

ADOPTED: JANUARY 1, 2016

REVISED:

USE OF CIVILIANS ON EMERGENCY SCENES

- A. The Incident Commander has the legal authority to manage the scene once we have been called.
- B. The responding agencies are not responsible for any actions taken by civilians prior to the arrival of emergency responders.
- C. The use of civilians for actual emergency operations is discouraged. If you request assistance from a civilian the Incident Commander must provide:
 1. Appropriate protective gear and equipment.
 2. An emergency responder as a partner to remain with the civilian throughout their participation in the incident.
- D. Civilian help may be in the form of solicited or unsolicited.
 1. SOLICITED HELP: Often civilians have the equipment or expertise that may be useful
 - I. Use of private vehicles or equipment may be requested.
 - II. If your request is denied seek alternate equipment.
 - III. If private equipment is used the emergency agency assumes the liability for any damages to it.
 - IV. Civilians may be used by the I.C. in an advisory capacity as long as the civilian is not exposed to any unreasonable risk.
 2. UNSOLICITED HELP: At times, the good intentions of neighbors or Good Samaritans affect the operation of the emergency workers in a negative way. When this occurs their actions must be discontinued. It is the responsibility of the Incident Commander to provide for the safe operations of responders at emergency scenes. The following steps should be used to stop the inappropriate actions of non-emergency workers:
 - I. Realize that their intentions are good and ask them to stop in a polite and professional manner.
 - II. Assign an emergency responder to represent the agency, and act as a liaison, and accompany the civilian as they leave the operational area.
 - III. Solicit the assistance of the property owner or someone directly affected by the emergency to help convince the civilian to leave the emergency scene.
 - IV. If the civilian refuses to leave the operational area, interferes with emergency operations, becomes belligerent or abusive, or attempts to use emergency equipment without permission, you may request the assistance of law enforcement to remove them from the scene.