

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines

4100.075

Civil Disturbance

Implemented: 05/22/15

Revised:

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Patrick T Grace, Fire Chief

PURPOSE:

Fire department personnel, equipment, and apparatus shall not be used in activities related to quelling or providing combative intervention towards mob action unless such action is specifically authorized by the Fire Chief

OBJECTIVE:

To provide guidance when making decisions in the interest of reasonable degrees of safety for responding personnel and equipment, balanced with the department's mission statement and responsibility to the public for emergency response

SCOPE:

All Personnel

Definition:

Civil Disturbance: Any mob action related to acts of arson, violence, riot, rebellions, protests, insurrection or other unlawful action by various organized or unorganized groups

PROCEDURE

The Fire Chief or designee will be the judge of the degree of fire department participation and implementation of civil disturbance procedures during any such activities

All requests to utilize a fire station for law enforcement staging and/or command post, or the use of fire department apparatus, must be approved by the Fire Chief or his designee

No single (Individual) resource shall respond to incidents of violence

Recommit personnel and equipment and leave the area immediately if violence commences or recurs during fire department operations

Fire department personnel shall be responsible for acting with good judgment, tolerance and tact so as not to precipitate violent mob reaction. During periods of civil disturbance, individual personnel may be subjected to unusual stressful verbal abuse. Self control and restraint are of the utmost importance for preventing escalation of a marginal incident into a destructive long-term mob action

Personnel in areas not affected by civil disturbance activities will continue with their normal duties/activities while maintaining a heightened level of vigilance

First arriving units when encountering a situation classified as a civil disturbance will notify dispatch. Dispatch will notify the on-duty Battalion Chief and page administrative staff

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RESPONSE

Warning lights, sirens, and air horns are not to be used when responding in known areas of a civil disturbance

Initial response to an area of known civil disturbance shall consist of a Battalion Chief and one company. The Battalion Chief will determine and request additional units if needed. The responding company shall level II stage until the OIC can determine if entry into the area is safe for fire department personnel and ensure there will be law enforcement personnel available to escort the unit(s) into the area.

All automatic/mutual aid companies assigned to the incident or in staging areas are to be informed of situations as they develop. The safety of automatic/mutual aid companies will receive the same priority as ECFR units and personnel.

Responding units shall not knowingly travel through high-risk areas while en route to emergency/non-emergency incidents.

Where appropriate, a heavy stream application followed by a rapid withdrawal may be used for fire suppression. This should be based on reasonable judgment and evaluation of the relative loss/risk factors which shall be used in determining if a fire should be fought or not.

The IC will determine if companies utilize a fire hydrant as making a connection would impede with an immediate withdrawal from the area. When possible, hand lines should be connected directly to fire hydrants.

Rescue and extinguishment should be the prime objectives of the IC. Overhaul should be limited to those efforts that prevent rekindle. Salvage operations may have to be curtailed due to mob actions.

Apparatus and personnel should be returned to quarters as quickly as possible.

FIRE APPARATUS SECURITY

Equipment carried on exterior of apparatus shall be placed in compartments, top storage areas or in crew cabs.

Hose bed covers shall be in position. The rear flaps shall be secured down, if applicable.

PERSONNEL PROTECTION

All Personnel shall respond wearing full PPE.

To prevent vandalism to private vehicles, it may be necessary to direct arriving personnel, to fire stations out of the disturbance area and exchange crews via fire department transport.

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Patrick T Grace, *Fire Chief*

FIRE STATION SECURITY

Stations within or adjacent to the areas of civil disturbance shall keep doors and windows locked

Activities outside the station shall be minimized to those necessary to provide emergency response

Available outside illumination shall be utilized

Available protective devices (hurricane shutters) for doors and windows shall be placed in position

When vandalism or mob action is directed against fire stations or personnel, it should be immediately reported to the on-duty Battalion Chief