

	Standard Operating Guideline – West Fargo Fire Department		01.019
	Subject: Operations During Civil Unrest		
	Section: Deployment and Safety		
	Date Authorized: 6/4/2020	Authorized by:	
Date Reviewed:	Chief Daniel Fuller		

Intent

To establish procedures to maintain fire department operations during periods of civil unrest

References

Definitions

Civil Unrest – participants of large groups that become hostile toward authority

Protest – statement or action by a group expressing disapproval or objection to something

Riot – a violent disturbance of the peace by a crowd

Strike Team – a group of like resources with a supervisor

Task Force – a group of unlike resources with a supervisor

Guideline

1. During periods of civil unrest, the West Fargo Fire Department will need to alter the way in which the department provides services to the community to ensure the safety of firefighters and resources. Unified Command will be setup, with law enforcement in the lead

2. When notified of occurring or impending civil unrest, the Battalion Chief or Officer in Charge of the shift should take the following actions:
 - a. Notify the Command Staff of the Fire Department (Chief and Deputies)
 - b. Initiate a department wide notification of the situation through Everbridge, placing the entire department on standby
 - c. Activate the Department Operations Center
 - d. Staff Batt 70 with an additional aide or firefighter
 - e. Identify the “impact areas” and if multiple impact areas exist, assign fire department commanders to quadrants of the city or metro
 - f. The Battalion Chief or Officer in Charge can opt to callback and staff all apparatus

3. In the event that the Emergency Operations Center is opened, a senior fire department official (Chief or Deputy Chief) should be in the EOC during the operational period for operational coordination and support

4. All firefighters should wear an official uniform that distinctly identifies the wearer as a firefighter, however tee shirts should be worn instead of polo shirts and nameplates should be taken off turnout gear.

5. Remove outside equipment from the apparatus such as hooks, axes and poles. Tuck nozzles and hose loops into hose beds.

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6. Keep apparatus doors locked and windows rolled up. Place tape inside windows in an X to keep shattered glass from impacting firefighters riding in the cab.
7. Personnel should remove all personal items from vehicles parked at the fire stations, including insurance cards and registrations that have home addresses on them. Personal vehicles should remain locked.
8. Do not carry personal items on your person, including identification that would have your home address.
9. Fire department facilities should remain locked, all care taken to ensure all garage doors are shut when departing the station for calls. Have a firefighter stand by the door when leaving to ensure no one enters the station.
10. Secure all extra communications equipment
11. Close all shades and blinds at stations
12. Maintain a suspicious alertness for activity around the stations, scenes, and apparatus to include possible observation of responses, people following apparatus, and the placement of suspicious packages.
13. Identify “impact” areas and initiate alternative response plans within those areas
14. No response into areas that are not secured by law enforcement within the impact areas
 - a. At no time should a firefighter find themselves alone on scene. The operator should enter the scene with the crew or the crew should split into two groups of two.
 - b. Ensure law enforcement provides security for apparatus on scene
15. Monitor the locations of other impacted areas, especially for mobile protests or marches. If these come within 5 blocks of West Fargo Fire Stations or impede arterial roads that connect parts of the city, the following actions should be taken:
16. Abandon and lockdown fire stations that are cut off by protests or marches
 - a. Relocate those apparatus to safe areas (other city buildings preferred but large parking lots are acceptable)
 - b. Attempt to keep resources available on all planning zones of the city
17. Organize task forces for response to fire calls consisting of:
 - a. One supervisor (Batt Chief/Chief Officer)
 - b. One Ladder Company

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- c. Three Engine Companies
 - d. Four law enforcement/security units
 - e. Heavy Rescue/Tech rescue can be added as needed
18. Organize strike teams for like resources to be added to task force responses:
- a. EMS Strike Team: five ambulances with a supervisor
 - b. Tanker Strike Team: five tankers with a supervisor
 - c. Engine Strike Team: five engines with a supervisor
19. Upon arrival on scene, position all apparatus to make a quick exit if needed; ie: back into tight areas, stage away from the scene, etc.
20. Initiate modified fire attack plans:
21. Prioritize response to fires
- a. Fires with life safety concerns
 - b. Fires with multiple exposures
 - c. Fires with few exposures
 - d. Car fires
 - e. Trash fires
 - f. Nuisance fires
 - g. Interior fire attack is reserved for known life safety hazards
 - h. Defensive fire attack with the goal of a quick knockdown and relocation to a safe zone or the next prioritized incident using “hit and move” tactics.
 - i. No laddering of fire buildings unless absolutely necessary for defensive fire operations
22. All firefighters responding to EMS calls close to the impact zones should operate:
- a. Teams of two
 - b. Respond in squads rather than engines or ladders
 - c. Utilize ballistic gear and helmets
 - d. When on scene, squad doors should be locked and key removed from the vehicle

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