

Police 10-Codes

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Quick Reference Chart — Free Printable

There is no single national code book — meanings vary by agency. This chart shows widely used baseline meanings. Codes marked * are known to differ significantly between departments (see notes below).

COMMON TEN-CODES		COMMON TEN-CODES	
10-1	Signal weak / unable to copy	10-29	Check for wants / warrants
10-2	Signal good	10-31	Crime in progress
10-3	Stop transmitting	10-32	Person with a gun
10-4	Acknowledged / OK	10-33	Emergency — clear the air
10-5	Relay message	10-38	Traffic stop
10-6	Busy, stand by	10-42	Ending tour of duty
10-7	Out of service	10-50	Traffic accident
10-8	In service, available	10-52	Ambulance needed
10-9	Repeat / say again	10-57	Hit and run
10-12	Stand by, officials present	10-76	En route
10-13	Advise weather / road conditions*	10-78	Need assistance
10-20	Location	10-80	Pursuit in progress
10-21	Call by telephone	10-91	Pick up prisoner / subject
10-22	Disregard	10-95	Prisoner in custody
10-23	Arrived at scene / stand by	10-97	Arrived at scene
10-27	Driver's licence check	10-98	Assignment complete
10-28	Vehicle registration check	10-99	Wanted / stolen indicated*

RESPONSE CODES (URGENCY)

Code 1	Routine — respond when able
Code 2	Urgent — no lights or siren
Code 3	Emergency — lights and siren
Code 4	Situation under control
Code 5	Stakeout — units stay clear
Code 6	Out investigating
Code 7	Meal break

PHONETIC ALPHABET (NATO / ICAO)

A Alfa	B Bravo	C Charlie	D Delta	E Echo	F Foxtrot	G Golf
H Hotel	I India	J Juliett	K Kilo	L Lima	M Mike	N November
O Oscar	P Papa	Q Quebec	R Romeo	S Sierra	T Tango	U Uniform
V Victor	W Whiskey	X X-ray	Y Yankee	Z Zulu		

* **10-13:** means "advise weather/road conditions" in the standard reference list, but means "assist police officer" (urgent) in the NYPD. * **10-99:** means "wanted/stolen indicated" in many agencies, but is an emergency call in some systems and a one-officer acknowledgment in Chicago PD. Always confirm meanings against the specific agency you're following — codes are not standardised nationally.

Free reference chart from policecode.info — the global police code explorer. For the full 10-1 to 10-99 list, state and department guides, and penal codes, visit policecode.info.