

City of Belleville Fire Department

Number: 1016

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Belleville Fire Department to not knowingly enter into potentially violent situations.

Date S.O.G. Comes Into Effect: December 26, 2002

Date S.O.G. Revised: March 8, 2017

Date Committee Approved S.O.G. : October 10, 2002

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GUIDELINE

1:00 Purpose:

1:01 To reduce the exposure of Fire Department personnel to violent situations.

2:00 Procedures:

2:01 Potentially violent situations are ones where responding personnel's safety is jeopardized by the actions or mental state of the people at the scene. Examples are domestic disturbances, unruly crowds/fights, criminal activities and suicide threats. Any potential scenario may or may not involve dangerous weapons/firearms. Potentially violent situations are a police matter and fire fighters are not equipped or expected to deal with diffusing these situations.

2:02 (A) Dispatch should obtain as much information as possible from the caller to ascertain if there is a risk of violence at the scene and relay all relevant information to the responding crews as well as the police and ambulance crews.

(B) Terminology to be used on the radio during response is "Proceed with Caution". Sensitive information should be passed via cell phone.

2:03 If information is received from the scene or another Emergency agency that dangerous weapons and/or physical violence are present at the scene the responding units shall stage

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at a safe distance to allow the Officer to size up the scene and to permit rapid egress from the area and provide coverage to personnel.

- 2:04 Should the responding crews arrive on scene before the Police, the Officer shall notify dispatch to contact Police with a scene update and to ensure Police response with an estimated time of arrival.
- 2:05 If the Officer determines the threat is minimal and Fire Department assistance is required to aid a victim, the crew may proceed prior to Police arrival. Should the incident escalate/deteriorate the crew is to vacate to a safe distance until Police intervention.
- 2:06 If Police are on the scene upon Fire Department arrival the Officer shall liaise with the Police Incident Commander regarding staging and assistance required by the Fire Department.
- 3:00 **Scope:**
- 3:01 It shall be the responsibility of the Captain/ Officer in charge of each shift to ensure that this guideline is explained and followed.
- 3:02 It shall be the responsibility of **all employees** to understand and adhere to this guideline.

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