

3.1.5.6 Civil Disturbance



YOUR ORGANIZATION
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES

TITLE: Civil Disturbance

SECTION/TOPIC: Special Operations

NUMBER: 3.1.5.6

ISSUE DATE:

REVISED DATE:

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

X

Preparer

X

Approver

These SOPs/SOGs are based on FEMA guidelines FA-197

1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

CFR

NFPA

NIMS

2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses procedures for operations during civil disturbances: protection of responders, initiating and suspending operations, use of staging areas, task force operations, police escort procedures, interaction with law enforcement and emergency management agencies.

The purpose of this procedure is to outline the Fire Department's approach to dealing with incidents involving civil disturbances. The procedure describes response modes, security, command structures, and cooperative approaches with the City Police Department and other agencies.

3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

These definitions are pertinent to this SOP/SOG.

Civil disturbance: Within this procedure, a civil disturbance is defined as a situation involving a random act, or several random or specific acts of violence directed at firefighters or other persons, or property.

5.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

5.1 Procedures for Operations during Civil Disturbances:

PROCEDURE

The City Fire Department shall use a three-tiered approach to respond to incidents involving civil disturbances. It shall be the responsibility of the Deployment Chief/Supervisor, Company Officers, Battalion Chiefs and C958 to be alert to potential or actual hazards due to a civil disturbance. There are times when such potential is high and well known throughout the system; however, at other times, a single act or incident can spontaneously escalate into a significant disturbance. When an incident occurs, the first due Company Officer, his/her Battalion Chief and a Supervisor from the City Police Department will meet to determine the appropriate level of response for the area in question. Once that decision has been made, communication with the responsible Shift Commander is a MUST. Once this is completed, the Deputy/Division Chief in the Alarm shall be contacted with the appropriate dispatch information regarding the designated area.

It is critical that the Deployment Chief/Supervisor remain alert at all times to the potential of a civil disturbance. What may appear to be a few unrelated incidents in a particular part of the City can be the only warning of a significant disturbance in its early stages. C958 should be contacted to assist in gathering information related to the incidents. Incidents can also occur in more than one area of the City simultaneously. Unnecessary delay in implementing this procedure can result in significant risk to fire department companies and negatively affect the development of the Command System.

NOTIFICATIONS

Any company experiencing an act of violence against them shall immediately report the incident to the Dispatch Center. The Dispatch Center will notify the appropriate Battalion Chief and C958. If the severity of the situation dictates that a Tier 2 or Tier 3 response is in order, the following notifications will be made by Dispatch & Deployment:

- * Fire Chief
- * Emergency Services Assistant Chief
- * Shift Commanders
- * District Commander
- * Police Liaison Officer
- * Department P.I.O.
- * Homeland Defense Liaison/C958

After a plan is developed to address the situation, Dispatch will send a notification of the situation to all City printers that will include a brief description, identify the boundaries, and duration of

effect. Dispatch will perform an All Call and Announce, "All Stations Check Your Printer for a Response Message."

Additional communications between any of the mentioned parties will be necessary, but aren't part of the notification process and will vary from situation to situation.

The Shift Commander and the District Commander of the area affected should review the Tier Response Plan frequently and initiate communication to the department of any changes and the current status of the situation.

Any Tier 2 or Tier 3 situation should be reported as an exception in the Department Daily News and to all fire station printers.

TIER-ONE RESPONSE:

When responding to an incident involving potential violence, the Dispatch Center and all responding units shall follow the procedures outlined in the Operations at Violent Incidents procedure (M.P. 206.01).

TIER-TWO RESPONSE:

When an actual act of violence towards firefighters has occurred at a specific location of the City (i.e., a random bullet fired at a fire apparatus, but resulting in no injuries), and there are no indications that the situation involves any other related acts, a perimeter shall be identified a minimum of 1/2 mile in each direction from which the act occurred. For at least the remainder of that work shift, fire department companies shall not respond into that area without a police escort, and shall stage according to the requirements of the response to violent incidents procedure when they do enter the area. Future Code 3 response shall not occur into or through the area; companies shall stay clear of the area when returning from other calls. All surrounding fire department companies shall return to and remain in their stations except to respond to and return directly from calls.

Any fire stations located inside the established perimeter shall have all their resources reassigned to a station outside the perimeter or to a Level II staging area. All support apparatus, such as brush trucks, tankers, etc., will also be relocated.

Fire stations located adjacent to the perimeter area will remain in their stations but shall go into a "Lockdown" mode for security reasons. All doors will be closed and locked. Members will remain indoors at all times.

