

	<b>APPLETON FIRE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE (S.O.G.)</b>	
	<b>TITLE: Fire Department Response During Civil Unrest</b>	
<b>S.O.G. 3-055</b>	<b>SECTION: First Responder</b>	<b>FILE NAME: J:\Common\SOG'S\First Responder (SOG 3-010 - SOG 3-055)\3-055 FD Response During Civil Unrest</b>
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**PURPOSE:**

To provide a guide for Fire Department activities during civil unrest including riots, civil disturbances or related hostile and violent encounters that will result in a prompt and coordinated action between fire and law enforcement.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of the Appleton Fire Department to have a structure in place to guide the response of the department through a sustained COVID-19 pandemic. Focus will be on minimizing the number of deaths and illnesses within the community, while protecting fire department employees and cooperating regional agencies while maintaining the ability to respond to calls for service.

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

- A. The Fire Chief or designee shall be the judge of the degree of Fire Department participation and implementation of Civil Unrest procedures during any period of civil unrest.
- B. First arriving units, when encountering a situation classified as a Civil Unrest, will stage until the scene is secure by Law Enforcement. Dispatch will be directed to notify the responding fire department's Incident Commander of situation.

- C. Members in areas not affected by Civil Unrest activities will continue with their normal duties/activities.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

### **Definitions**

Civil Unrest – Any mob action related to acts of arson, violence, riot, rebellions, insurrection or other unlawful action by various organized or unorganized groups.

### **Responsibilities**

Fire Department members shall be responsible for acting with good judgment, tolerance and tact so as not to precipitate violent mob reaction. During periods of Civil Unrest, individual members may be subjected to unusual stressful verbal abuse. Self-control and restraint are of the utmost importance for preventing escalation of a marginal incident into a destructive long-term mob action.

- A. The station officers shall arrange for security of affected fire stations to prevent vandalism and injury to personnel and equipment.
- B. The station officers shall institute necessary measures to ensure station security.

## **PROCEDURES:**

### **Fire Apparatus Protection**

- A. Hose bed covers shall be in position. The rear flap shall be secured down, if provided.
- B. Exposed equipment on running boards and sides of some apparatus may have to be stored in available open compartments and covered.

### **Aid/Medic Units Protection**

- A. Rear doors shall be locked from the inside to prevent unauthorized entry. The remaining doors shall be locked when leaving the apparatus.

### **Personnel Protection**

- A. Personnel shall respond wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times, on-scene and responding to and from events. Personnel should wear helmets and clearly marked jackets. If there is any doubt that a responder is not identified as a firefighter or EMS, wear a fluorescent road vest.

- B. Ballistic protection should be worn into “high impact” areas.

### **Emergency Response Operations**

- A. Unless otherwise authorized by the Fire Chief, initial response to an unknown civil disturbance area shall consist of one Battalion Chief and one Fire Company. If responding to a known disturbance area, a Task Force shall be mobilized prior to entering the area. A **Task Force** consist of the following units: 2 Engines, 1 Ladder to Quint, 1 ALS Ambulance, 1 Battalion Chief, and 2 Law Enforcement vehicles.
- B. Expect a large media presence.
- C. Warning lights, sirens and air horns will not be used in the affected area.
- D. A report of a Civil Disturbance by the first-arriving unit will signal all subsequent arriving units to stand by in a designated staging area, unless otherwise directed.
- E. Avoid unnecessary conflict (personal communication or physical contact) between Department personnel, rioters, or bystanders. Primary responsibility is the protection of life and property.
- F. Use the “buddy system” and never work alone.
- G. Rescue and extinguishment should be the prime objectives of the Incident Commander; overhaul should be limited to those efforts that prevent rekindle. Salvage operations may have to be curtailed due to possible mob action. Be prepared to abandon the scene quickly.
- H. Be prepared to leave vehicle and trash fires unattended if the situation warrants.
- I. Provide protection for hydrants and hose lines. If necessary, protection for apparatus, tools, equipment, hydrants, hose lines and other operating facilities shall be provided by Police or other enforcing personnel.

### **Fire Station Protection**

- A. Stations within or adjacent to the areas of Civil Disturbance shall keep doors and windows closed and locked.
- B. Activities outside the station shall be minimized to those necessary to provide emergency response.

- C. Available outside illumination shall be utilized.
- D. Available protective devices for doors and windows shall be placed in position.
- E. When vandalism or mob action is directed against fire stations or personnel, it shall be immediately reported to law enforcement.

### **Abandoning a Fire Station**

During a large-scale disorder or riot, it may become necessary to temporarily abandon fire stations due to safety considerations, especially in the hot zone.

- A. If the safety of firefighters and equipment cannot be assured within the confines of a fire station, then the ranking officer at that location has the authority to remove the company from the area.
- B. This decision may also be made at the Command Post by the Incident Commander after consultation with Law Enforcement.
- C. Companies abandoning a station will notify their Shift Commander of their actions and proceed to the closest fire station in a safe area.