



Roosevelt Fire District

Standard Operating Guidelines

Section: Operations	Guideline: 24 Civil Unrest/Mass Gatherings
--------------------------------------	--

Purpose: To provide a guide for Fire Department activities during civil unrest including riots, civil disturbances or related hostile and violent encounters that will result in a prompt and coordinated action while providing proper liaison between fire and law enforcement (LE).
Incidents of civil unrest are considered a law enforcement event and the fire department shall coordinate with the law enforcement incident commander throughout the incident via unified command

Scope: This guideline pertains to all members of the Roosevelt Fire District

Definitions:

Demonstration/ Protest: A demonstration or protest is a legal public assembly of persons exhibiting sympathy with, or opposition to, a political, legal, economic, or social condition or movement. A demonstration/protest may become illegal and dangerous when it includes active resistance and civil disobedience as a deliberate violation of a law.

Civil Disturbance: A civil disturbance is any breach of the peace by a significant number of people assembled in one area or the gathering of an unruly mob. This may include any situation which, in the opinion of the onsite law enforcement commander, could develop into a riot.

Civil Unrest/Riot: A riot is civil unrest/disorder wherein crowds display a propensity for violence by setting fires, vandalizing, looting, attacking civilians, firefighters, or law enforcement, or engaging in other violent acts. Frequently, such actions will not stop without the intervention of law enforcement personnel.

ZONES:

Hot Zone / Exclusion Zone: area of civil unrest or riot as designated by the on-scene law enforcement commander, in which civilian vehicle access is denied and fire department vehicles will not enter unless accompanied by law enforcement escorts. Unstable, potentially unsafe given observed conditions & actions. When possible, the hot zone will be designated by perimeter streets.

Warm Zone: An area, in the current state, that is relatively safe for Emergency Responder Operations, with observable indicators that suggest instability could ensue.

Cold Zone: Safe area with little likelihood of unrest.

Procedure: Companies responding to assignments around a demonstration are to avoid the affected area as much as possible.

Companies responding to assignments at the location of a demonstration are to:

- Use all normal precautions
- Meet with the LE Supervisor on the scene
- Assess the need for additional assistance
- Leave promptly after service is rendered

FIREGROUND OPERATIONS:

The priority at an emergency scene is life safety including the safety of firefighters. During fireground operations, the perimeter should be secured by LE officers prior to initiating firefighting operations. Only connect to hydrants in the secured area. The Incident Commander will position the apparatus and determine

which tactics will be used. Master streams and exterior hand lines are preferred to control the fire in a defensive mode. Control and containment are the primary objectives. Laddering and/or roof operations should only be undertaken if necessary, for rescue of known occupants in imminent threat of injury or death. Apparatus should be positioned in a manner to allow for rapid evacuation. If ordered to evacuate, personnel should try to get nozzles and equipment back on the apparatus and shut down the hydrant if possible, to do so safely. If it is not possible, then companies should leave hose and other equipment on the scene.

EMS OPERATIONS:

Calls in the hot zone may be a result of injuries from civil unrest activities but can also be individuals with illnesses or needs separate and apart from the unrest. A Rescue Task Force (RTF) should be assembled and operate the same as in Active Shooter response (SOG#19). Once a patient/victim is extracted and prepared for transport, all task force units go with the ambulance.

Patients should be transported to a casualty collection area in the cold zone, unless the EMT/Medic in charged determines that immediate hospital care is required in which case the ambulance will proceed with LE escort to the hospital.

Upon completion of the transport, the EMS and LE units will return to the staging area and regroup with the rest of their task force.

ABANDONING FIRE STATIONS:

During a large-scale disorder or riot, it may become necessary to temporarily abandon fire stations due to safety considerations, especially in the hot zone.

- If the safety of firefighters and equipment cannot be assured within the confines of a fire station, then the ranking officer at that location has the authority to remove the company from the area.
- This decision may also be made by a Chief after consultation with LE.
- Companies abandoning a station will notify Dutchess 911 & Chief of their actions and proceed to the closest fire station in a safe area.

Company Officers:

When ordered to abandon their station, will carry out the following actions.

- Take all portable radios and battery chargers with them.
- Take any cellular phones and battery chargers.
- Take all SCBA cylinders (bottles) on board the apparatus.
- Take bunker gear of all members.
- Lock all doors, windows, lockers, and the parking lot gate (if applicable)
- Shut down any electric supply to fuel tanks.
- Shut down utilities to station and secure and lock the station.
- All members are to leave on FD apparatus when abandoning a station.
- Personal vehicles should be stored in a locked parking area, if available. If the station has no secure parking, then personal vehicles may be moved inside to the apparatus floor before leaving. Provision should be made for the removal of personal vehicles to a safe location at the earliest convenience depending on conditions.