

<b>TITLE</b> O P E R A T I O N S M A N U A L	<b>STANDARD</b> <b>INSTRUCTION 02</b>		<b>DEPARTMENT</b> FIRE-RESCUE
<b>SUBJECT: SPECIAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES</b> STAND BACK POLICY	<b>SECTION</b> 02	<b>PAGE</b> 1 of 3	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> May 30, 2023

**I. PURPOSE**

To provide the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) personnel and ambulance provider personnel with the information and guidance needed for “stand back” situations.

**II. SCOPE**

This policy shall apply to all SDFD personnel and ambulance provider personnel.

**III. AUTHORITY**

The Fire Chief authorizes the information within this policy.

**IV. STAND BACK POLICY**

This policy shall be used by Emergency Command and Data Center (ECDC), Lifeguard Communications Center (LCC), and responding units regarding incidents involving dangerous and/or suspicious responses that warrant an increased law enforcement presence. It is imperative that a clear line of communication is established among all units responding and ECDC/LCC to avoid jeopardizing the safety of personnel during this type of incident. If responding personnel or ECDC/LCC perceive a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation that warrant an increased law enforcement presence, emergency operations should be delayed until law enforcement can secure the scene.

The guidelines identified below will be applied to all incident types, ie. medical and non-medical related incidents if, in the opinion of the dispatcher and/or responding personnel, a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation exists that warrant an increased law enforcement presence.

**A. Stand Back Situations**

"Stand Back" shall be designated for responses with a violent patient and/or bystanders, and responses for victims of aggression when the suspect is known or suspected to be at scene or nearby. Law enforcement shall be notified to respond by ECDC/LCC or by lifeguard units on scene. Responding units shall stage a safe distance away from the scene until cleared by law enforcement. Conditions that would indicate this level of caution may include, but not limited to:

1. Incidents with an indication of violence, ie. gunshot, stabbing or arson, or the suspect/assailant(s) is still at scene or nearby.
2. Domestic disputes.
3. A drug/alcohol overdose with violent or irrational behavior.
4. Threatening suicide with unknown means.
5. Fire/medical alarm with an attached panic or burglary alarm.
6. Premise/caution notes indicating a need to stage/stand back.
7. Any incident where ECDC/LCC believes dangerous circumstances may exist.

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B. Unit Discretion

If responding personnel perceive a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation, they should request law enforcement and may stand back. The reason for the request should be communicated to ECDC/LCC.

1. If discretion is used to make the incident a stand back:
  - a) Fire/EMS personnel - ECDC will notify the jurisdictional and/or closest SDFD battalion chief or the ambulance supervisor for Level 2/Level 3 incidents and provide incident details. The battalion chief or ambulance supervisor will determine if units should cancel and have the incident placed back into the pending queue as a "Stand Back Hold."
  - b) Lifeguard personnel - LCC, and the area lifeguard sergeant should be provided with pertinent incident details
2. Units should use discretion when responding to an incident in close proximity to a stand back incident.
3. If units determine the scene is safe, they have the discretion to cautiously approach.

C. Staging Location

1. Units should stage a safe distance from the incident. A safe distance generally means:
  - a) Within a one-minute response to the scene
  - b) Out of view from the incident
  - c) Accessible to all responding units and does not impact traffic
2. Units may only stage in quarters if the incident is in close proximity to the station or during times of civil unrest.
3. Lifeguard personnel in seasonal towers or satellite stations, the safest staging area may be in the Pacific Ocean or Mission Bay.
  - a) Lifeguards should advise a supervisor over Lifeguard Dispatch 1 prior to entering the water.
  - b) A Rescue Vessel should also be dispatched to the area to pick up staged personnel and cover water observation, as appropriate.

D. Stand Back Time

If Fire/EMS units are not cleared into the scene within 5 minutes after staging, ECDC will contact law enforcement to get an updated estimated time of arrival (ETA) and provide direction to crews.

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1. If law enforcement is at scene or still en route, units will continue to stage.
2. In cases where there is an immediate threat to life or property, units will continue to stage.
3. Units are permitted to add themselves to other incidents if determined to be closer than responding units and will make a significant difference.
4. If law enforcement has no units assigned, ECDC will cancel Fire/EMS units and return the call to the pending queue as a "Stand Back Hold."