

BELLEVUE FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

SUBJECT **TACTICAL ALERT OPERATIONS**

ARTICLE 700 SECTION 34

REVIEWED DATE 11/4/2015 REVISED DATE 5/23/14

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for operational activities during civil disturbances.

2.0 ORGANIZATIONS AFFECTED

Bureau of Operations

3.0 REFERENCES

Fire/Medical Radio Procedures Manual, Eastside Communications Center

4.0 POLICY

4.1 During civil disturbances, the Fire Department shall develop a plan and will deploy resources as Fire Tactical Teams (TAC Teams) and/or Medical Tactical Teams (Med Teams). These deployment configurations will be used to provide optimum safety for personnel and to maximize the strategic and tactical value of our resources.

4.1.1 Implementation of Tactical Alert guidelines shall require staff notification.

4.1.2 Companies responding outside the impact area will prepare for inclusion and deployment into the impact area.

4.1.3 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 Chief of the Department.

4.1.4 If confronted by a large crowd during an emergency response, fire and EMS resources should attempt to select a route of travel that avoids driving through the crowd (go around).

4.1.5 First consideration should be given to co-locate the fire field command post with police field command post.

5.0 DEFINITIONS

5.1 **CIVIL DISTURBANCE:** Any mob action or threat, related to acts of arson, violence, riot, rebellions, insurrection, or other unlawful action by various organized or unorganized groups.

- 5.2 **IMPACT AREA**: That area defined by geographical boundaries (streets, freeways, or first-in districts) where the emergency activity is taking place or anticipated.
- 5.3 **MEDICAL TACTICAL TEAM (MED TEAM)**: A group of resources with common communication and a leader temporarily assembled for specific medical missions. Med Teams shall normally consist of one aid unit or medic unit, one engine company, and one MSO.
- 5.4 **TACTICAL ALERT**: A state of preparedness for, or response to, incidents involving potential or actual civil disturbance, natural disaster, etc.
- 5.5 **TACTICAL TEAM (TAC TEAM)**: A group of resources with common communications and a leader temporarily assembled for a specific mission. Tac Teams shall normally consist of two engine companies, an aid unit and one Battalion Commander.

NOTE: In certain situations, and if staffing allows, Bellevue Police will place a police unit into a medical or tactical team. The request for a police unit shall be from the Incident Commander.

6.0 PROCEDURES

- 6.1 The ICS shall be utilized during any tactical alert for the management of all emergency incidents.
- 6.2 Upon the receipt of any information pertinent to potential or anticipated events which have the likely potential of causing a civil disturbance, the on-duty Battalion Commander shall request staff notification and shall develop a tactical plan.
- 6.3 Fire Stations shall normally be utilized as resource deployment sites. (Pump 3, and aid units assigned to cross-staffed stations should be utilized as an additional resource to create Med Teams and/or Tac Teams.)
- 6.4 Med Teams and Tac Teams shall be identified sequentially beginning with the number 1 (i.e., Med Team 1, Med Team 2, etc.)
- 6.5 Recall of Battalion 2 and notification to the Deputy Chief of Operations shall be requested upon the implementation of any Tactical Alert.
- 6.6 Department liaison with law enforcement should be established by the on-duty Battalion Commander or their liaison officer.
- 6.7 A minimum of one police unit should be requested for each Med Team or Tac Team. Police units may respond as part of the team from the Fire Station or may respond to the impact area simultaneously, depending on available police resources.
- 6.8 Tactical Alert boundaries shall be identified by specific streets or other geographical locations when defining the impact area.

