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OPERATIONS MANUAL

STANDARD INSTRUCTION 02 SPECIAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES

SECTION 02 STAND BACK POLICY

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TITLE O P E R A T I O N S M A N U A L	STANDARD INSTRUCTION 02		DEPARTMENT F I R E - R E S C U E
SUBJECT: SPECIAL RESPONSE GUIDELINES S T A N D B A C K P O L I C Y	SECTION 02	PAGE 1 of 4	EFFECTIVE DATE AUGUST 26, 2016

I. PURPOSE

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

II. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to all SDFD 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) and responding units regarding incidents involving dangerous and/or suspicious responses. It is imperative that a clear line of communication is established among all units responding and ECDC to avoid jeopardizing the safety of personnel during this type of incident. If responding personnel perceive a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation, emergency operations should be delayed until the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) can secure the scene.

The guidelines identified below will be applied to medical and non-medical related incidents (i.e. civil disturbance with associated fire) if, in the opinion of the dispatcher and/or operations personnel, a dangerous or potentially dangerous situation exists.

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. The SDPD shall be notified to respond by ECDC. Responding units shall stage a safe distance away from the scene until cleared by the SDPD. Conditions that would indicate this level of caution would include, but is not limited to:

1. Gunshot or stabbing incidents, including suicide attempts but, excluding accidental shooting or stabbing incidents
2. Assault or altercations in progress or the assailant(s) still at scene
3. Domestic disputes
4. Any incident in which ECDC believes that dangerous circumstances may exist at scene
5. Drug overdose with violent and/or irrational behavior

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B. Non-Stand Back Situations with Discretionary Caution

Conditions that would not normally indicate a stand back situation but should be continuously assessed for potential risk and discretion used by the company officer includes, but is not limited to:

1. Drug overdose with no indication of violent or irrational behavior (for example: patient reported unconscious, not alert, and/or patient seeking help)
2. Injuries from an assault that occurred at a different time or location

C. Stand Back Location

The responding units shall be staged a safe distance from the incident location. A safe distance means:

1. Approximately two-blocks away or within a one-minute response to the scene
2. Out of view from the incident location

When considering a staging location, avoid placement of the units in sight of the incident location and the public at the scene. The public may construe standing back as withholding service.

3. Accessible to all responding units and large enough so it does not impact traffic, yet ensures personnel safety

All units should coordinate the staging location with each other on the assigned tactical channel. The first arriving unit shall notify ECDC of their staged location and that they are standing back for PD on the assigned command channel, for example:

"Metro, Engine 1 is staged at 7th and A Street, standing back for PD."

Other units should respond to the staging location.

Units will proceed to the incident location when ECDC advises it is "clear to enter."

D. Extended Stand Back Procedures

1. If first responders are not cleared into the scene within 10 minutes after staging, the company officer shall notify the ECDC which will notify the responsible battalion chief.

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2. The battalion chief will contact the SDPD communications supervisor or watch commander directly or via ECDC to gather information and attempt to expedite the police response.
3. The SDPD will advise the battalion chief if any SDPD units are available and a possible ETA. If there is a possibility of a SDPD unit being assigned within five minutes, the battalion chief will stand by and reevaluate.
4. If SDPD has no resources to assign for an extended amount of time or after five minutes no SDPD unit is assigned to the response, the battalion chief will contact the ECDC and advise them to cancel the first responders and make them available.
5. The ECDC will contact SDPD Dispatch and advise our units have canceled and are available for reassignment until SDPD is able to assign a unit to clear the scene and has confirmed the need for first responders to be re-dispatched.
6. First responders are permitted to add themselves to Level 1 medical and structure fire incidents if determined to be closer than other responding units and will make a significant difference in public and firefighter safety while staged.

E. Special Situations

If a unit is staged in a location where the incident scene can be safely observed and evaluated, and the scene appears safe for entry, the unit may cautiously enter the scene. If any doubt exists as to the safety of the scene, the unit must not approach the scene until SDPD declares it safe.

F. Situation Monitoring

ECDC will closely monitor the progress of any stand back incident. The ECDC dispatcher will contact police dispatch to determine additional suspect and/or scene information. The ECDC dispatcher will also obtain updated information regarding estimate period of time until it is "clear to enter".