

Recommended Safety and Tactical Considerations For Civil Unrest and Violent Incidents

Safety Considerations:

1. No single unit responses should occur in a predefined area during these types of events and a Chief Officer will be added to all responses to provide for additional member safety.
2. All responses shall be coordinated with Law Enforcement and should include force protection/escort.
3. Use of sirens and air horns should be avoided within the immediate area to prevent gathering, lights may be used.
4. Position apparatus in a manner that will allow for rapid, unobstructed retreat from the area. Apparatus must be parked in a manner that best protects the crew. Consider Ballistic Protection (in order) 1- Distance from threat, 2-Apparatus, 3-Personal Ballistic PPE (must be worn, if you have them)
5. Stay alert and situationally aware of your surroundings. Utilize a 360-degree view and threat mindset, ensure that a minimum of one crew member is monitoring the crew's safety, plan for the worst, and always ensure you and your crew are operating within the Risk Management Plan. Back off and away from any potentially violent situation. Do not engage with protestors.
6. Speak up if you feel uncomfortable with a situation or assignment.

Tactical Considerations:

1. In most cases, patient will be more effectively treated if removed from the scene to a determined treatment area (scoop and run) or casualty collection point (CCP) and should be coordinated with PD ahead of time.
2. When no lives are at stake, emphasis will be on protecting savable property. Buildings, vehicles, etc. that are fully involve with no or little exposure problem may be left to burn. Ensure force protect/escort from Law Enforcement is in place.
3. When safe and well-coordinated, fire suppression efforts will have an emphasis on fast water, heavy streams to rapidly control and extinguish the fire, and then to get out of the area. Routine salvage, ventilation, and overhaul practices may be discontinued. Use of handlines should be limited. Roof operations shall be avoided and ladder building only when necessary for rescue efforts.
4. All fire units will enter the perimeter as intact groups with law enforcement, travel in groups, operate in groups, and return in groups.
5. Always monitor the Law Enforcement radio channel, while still in communication with FD command.

It is critically important that Law Enforcement and Fire discuss the expectations of each other when planning for these types of events. Coordination of efforts is crucial to the success and safety of these operations. Refer to Phoenix Regional Volume 2 M.P. 206.01 Operations at Violent Incidents for additional information.