- 6.9 No Explorers or visitors should be in quarters of those stations or facilities that are within or near a tactical alert boundary.
- 6.10 Tac Team Guidelines:
 - 6.10.1 Tac Team Leaders shall maintain a record of all activities for documentation purposes, including but not limited to: addresses; incident numbers; call times; on-scene times; total time on alarms; unusual events or critical actions or decisions; personnel on overtime; apparatus repair or damage. Such information is requisite for documenting the rationale for certain decisions and actions, and to the Department's ability to recover expenses should the event receive a declaration for state or federal assistance or be used in any legal dispute that may result.
 - 6.10.2 Equipment, other than ladders, carried exposed on running boards and sides of apparatus shall be placed in compartments, top storage areas or in crew cabs.
 - 6.10.3 Operations shall limit exposure of personnel and use heavy stream appliances and large handlines for firefighting. The Incident Commander or the Team Leader should consider altering normal interior fire attack, ventilation, overall operations, etc., consistent with personnel exposure and safety.
 - 6.10.4 If, in the opinion of the police or Tac Team Leader, a situation becomes unsafe to remain, all resources shall withdraw to safety. Personnel should have a known escape plan and a signal for rapid withdrawal if incident conditions warrant.
 - 6.10.5 Fire/EMS resources in the impact area(s) should not operate alone.
 - 6.10.6 Personnel should constantly monitor their surroundings and may consider alternative methods of utilizing apparatus head sets to do so.
 - 6.10.7 The use of ladder pipe operations should be limited to remote operation without firefighters on the aerial.
 - 6.10.8 Apparatus should be fueled and prepared for multiple responses.
- 6.11 Med Team Guidelines:
 - 6.11.1 Medical Team leaders shall maintain a record of all activities for documentation purposes, including but not limited to: addresses; incident numbers; call times, on-scene times; total time on alarms; unusual events or critical actions or decisions; personnel on overtime; apparatus repair or damage. Such information is requisite for documenting the rationale for

certain decisions and actions, and to the Department's ability to recover expenses should the event receive a declaration for state or federal assistance or for legal purposes.

- 6.11.2 All EMS personnel should respond wearing helmets and appropriate jacket or coat for clear identification as members of the Fire Department.
 - 6.11.3 In unsafe, or potentially unsafe environments, EMS intervention prior to transport should be limited to treatment necessary to save a life. Any treatment beyond immediate life-saving measures should be performed while en route to a hospital or other safe location.
 - 6.11.4 Patient destination shall normally be to the closest open emergency department or as directed by Medical Control.
 - 6.11.5 Rather than an entire Med Team being involved in a patient transport, consideration should be given to using a single ambulance or aid unit accompanied by a police unit. If an aid or medic unit is utilized for patient transport, the Med Team shall return to a designated staging area or fire station and regroup before responding to another incident.
 - 6.11.6 The Incident Commander should consider the establishment of a remote ambulance staging area, outside the impact area for private ambulances. Once established, the Med Team would transport to the ambulance staging area and subsequent transports could utilize available aid units or private ambulances.
 - 6.11.7 EMS resources operating outside the impact area(s) should continue to transport patients under normal protocols unless otherwise directed.
 - 6.11.8 All doors on Aid and Medic units shall be locked to prevent unauthorized entry when unattended.
- 6.12 Fire Stations:
- 6.12.1 Firearms of all kinds are not to be carried by on-duty members, and are positively prohibited at any time in fire stations and on apparatus. Any exception to this policy must receive written approval by the Fire Chief.
 - 6.12.2 Stations within or adjacent to the areas of civil disturbance shall keep doors and windows locked.
 - 6.12.3 Activities outside the station shall be minimized to those necessary to provide emergency response.
 - 6.12.4 Available outside illumination shall be utilized.

- 6.12.5 When vandalism or mob action is directed against fire stations or personnel, it shall be immediately reported to Fire Dispatch, and police requested.
- 6.12.6 When in “Tactical Alert Mode,” at least two members shall answer the station doorbell or request by an unknown person to enter quarters.
- 6.13 Radio Communications:
 - 6.13.1 The fire incident commander, tactical team Battalion Commander, or MSO on a medical or tactical team shall establish radio communication with police escort unit on the appropriate TAC (e.g. City 2, NORCOM-1), as assigned by Fire Dispatch. (See Bellevue Fire Department Standard Operating Procedure Article 700, Section 17: Police/Fire Joint Incidents)