

ADOPTED: JANUARY 1, 2016

REVISED:

PURPOSE

To provide for the safety of members and customers in response to Hostile Incidents.

DEFINITIONS OF A HOSTILE INCIDENT

- A. **KNOWN HOSTILE INCIDENT** is any situation or response that involves weapons or violent individuals and responders are informed of the situation prior to arrival.
- B. **UN-KNOWN HOSTILE INCIDENT** is any situation that appears or begins normally but develops into a hostile incident.

PROCEDURE

- A. **Law Enforcement personnel are in charge of mitigating a hostile incident. They will determine when it is safe for the fire responders to enter the scene. In the event the scene is safe and becomes hostile you are involved in an unknown hostile incident and fire personnel should make every attempt to retreat from the area. If retreat is not possible then all responding personnel should get in a safe area determined by the appropriate law enforcement or fire personnel.**
- B. **Fire personnel will refrain from becoming directly involved with a hostile person unless unable to withdraw and responders or civilians are endangered. Fire personnel should retreat as in 1 and call for law enforcement to respond. The only time fire personnel should be directly involved in the law enforcement aspect of a hostile incident is when specifically requested to by a law enforcement officer or appropriate fire personnel.**

That type of involvement will be at the discretion of fire personnel, and is not to be considered one of their responsibilities. Always use 1 above if possible.

- C. **Fire personnel responding to hostile incidents in fire apparatus or POV will not enter the immediate area of the hostile incident until law enforcement personnel have arrived and have authorized their entrance into the immediate area of the hostile incident.**
 - 1. If law enforcement personnel are to be delayed, the fire personnel may enter the scene at the discretion of the Crew Leader. The Crew Leader should be confident that the scene is secure, the responders will not be in danger, and notify dispatch.
 - 2. Upon arrival communicate the situation found and if imminent danger, consider "Code 0".
 - 3. Anytime fire personnel respond to a known hostile incident, they should "hold short" out of direct sight of the scene and in an area safe for all responding units.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Prior to committing resources in a hostile area, Crew Leaders must consider the overall environment of an incident and the potential for violence to line personnel or damage to apparatus and equipment.
- Fire District personnel can be especially susceptible to direct and random personal attacks during periods of civil disobedience.
- Crew Leaders and other personnel may withdraw from any emergency situation that poses a threat to their safety.
- Responding code one is authorized when their use would cause unwanted attention or impact public safety.
- Safety strategies and considerations:
 - Type of incident.
 - Crowd size.
 - Ability to maintain radio contact with dispatch.
- Retreat strategies and considerations:
 - Prior to entering a scene, consider all possible emergency retreat routes.
 - Establish a regrouping area in the event that members are forced to separate.
 - Control the perimeter at incidents by utilizing law enforcement or by cordoning off the scene with fire line tape.
 - A safety monitor may be assigned by Incident Command to watch for changing conditions.
- Firefighting tactics should be defensive with an emphasis on protecting exposures from further fire extension.
- Generally, the use of breathing apparatus should be reserved for rescue operations or small fires that can be quickly extinguished.