



HR/LF

FFCC – Policy/SOG Program

Operations

Safety- Response to Potentially Violent Incidents

Policy # 10-06

Life Safety Initiative: 12

Issued: 06/31/10

Subject: Response to Potentially Violent Incidents

Purpose: The purpose of this standard operating guideline is to ensure the safety of personnel operating at EMS, fire, or other incidents that by their nature are or may become violent.

Scope: This policy applies to all members of the Fire Department

Definitions

Scene Secure

Police officers on scene have entered the building/area involved and have **confirmed** that it is safe for fire personnel to approach.

Potentially violent incidents

Potentially violent incidents may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Domestic violence incidents
- Shooting or stabbing incidents
- Fights
- Incidents involving drugs and/or alcohol
- Reports of injuries due to unknown causes
- Suicide attempts

Guideline

Response

Companies responding to incidents involving the potential for violence are to **confirm** with Dispatch that police units have been dispatched to the scene.

Scene approach and staging

Companies responding to potentially violent incidents **shall**:

- Discontinue the use of sirens (if appropriate) when approaching area
- Stage at least one (1) block from the incident location in a position that does not place them in direct sight of the incident
- Advise Dispatch that they are staged
- **Remain staged until it is confirmed by police on scene that the scene is secure (as defined above)**

Should an incident escalate into a violent or potentially violent situation, personnel shall retreat to a safe area, request immediate police assistance and remain in the safe area until the scene is secured by the police department. If patient treatment is occurring when scene safety deteriorates, personnel shall attempt to relocate the patient to a safe area if at all possible. This may involve driving the ambulance with the patient away from the scene to a location that is deemed safe.

By the order of: _____
Fire Chief

Date: 06/31/10

Resources *(click title to access resource)*:

NIOSH Firefighter Fatality Investigation Reports

- Career lieutenant killed and fire fighter injured by gunfire while responding to medical assistance call - Kentucky

Other resources

- National Firefighter Near-Miss Reporting System – Special Report – Response to Violent Incidents