



Jason Catrambone, Fire Chief

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this guideline is to provide guidance to department personnel when operating in support of law enforcement operations

OBJECTIVE:

Provide direction to personnel for multiple types of assistance to law enforcement type requests

SCOPE:

All Personnel

PROCEDURE

Escambia County Fire Rescue Operations includes, but is not limited to:

- Provide special assets and equipment owned or managed by the department.
- Provide emergency medical support to law enforcement and civilians involved in the incident.
- Provide fire suppression services.

Hazardous Areas. Personnel shall not assist any law enforcement agency in areas that are hazardous due to gunfire, violence, or suspected criminal activity. Units should only be staged in cleared or safe areas.

Determination of Incident Conditions and Type

Responding officers shall determine the nature of the incident and conditions on the scene. This can include scene safety and weapons status, safe staging areas, equipment requests, hazardous materials potential, explosives or fire potential, and injuries.

Many incidents involving assistance to law enforcement operations involve operating within a crime scene, responding personnel shall make every effort to preserve the crime scene so long as it doesn't hinder fire operations.

Staging and Liaison

Responding units to the scenes of active law enforcement actions shall meet with the law enforcement incident commander in a safe staging area. To the extent possible a unified command shall be established between law enforcement and fire units.

If law enforcement doesn't have an incident commander established a fire department officer should at minimum act as a liaison with a law enforcement officer to provide updates to fire personnel.



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Any additional fire units responding shall level II stage until the initial chief officer or company officer is able to advise of an official staging area.

Specific Incident Types

The following are guidelines to assist personnel with specific responses:

Equipment Delivery. Ladders, fans, forcible entry equipment, etc. may be requested for use in law enforcement operations. The departments' role is to deliver the equipment to a safe staging area near the incident and instruct trained law enforcement officers in its use for deployment within dangerous areas.

Medical Services. Emergency medical calls to active law enforcement actions will be to a safe or cleared area. No medical treatment will be rendered to patients in the custody of law enforcement until the patient has been searched for weapons by law enforcement.

Exception to medical treatment in ASHER situations. See ASHER SOG for details and direction.

Hazardous Materials. Fire personnel shall assist law enforcement agencies in identifying, containing, controlling, and decontaminating hazardous materials when necessary and the scene has been cleared of criminal activity and rendered safe.

General Guidelines and Related Information

Communications. While on the scene of law enforcement operations, personnel shall minimize radio transmissions and the use of cellular telephones that can be monitored, using frequency scanning devices, by citizens, the news media, as well as criminals. Patient/victim's names, law enforcement locations, and other sensitive communications should be restricted to landline telephone communications and, only, if necessary, cellular telephones. In no instance shall this information be given out via the radio.

Remember, ECFR's radio channels are not encrypted like law enforcements.

Uniforms and Turnout Gear. In no cases will Escambia County Fire Rescue provide uniforms, turnout gear, vehicles, or equipment to law enforcement agencies where the intent is to mislead a suspect into identifying a law enforcement officer as a firefighter.

Siren and Emergency Warning Light Use. Law enforcement and medical calls where violence has occurred are best handled with a minimum of neighborhood attention and activity. Fire units should turn off warning equipment several blocks away from law enforcement actions and meet with the officer in charge of the scene outside the danger

ESCAMBIA COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE

Standard Operating Guidelines

4100.095

Assistance to Law Enforcement

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area. This guideline is not intended to restrict personnel from protecting traffic hazards or other scene hazards with the use of warning lights as needed.

Traffic/Highway Incidents. Fire and medical incidents often require emergency personnel to become pedestrians in and around streets and highways. Area law enforcement agencies are encouraged to provide a minimum of one-lane width of protection on both sides of the incident. Should law enforcement units be unavailable, it is the priority of the Incident Commander to provide scene safety through traffic direction and control. All personnel operating on or near the roadway shall wear a reflective safety vest.