#)
- [Civil Code Section 1798.90.55](#)

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## REFERENCE(S)

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- [Handbook Section 9425](#)

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## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT(S)

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Fire Protection, Investigations Unit

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## REVISION DATE

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Revision Date: October 2019



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