

**CHAPTER II                      Operations**  
**SUBJECT 3                     Emergency Operations**  
**TOPIC 14                      Police/Fire Operations**

**A.        POLICY**

The Fire Department will honor all requests for Fire Department responses to Police Operations. A Rescue Unit shall also be dispatched upon request from the Police Department for S.W.A.T. Operations. Consideration for activating the CFD SWAT Rescue Unit should be taken at this time. The nearest Engine Company will be dispatched for "Police Assistance" requests. The goal is to facilitate the mission of both Departments while providing for the safety and care of all individuals involved; Police, Fire, and the general public.

**B.        COMMAND AND CONTROL**

1.        At incidents where the primary responsibility lays with the Fire Department (fires, vehicle crashes with injury, medical calls etc.) the highest-ranking Fire Department member will be in Command. The Police Department will serve in a support roll (perimeter security, traffic control, etc.) with the exception of those instances where Police are conducting a criminal investigation or police intervention is required. In these instances the respective Police and Fire Staff Officers will confer as part of a Unified Command.
2.        When Police respond to an incident that is primarily within their area of responsibility (disturbance call, violent person, armed suspect, etc.) Police will stabilize and secure the scene. The Fire Department will serve in a support role to provide aid as requested by Police or dictated by the circumstances.
3.        When a person is in Police custody, the welfare and wellbeing of that person is the primary concern. If medical attention is required, Fire will provide appropriate medical care while the Police maintain physical custody of the patient. If the Police are not holding the patient in physical custody and the patient is a perceived threat to Fire personnel, medical care will be withheld until the threat is eliminated with the necessary Police assistance within their scope of authority.
4.        At a Police incident the Police Incident Commander will determine when it is appropriate for Fire personnel to leave the scene. At a Fire incident the Fire Incident Commander will determine when it is appropriate for Police personnel to leave the scene.

**C.        SAFETY**

1.        Whenever a Fire Department resource is dispatched to an area where there is ongoing violence, or there is a known potential for violence to erupt, a Police response shall also be dispatched. The safety of Fire Department personnel is initially the responsibility of the member in charge of each

responding unit. The highest-ranking Fire Officer on the scene will ultimately be responsible for the safety of all Fire personnel at the scene.

2. For those situations where Police have not yet arrived on the scene or the scene has not yet been secured by the Police the following procedures shall apply:
  - a.) Fire and EMS units shall respond to a designated staging area until the scene has been secured by Police and it is safe for the Fire Department to perform their duties. The companies are to remain staged until advised by Police that the scene is secured and is safe for Fire personnel to enter. The verification of scene safety should be relayed through Fire Dispatch.
3. Whenever a Fire Department unit has arrived on the scene, without the Police first securing the scene, and events develop that place Fire personnel or the public in danger from potential violence, the member in charge shall request the appropriate level of Police response. This response may be "Firefighter Back-up" or "Firefighter needs Assistance" (see section 701.21 of procedure manual). Based on the situation, the member in charge shall determine the need for retreat, and if necessary, have all companies retreat to a designated staging area. The location of the staging area should be relayed to Fire Dispatch, which will then be relayed to Police units responding to the scene.
4. Whenever a Police officer calls for "Officer Needs Assistance" the closest available Fire Company will be dispatched and respond to a designated staging area. This company will stage and be immediately available should the need arise for emergency medical services to be provided. If there are reported injuries the normal EMS response protocol will be dispatched and all companies shall respond to the designated staging area. Fire Companies shall not enter the general area where the "Officer needs Assistance" until advised by the Police that the scene is secured, it is safe for Fire personnel to enter.
5. The Fire Department will provide equipment for forcible entry and gaining access, but will not enter areas where there is a chance of encountering a violent person. Fire Department personnel should not attempt rescues involving violent persons at an unsafe scene. If there is any doubt about the safety of the scene, request that a District Chief respond who will consult with the Police Commander. Persons in need of medical treatment must be brought to a secured area, or Police must render the treatment area safe. Fire Department personnel shall not be placed in a clear line of fire when an armed assailant is on the scene.

