

ASSISTANCE TO POLICE OPS

ASSISTANCE TO POLICE OPERATIONS

1. **Purpose:** This procedure is a guideline to assist Western Reserve Joint Fire District personnel in making decisions to support police agencies during special operations.

2. **Scope:** The Western Reserve Joint Fire District's role in supporting police operations is to:

- * To provide special District assets and equipment managed by the fire department;
- * To provide medical support to police and civilians involved in the incident;
- * To provide fire suppression service; and
- * To assist with hazardous materials identification, containment and advice on disposal.

The Western Reserve Joint Fire District, when assisting police, will not involve members in active danger areas. Apparatus and personnel are only to be staged in cleared or safe areas.

3. **Determination of Incident Type:** Responding fire officers will determine what type of incident they are assisting the police with. This can include safety and weapons status, safe staging areas, equipment requests, hazmat potential, explosives or fire potential, and injuries.

4. **Staging/Liaison:** Responding fire units to active police station actions will rendezvous with police command in a safe staging area.

5. **Specific Incident Types:** The following are guidelines to assist fire personnel with specific responses.

- * **Equipment delivery.** Ladders, fans, SCBAs, forcible entry equipment, etc. may be requested for use in police operations. The fire department's role is to deliver equipment to a safe staging area near the incident and instruct trained law officers in its use for deployment within dangerous areas.
- * **Medical services.** EMS calls to active police actions will be to safe or cleared areas. No medical treatment will be rendered to patients in custody until the patient has been checked for weapons.
- * **Hazmat.** Fire personnel will consult with police agencies to identify, contain and decontaminate police scenes when necessary and safe. MSDS information for all gas agents used by Poland law enforcement agencies are attached to this procedure.

6. General Recommendations and Related Information

A) Sensitive operations communication. Efforts to minimize radio transmissions that can be scanner-received by citizens, news media and criminal suspects will be made in police/fire communications. This precaution is imperative in:

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| * hostage situations | * SWAT team operations |
| * bomb threats | * child abuse cases |
| * drug lab or hazmat police actions | * rape investigations |

Patient names, police locations and SWAT operational tactic communications are sensitive and should be restricted to landline telephone communications or [if necessary] cellular telephone communications.

B) The Western Reserve Joint Fire District will not provide uniforms, bunker gear, vehicles, or equipment to law enforcement agencies where the intent is to mislead a suspect into identifying a law officer as a firefighter.

C) Siren/emergency warning light use. Police and assault-type medical calls function best with a minimum of neighborhood attention and activity. Fire personnel will shut down warning equipment operation several blocks away from police actions and meet with the officer in charge of the scene outside the immediate hazard area. This procedure is not intended to restrict fire personnel from protecting against traffic hazards or other scene hazards through the use of warning lights.

D) Traffic safety. Fire and medical incidents require emergency pedestrian traffic at and around highway/street collision accidents. Police are encouraged to provide a minimum of one lane width protection on [both] sides of the working incident. Should police personnel be unavailable, it is the priority of the incident commander to provide scene safety through traffic direction. Fire personnel will make all efforts to expedite in-traffic operations so that normal traffic flows can be restored promptly. Traffic jams represent hazards to the public, creating additional injury accident conditions.