



OPERATIONS MANUAL

SUBJECT: Police Fire Operations

NUMBER:

203.14.00

APPROVED:

FIRE CHIEF

TYPE: Police Fire Operations

EFFECTIVE DATE: 6/2005

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203.14.00 Police Fire Operations

A. Policy Overview:

1. When a person is in Police custody, the wellbeing of that person and safety of responding Fire Department personnel are the primary concerns. If medical attention is required, the Fire Department will provide appropriate medical care while the Police maintain physical custody of the patient. If the Police are not holding the patient in physical custody and the patient is a perceived threat to Fire personnel, medical care will be withheld until the threat is eliminated with the necessary Police assistance within their scope of authority.
2. The Fire Department will honor all requests for Fire Department responses to Police Operations. A Medic Unit and/or SWAT Complement shall also be dispatched upon request from the Police Department for SWAT Operations. The nearest Fire Company, Medic Unit, and ALS Supervisor will be dispatched for "Police Assistance" requests. The goal is to facilitate the mission of both Departments while providing for the safety and care of all individuals involved, Police, Fire, and the general public.

B. Command & Control:

1. At incidents where the primary responsibility resides with the Fire Department (fires, vehicle crashes with injury, medical calls etc.) the highest-ranking Fire Department member will be in Command. The Police Department will serve in a support roll (perimeter security, traffic control, etc.) with the exception of those instances where Police are conducting a criminal investigation or police intervention is required. In these instances, the respective Police and Fire Officers will confer as part of a Unified Command.
2. When Police respond to an incident that is primarily within their area of responsibility (disturbance call, violent person, armed suspect, etc.) Police will stabilize and secure the scene. The Fire Department will serve in a support role to provide aid as requested by Police or dictated by the circumstances.
3. At a Police incident the Police Incident Commander will determine when it is appropriate for Fire personnel to leave the scene. At a Fire incident the Fire Incident Commander will determine when it is appropriate for Police personnel to leave the scene.

C. Safety:

1. Whenever a Fire Department resource is dispatched to an area where there is ongoing violence, or there is a known potential for violence to erupt, a Police response shall also be dispatched. The safety of Fire Department personnel is initially the responsibility of the member in charge of each responding unit. The highest-ranking Fire Officer on the scene will ultimately be responsible for the safety of all Fire personnel at the scene.
2. For those situations where Police have not yet arrived on the scene or the scene has not yet been secured by the Police the following procedures shall apply:
 - a. Fire and EMS units shall respond to a designated staging area [as outlined below in D1] until the scene has been secured by Police and it is safe for the Fire Department to perform their duties. The companies are to remain staged until advised by Police that the scene is secured and is safe for Fire personnel to enter. The verification of scene safety should be relayed through Fire Dispatch as well as annotated on the PMDC.
3. Whenever a Fire Department unit has arrived on the scene, without the Police first securing the scene, and events develop that place Fire personnel or the public in danger from potential violence, the member in charge shall request the appropriate level of Police response. This response may be **“Firefighter Back-up”** or **“Firefighter needs Assistance”** (see section 701.21 of procedure manual). Based on the situation, the member in charge shall determine the need for retreat, and if necessary, have all companies retreat to a designated staging area. The location of the staging area should be relayed to Fire Dispatch, which will then be relayed to Police units responding to the scene.
4. Whenever a Police officer calls for “Officer Needs Assistance” the resources as outlined in section 703.09 will be dispatched and respond to a designated staging area. This company will stage and be immediately available should the need arise for emergency medical services to be provided. If there are reported injuries, the normal EMS response protocol will be dispatched and all companies shall respond to the designated staging area. Fire Companies shall not enter the general area where the “Officer needs Assistance” until advised by the Police the scene is secured and is safe for Fire personnel to enter.
5. The Fire Department will provide equipment for forcible entry and gaining access but will not enter areas where there is a chance of encountering a violent person. Fire Department personnel should not attempt rescues involving violent persons at an unsafe scene. If there is any doubt about the safety of the scene, request that a District Chief respond who will consult with the Police Commander. Persons in need of medical treatment must be brought to a secured area, or Police must render the treatment area safe. Fire Department personnel shall not be placed in a clear line of fire when an armed assailant is on the scene.

D. Staging:

1. The member in charge of the first arriving Fire unit, based on information given by Fire Dispatch, will determine the need for a staging area.
2. If there is no predetermined staging area provided by Fire Dispatch, the member in charge shall designate a staging area as close as safety permits at a *minimum* of four blocks from the reported incident.
 - a. Companies shall not stage in quarters unless their quarters is within four blocks of the reported incident.
3. Responding companies are to stay out of sight, and out of any potential line of fire. This may also require emergency response lights to be turned off approaching the scene to remain inconspicuous.
4. As soon as a staging area is determined, notify Fire Dispatch of the exact location or address. All Fire Companies shall notify Fire Dispatch by radio or PMDC when they have arrived at the staging area.