D. STAGING

The member in charge of the first arriving Fire unit, based on information given by Dispatch, will determine the need for a staging area. If there is no

predetermined staging area provided by Dispatch, the member in charge shall designate a staging area a minimum of four blocks from the reported incident, out of sight, and out of any potential line of fire. As soon as a staging area is determined, notify Dispatch of the exact location. All Fire Companies shall notify Dispatch by radio when they have arrived at the staging area. Notify Dispatch by SMT that you are "On Scene" at the actual incident and when returning in service "Available On Radio".

## E. POLICE INCIDENTS THAT MAY INVOLVE EMS SERVICES

### 1. USE OF THE X26 TASER

- a. Whenever a police officer has used a Taser to control a subject actively resisting arrest, the subject will have to be assessed by EMS prior to being taken to the Justice Center. The closest Fire Company will be dispatched to assess the patient following successful use of the Taser. The following information is provided to assist in evaluation of the patient:  
Police officers have been instructed not to use the Taser on obviously pregnant females and those individuals under the age of 7 or over the age of 70, unless the encounter rises to the level of a deadly force situation. This restriction is based on the potential for these individuals to fall when incapacitated by the Taser. Two darts are propelled from an attached cartridge. The device generates a high voltage electronic spark. Once the Taser is fired it will automatically cycle for five seconds.
- b. No direct complications are expected from the use of the Taser. However, there is always the potential for injury to the police officer or subject when the use of force is necessary to gain control. Police officers have been instructed in the technique for removing the darts from the subject's skin provided the darts are not embedded in certain soft body tissue; i.e. genitals, female breast tissue or any area above the collar bone
  - If the darts are embedded in these soft tissue areas, described above, transport the patient to University Hospital or Children's Hospital for treatment and dart removal.
  - Used Taser cartridges and darts are considered a biohazard. The police officer may leave the used cartridge and darts with Fire personnel for proper disposal in a receptacle at the fire station or hospital.

### 2. ANY OTHER USE OF FORCE RESULTING IN ADVERSE MEDICAL REACTION OR INJURY

F. BODY ARMOR

1. The Fire Department receives useable body armor from the Cincinnati Police Department. This body armor is fully functional, safe and provides the level of protection required. This body armor is distributed to all Fire Companies, Ambulances and Rescue Units.
2. Additional sets of body armor are stored and available at Central Stores for replacements and large-scale incidents.
3. Members shall don body armor under the turn out coat when entering an area previously designated as dangerous or violent. Body armor should not be worn in a fashion that enables it to be seen by a potential attacker. Part of the purpose of protection against attack or serious injury includes the concealment of body armor so that the attacker will not purposely aim at or attack an unprotected part of the body.
4. Wearing body armor under the turn out coat will; obscure the body armor from sight, provide additional body protection from possible assailants, and clearly identify the responding CFD members as fire fighters.
6. Situations where body armor should be worn:
  - a) Assault with a deadly weapon
  - b) Domestic Violence/Family Dispute
  - c) Shooting
  - d) Stabbing/Cutting
  - e) Sniper Incidents/Police Standbys
  - f) Other Violent Crimes or Conditions
  - g) During Civil Disturbances or other "Tactical Alerts"
  - h) During all SWAT standby incidents.
  - i) Or whenever the officer in charge deems it appropriate
7. Company Commanders are to establish a system for the daily inventory of the body armor assigned to the Company. Any missing or damaged body armor SHALL be reported immediately to the District Chief. The District Chief shall thoroughly investigate the circumstances and immediately inform the Assistant Chief of Operations or the On-Call Assistant Fire Chief of all pertinent information.
8. Submit a Form 47 to the Operations Bureau any time body armor is used on an emergency response. The report should contain at least the following information:
  - a) Date and Time the body armor was used
  - b) The Incident number and type of Incident
  - c) The purpose for which the body armor was used
  - d) Any problems that were encountered with the body armor
  - e) Any suggestions that would benefit the future use of body armor