

CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Page Number: Effective Date: Reviewed with No Changes: Supersedes Editions:
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RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION – FIRE DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Purpose: *Civil disturbances can occur without warning. Firefighters are subjected to even greater hazards during these events. The Okolona Fire Department can respond to civil disturbances either in Okolona, or elsewhere because of mutual aid agreements.*

Procedure:

1. The Incident Commander shall have full authority to disengage from fire suppression or other efforts if he/she believes the safety of firefighters is unreasonably compromised during civil disturbances.
2. The Incident Commander shall have the full authority to wait for adequate protection from law enforcement agencies before responding to the area of any civil disturbances.
3. Prior to responding to the area where a civil disturbance has occurred, or is likely to occur, the minimum staffing of first-in companies shall be four (4) persons.
4. Prior to responding to the area where a civil disturbance has occurred, or is likely to occur, all hand tools, such as pike poles, axes and fire extinguishers that are mounted outside of enclosed areas or compartments, and can be easily used as weapons against firefighters, shall be relocated on the apparatus.
5. In the event a civil disturbance occurs within the Okolona area, and a law enforcement command post has been established, a liaison officer shall be assigned from the fire department to the law enforcement command post. This is to ensure that areas are reasonably secure before fire department response.
6. All responses to areas where a civil disturbance has occurred, or is likely to occur, shall be on a Code 1 (non-emergency) basis unless otherwise determined by the Incident Commander or fire department duty officer.
7. No information shall be given to the media without prior consultation with law enforcement public information officers, and approved by the Incident Commander.
8. Every effort shall be made to ensure that fire apparatus has at least two escape routes upon arrival at the scene of civil disturbances.
9. The laying of supply lines should be restricted to only when absolutely needed, for life safety purposes.
10. Only defensive mode of operations may be employed in times of civil disturbances, and that complete overhaul of fires may not occur depending upon the need for other response.

Standard Operating Procedures are meant only to be guidelines. Actual conditions may warrant alternative actions.

Okolona Fire Department
Standard Operating Procedure

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11. All personnel shall operate in pairs, and all groups of personnel must ensure they remain in radio contact. This applies to everyone including Chief Officers, though the second person doesn't need to be a chief officer. This also includes the fire apparatus operator.
12. Fire helmets should be worn at all times by all personnel while at the scene where a civil disturbance has occurred or is likely to occur.
13. All members responding to civil disturbances shall wear clothing that readily identifies themselves as fire department personnel.
14. All Fire Department members shall wear and activate their assigned T-Pass 4 Accountability units while on scene of a civil disturbance for accountability purposes and a secondary means to summon assistance in the event of an emergency.
15. Members of the Okolona Fire Department shall not carry firearms. If a member feels it is too unsafe to respond without having a firearm, then the member should not respond. This shall not pertain to those members with law enforcement powers.

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