



RUSSELLVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
POLICY MANUAL

Policy Number:
Section:
Original Date:
Revised Date:

PURPOSE

By definition, a civil disturbance is any mob action related to acts of arson, violence, riot, rebellions, insurrection or other unlawful action by various organized or unorganized groups. The following procedures have been established for use in such incidents to ensure that each incident is managed appropriately while providing the highest level of safety for department members.

POLICY

Russellville Fire Department personnel, equipment or apparatus, shall not be used in activities related to quelling mob action unless such action is specifically authorized by the Fire Chief or designee.

The Fire Chief or designee shall be the judge of the degree of Fire Department participation and implementation of Civil Disturbance procedures during any such activities.

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

First arriving units when encountering a situation classified as a Civil Disturbance will notify dispatch in normal size-up manner. Dispatch will be directed to notify the Fire Chief or designee of the situation.

Fire Department members/employees shall be responsible for acting with good judgment, tolerance and tact so as not to precipitate violent mob reaction. During periods of Civil Disturbance, 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.

The Fire Chief or designee shall arrange for security of affected Fire Stations to prevent vandalism and injury to personnel and equipment. The Fire Chief or designee shall institute necessary measures to ensure station security.

Equipment carried that is exposed on running boards and sides of apparatus shall be placed in compartments, top storage areas or in crew cabs. Equipment in crew cabs shall be covered. Equipment on some apparatus may have to be stored in available open compartments and covered.

Fire Engine Protection:

1. Hose bed covers shall be in position. The rear flap shall be secured down, if provided.
2. Hydrant wrenches should be carried towards the front portion of the load, out of sight.
3. Apparatus without hose bed covers shall have a tarp over the hose bed and top basket to protect equipment and hose.

Approved

Fire Chief

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Personnel Protection:

1. Personnel shall respond wearing full protective turnouts. Except for the officer and driver, helmet face shields or goggles shall be donned.
2. To prevent vandalism to private vehicles, it may be necessary to direct arriving members/ employees, e.g. reporting to work, callback, etc. to fire stations out of the disturbance area and exchange crews via Fire Department transport.

Emergency Response/Operations:

1. Unless otherwise authorized by the Fire Chief or designee, initial response within known civil disturbance areas shall consist of a single Engine Company. The Engine Company will not engage in any activity that will aggravate the situation or put personnel in serious danger of injury.
2. A report of a Civil Disturbance by the first-arriving unit will signal all subsequent arriving units to stand by in a designated base area, unless otherwise directed.
3. Whenever possible, hand lines shall be taken directly off of hydrants. Apparatus will be hooked to a hydrant as a last resort.
4. Due to possible false reports by activists, personal identification of the sender may be required.
5. 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.
6. If the department responds to a medical response in the area, patient care should be limited to treating immediate life threats, stabilization, and moving to a safer location where patient care can continue.
7. Apparatus and personnel should be returned to quarters as quickly as possible.
8. Members should be alert to transmit information regarding hostile acts against apparatus and personnel. In the event of mob activity at the emergency scene, it may be necessary to withdraw and delay extinguishment operations until security forces secure the area.
9. Avoid unnecessary conflict (personal communication or physical contact) between Department personnel, rioters, or bystanders. Primary responsibility is the protection of life and property.
10. Provide protection for hydrants and hoselines. If necessary, protection for apparatus, tools, equipment, hydrants, hoselines and other operating facilities shall be provided by Police or other enforcing personnel.

NOTE: During Civil Disturbance situations, responses into or out of the area will be non-siren.

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Fire Station Protection:

1. Stations within or adjacent to the areas of Civil Disturbance shall keep doors and windows locked.
2. Activities outside the station shall be minimized to those necessary to provide emergency response.
3. Available outside illumination shall be utilized.
4. Available protective devices for doors and windows shall be placed in position.
5. When vandalism or mob action is directed against fire stations or personnel, it shall be immediately reported to the Fire Chief or designee.
6. Firearms of all kinds are prohibited at any time in fire stations, on apparatus or on Russellville Fire Department property. This restriction applies to keeping such weapons in privately owned vehicles parked on Fire Department property during times of on duty. Fire Department personnel who are commissioned to carry (Fire Marshals, etc.) are exempt during official on duty or off duty investigations.

Approved

Fire Chief