TIER-THREE RESPONSE

When a series of actual acts of violence have occurred in a specific area of the City (i.e., unrelated set fires, a series of assaults, or looting), a perimeter encompassing one or more square miles shall be established around the area. A Command Post shall be established well outside that perimeter utilizing the command van, suburban, or if appropriate, a fire station. When possible, a joint

Command Post should be established with the Police Department. If this is not possible, a ranking Police Officer should be requested to report to the fire department Command Post.

Command shall establish Level II Staging near the Command Post and request appropriate resources from Dispatch. The following Branches and Sectors may be assigned:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| o Logistics Section | o Resource Sector |
| o Rehab Sector | o Treatment Sector |
| o Staging Sector | o Public Information Sector |
| o Accountability Sector | o Other Sections Branches and Sectors |
| o Dispatch Liaison Sector | as required |
| o Police Liaison Sector | |

Close communications shall be maintained between the fire alarm (The on call Dispatch Deputy/Division Chief will respond to the command post to assume Dispatch Liaison Sector if directed by command), and the Police Liaison. The Command Post will direct all responses into the Hazards Zone. Dispatch will provide Command all requests for emergency service in the identified area.

Dispatch will also advise command of all emergency requests to perimeter areas. Command shall determine the appropriate response to the incident (if any), the radio channel, obtain a police escort, and actually direct the companies to respond.

All resources responding into the perimeter will be grouped (no single company responses) and with police escorts. Responding units will communicate only with Command. Request for additional assistance by a company/unit shall be directed to Command, utilizing the emergency traffic procedure if necessary. Upon completion of the call, the companies shall return to the Command Post, be accounted for, and return to Level II Staging. In addition to Command, Dispatch must also monitor all radio traffic. Command should consider rotating units from throughout the City into the Level II Staging area to respond. This can help reduce tension and maintain alertness among the crews. If disturbances are occurring in more than one area of the City, this system may be duplicated in other locations. When operating in a Tier-Three situation, emphasis must be placed on stabilizing the incident as rapidly as possible, if safe to do so, and then pulling out.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- No single company responses will be permitted in Tier-three situations.
- Police escorts will be required.
- All fire department personnel will respond to and from all emergencies in full protective clothing (helmet, bunkers, etc.) in Tier-two and three modes, and will remain in full gear until returned to staging or their assigned fire station.
- Use of sirens and air horns within the perimeter should be avoided. Emergency light may be used.
- When responding to Tier-two and three situations, apparatus must be placed in a manner

that will allow for rapid, unobstructed, retreat from the area. Apparatus must also be parked in a manner that best protects the crew.

- When operating in Tier-two and three modes, all tools and equipment located on the exterior of apparatus must be removed and placed in interior compartments.
- Crews should be careful about what is said over the radio. Outside speakers on apparatus broadcast all messages (to the public). MCT's or cellular phones should be used as much as possible for sensitive communications.
- Our members must control their behavior. We should back off in most potentially violent situations so that we don't fuel a major disturbance when it could have been avoided with the use of discretion.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Patients may be more effectively treated in a potentially violent situation if the patient is rapidly removed from the scene to an exterior treatment area (scoop and run).
- When no lives are at stake, emphasis will be on protecting savable property. Buildings, vehicles, etc. that are fully involved with no or little exposure problem, may be left to burn.
- Emphasis will be fast attack, heavy streams to rapidly control and extinguish the fire and then to get out of the area. Routine salvage, ventilation and overhaul practices may be discontinued. Use of hand lines should be limited.
- All fire units will enter the perimeter as intact groups, travel in groups, operate in groups, and return in groups.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Any civil disturbance has the potential of escalating into a major situation.
- We should escalate the response to a civil disturbance to include Chief OFFICERS quickly to provide Command support and other agency liaison responsibilities.
- There are several apparatus located at fire stations (i.e. brush, ambulances, etc.) that can be staffed to substantially increase the number of units available to respond to emergencies (in groups).
- Call back of off-duty personnel and staffing of reserve apparatus may be necessary.
- A fire station or other City facility, or school, if appropriately located, may make an excellent Command post and staging area and can be easily secured. Think big! Schools may allow more effective space.
- The City EOC may be activated, and if so, will require appropriate liaison with Command.

5.2 Protection of Responders:

5.3 Initiating and Suspending Operations:

5.4 Use of Staging Areas:

5.5 Task Force Operations:

5.6 Police Escort Procedures:

5.7 Interaction with Law Enforcement:

5.8 Interaction with Emergency Management Agencies: