



SOUTH LYON FIRE DEPARTMENT

Manual of Procedures 400

VIOLENT INCIDENTS

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I. VIOLENT INCIDENT

A violent incident is any type of incident in which members may be exposed to harm as a result of violent or threatening acts. Examples of violent incidents may include but are not limited to:

- Domestic violence incidents
- Fights
- Violent crimes
- Civil unrest
- Suicide attempts
- Standby for police situation involving violence
- Reports of injuries due to unknown causes
- Any other circumstance under which members may reasonably fear for their safety

Violent incidents can be unpredictable in their scope and nature. Violent incidents may encompass a singular incident or involve multiple incidents or geographic areas in a civil unrest situation. This unpredictability makes it difficult to prepare for all aspects of a violent incident. In mitigating these incidents, companies shall follow the standard risk management principles. The overall incident objectives for violent incidents are firefighter safety, life safety and incident control. The following concepts apply to ALL potential violent scene situation.

II. RESPONSE AND STAGING

All members should be aware that initial dispatch information is rarely complete. SLFD units will respond normal traffic until told that the scene is secure. Violent incident scenes shall be considered a law enforcement matter until they are secured. Companies shall stage in a position that will minimize the unit's exposure to potential violence. The staging location shall allow for units to quickly leave the area to ensure the safety of personnel. Plan the escape routes ahead of time. Companies shall stage out of sight at a safe distance. Companies shall remain staged until it is confirmed by police on scene that it is safe for fire personnel to approach. Novi Dispatch shall be notified of staging location.

Officers and drivers should attempt to avoid a "dead end" street and always have at least two paths of egress if possible.

Approach these incidents slowly and cautiously. Maintain situational awareness when approaching and conduct a 360° assessment of the area. Even if the scene is reported as safe, situations can rapidly change and the potential for additional violence may exist.

Scene/Incident factors may include:

- Determining appropriate escape routes and safe zone
- Patient may also be a suspect



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- Unsecured weapons
- Hostile family members
- Uncontrolled/hostile crowd
- Previous history of violence at this location

III. RISK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT VIOLENT INCIDENTS

Violent incidents can be unpredictable in their scope and nature. Therefore, it is difficult to prepare for all aspects of a violent incident. It is imperative that responding companies employ the standard risk management system. The overall incident objectives for violent incidents are firefighter safety, life safety and incident control.

- We will risk our lives a lot, in a calculated manner, to save savable lives.
- We will risk our lives a little, in a calculated manner, to save savable property.
- We will not risk our lives at all for lives and property that are already lost.

“Actions in a calculated manner” require the following:

- Incident Command established.
- Scene secured or safe zones in place and confirmed by law enforcement.
- Accountability system established.
- Safety procedures in place.
- Continuous risk assessment by all members

The use of this risk management system will improve the Incident Commander’s ability to provide a more predictable and safe environment in order to achieve the tactical objectives. The evaluation of risk with regard to savable property is unlikely while operating at violent incidents; however consideration is given to fire suppression scenarios during civil disturbances and arson fire incidents. Members must maintain full and complete situational awareness before and during each call, no matter how seemingly trivial the nature. Emergencies that involve developing or dynamic violence require a deliberate, measured, and systematic evaluation.

IV. MANAGING A ROUTINE INCIDENT THAT SUDDENLY BECOMES VIOLENT

Even the most routine call can suddenly become violent, stay alert at all times. The following are a few examples of routine incidents that may become violent:

- A. Unstable patients
- B. Environments where anxiety is high
- C. Angry patients or family members
- D. Patients or bystanders that may have used drugs or alcohol

Size up and beware of areas that have a potential for violence. Remember to:

- A. Build situational awareness early
- B. Approach scene with caution
- C. Maintain situational awareness
- D. Consider designating crew member as safety officer
- E. Call PD early
- F. Trust your instincts

If a scene becomes violent, fire personnel are empowered to take appropriate actions to mitigate harm to crew and patient. This may include neutralizing the threat if necessary.

Approved by /s/ Chief Robert Vogel