

**Purpose**

To provide fire operations guidelines during civil unrest including riots, civil disturbances, and related violent encounters.

**Definitions**

1. Zones: Hot, warm and cold zones are established and defined by law enforcement (LE). Force protections for first responders is based on operations within these zones.
2. Hot Zone: The area of civil unrest, as designated by the on-scene law enforcement incident command, in which civilian access is denied. The hot zone will be designated by perimeter streets or public safety map grids. This area is unstable and potentially unsafe given conditions and actions. No personnel will operate within a hot zone except for STAR medics.
3. Warm Zone: An area that is relatively safe for emergency responder operations, with the possibility that instability could escalate. Fire personnel will not enter unless accompanied by law enforcement escorts.

**Policy**

- A. Command
  1. Fire agencies will be in unified command with law enforcement (LE).
  2. SND battalions may go into 'battalion level' dispatch to ensure the safety of all responding units using LE intel to ensure the safety of responders.
  3. The creation of a 'geo-fence' by the Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC) may be used to control responses to incidents within the civil unrest area.
- B. Task Forces
  1. Task forces may be used due to their multi-functionality and they increase safety and ensure a coordinated, quick fire attack or rescue.
  2. TFLs should maintain the integrity of their task force.
    - a. Breaking up the task force decreases its strength and diminishes the response capacity.
  3. Task force leaders (TFL) will assemble their personnel, pass on all relevant information, including scene tactics, and share all LE intel as it is gathered.

4. The task force configuration may vary but the typical task force components are:
  - a. Task Force Leader
  - b. Three Engines
  - c. ALS Medic
5. The ALS ambulance is for members of the task force.
  - a. If deployed for civilian injury or illness the ambulance must be immediately back filled.

C. Staging Area

1. The staging area should be in the cold zone for safety, rapid ingress and egress, and ease of access to and from the incident.
2. Location should provide amenities for the task force when possible such as bathrooms, access to food preparation areas, etc.

D. Law Enforcement Protection

1. Force protection provided by law enforcement is critical to all resources responding safely.
2. SDFD resources will respond into a warm zone only with LE protection.
3. LE officers assigned to a task force will remain with the task force to provide security and are considered part of a complete task force unit.

E. Fireground Operations

1. Life safety is the priority during fire ground operations including the safety of firefighters.
2. The primary objectives are rapid extinguishment while minimizing exposure time.
3. With numerous fires, the most effective tactics include:
  - a. An exterior attack using master streams for a quick knock-down
  - b. No interior firefighting or laddering of buildings unless necessary for rescue of known occupants in imminent threat of injury or death.
  - c. No overhaul operations should occur after fire knock-down
    - 1) While no overhaul presents the possibility of a re-kindle, the strategy is to protect exposures, knock down the fire, and move on.
  - d. Depending on the number of fires in an area:
    - 1) Fires that present no exposure hazard should be left to burn
    - 2) Vehicle and rubbish fires, unless creating an imminent exposure threat, should be ignored
4. Task forces will not commit to any attack until the TFL has assessed the situation, determined the safety of the location, the strategy and tactics to be deployed, and the apparatus positioning.
5. Fire apparatus should be positioned to provide physical cover to personnel operating hose lines and allow for rapid egress.
6. The perimeter will be secured by LE prior to initiating firefighting operations
7. All personnel should work in groups of two or more.

8. Only connect to hydrants in the secured area.
9. Limit SCBA use as there may be little opportunity for bottle refill
10. If ordered to exit, personnel should attempt to get nozzles and equipment back on the apparatus and shut down the hydrant.

F. EMS Operations

1. EMS calls in the warm zone may or may not be from injuries due to civil unrest
2. As with fire incidents, minimizing exposure time is an objective
3. EMS intervention prior to transport should be limited to treatment necessary to save life
4. Any treatment beyond life saving measure should be performed while enroute to the hospital or 'cold zone'.

G. Additional Considerations

1. Stations and Facilities
  - a. If disturbance is in the area of a fire station or facility, close and lock all doors and windows
    - 1) All personnel will remain inside
    - 2) Dim interior lights and pull all window coverings
  - b. When leaving, stop long enough to ensure the station is secured, including the apparatus doors.
  - c. Remove any loose objects from around the outside of the station
2. Responding
  - a. Consider 'standing back' in the station
  - b. Keep all windows on the vehicle/apparatus closed and doors locked
  - c. Remove any equipment typically carried on the outside of the apparatus (axes, pike poles, extinguishers, personal protective equipment, etc.) and lock all cabinets
  - d. Side windows may be duct taped to keep glass from shattering
3. Incident Actions
  - a. Apparatus should never be left unattended and engineers should never be left alone with the apparatus
  - b. Warning lights, sirens and airhorns should not be used in the affected area when under LE protection
  - c. Position apparatus at intersections whenever possible to affect a rapid exit

- d. TFLs will determine when a task force withdraws due to deteriorating conditions
- e. Tools are to be kept in locked compartments or inside the cab when not in use
- f. Consider utilizing helicopter or drone for an aerial survey of incident
- g. Order additional resources, as needed, including task forces/strike teams
  - 1) Additional resources require LE protection
- h. Consider fatigue of personnel operating within the perimeter of the warm zone

4. Additional

- a. Keep ECDC informed of any changes in conditions related to the disturbance
- b. Wear PPE that signifies crews as firefighters including the wearing of brush jackets on medical aids
- c. Use caution and avoid increasing tensions by avoiding hostile verbal exchanges, gestures, or physical contact
- d. If conditions present an unreasonable risk, leave the area immediately by the most expedient route and notify ECDC
- e. Limit social media posting. Do not share information relevant to the incident with others.
- f. Firefighters and fire department equipment will not be used for crowd control or disbursement.
- g. Fire personnel are strictly prohibited from carrying firearms or other weapons on the apparatus or in the station.
- h. Company officers are encouraged to print and retain a copy of the incident action plan, when available
- i. All crews should determine a fall back location should stations become unsafe