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Standard Operating Guidelines

SOG NO.: KP-2-0033

SOG TITLE: IMMEDIATE ACTION – RAPID DEPLOYMENT
FOR FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

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Purpose: To understand the expectations of Fire and Rescue Services in the event Upper Merion Police or CMCERT is activated and requests Fire-Rescue.

Background:

Swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to injury or life threatening situations where delayed deployment would otherwise result in death or serious bodily injury to innocent persons is known as Immediate Action - Rapid Deployment. It is generally carried out by specially trained police officers of either Upper Merion Police (UMPD) or the Central Montgomery County Emergency Response Team (CMCERT). Through out the U.S., IARD events have occurred in virtually every occupancy including residences, hotels, schools, businesses, churches, medical facilities, government facilities, etc. Fire and EMS will function within the Unified Command System (as section or operations teams) reporting to Police as these are crime scenes.

The goals of rapid deployment interventions is to stop deadly behaviors, isolate, contain, bring order to chaos and save lives; which many times uses Fire and EMS staff to effect.

There will occasionally be scenarios that require immediate action and rapid deployment from Fire-Rescue and EMS. These services would be typical of those routinely provided, such as:

- bomb situations
- evacuation support
- crowd and traffic control
- assist EMS with mass casualty incident
- manpower and asset support
- rescue and rescue support (with PD as security)
- triage
- decontamination
- haz mat management
- air medical evacuation support
- miscellaneous hazard management
- vehicle use (as shields)
- media management

Actions:

Recent training instilled the importance of calling appropriate resources as soon as possible. This included Fire-Rescue- EMS

In recent years these services have been requested of fire and EMS. For example:

- barricaded shooter - crowd and traffic control, assist in victim rescue
- apartment fire with bomb making materials - fire suppression and scene control
- bombs/perceived bombs - stand-by/assist bomb squad
- mentally challenged person - forcible entry assistance
- hostage situation - building plans
- chemical release - hazmat & rescue
- crime scene searches - manpower & equipment

Upon determination by the appropriate police officer at the scene of an incident a request will be made for Fire-Rescue. **ALL UNITS ARE TO RESPOND IN NON-EMERGENCY FASHION.** Any such support to an IARD incident will include the following:

- Two (2) Medic units from 317
- Engine, Ladder, Rescue and Hazmat from 47
- Engine and Service Unit from 49
- Engine and Ladder from 48
- Fire Police Units from 47, 48, and 49

This will provide an appropriate complement of personnel and equipment to manage any task assigned or needed from Fire-Rescue and EMS. **NO PERSONNEL ARE TO RESPOND IN PERSONNEL VEHICLES, EXCEPT FIRE POLICE. ALL FIRE-RESCUE-EMS PERSONNEL ARE TO RESPOND TO A STAGING AREA, AT LEAST FOUR (4) BLOCKS FROM THE SCENE. ONLY THE FIRE OFFICER OF THE ZONE COMPANY AND THE EMS OIC ARE TO REPORT TO THE COMMAND POST. STRICT DISCIPLINE AND STAYING AWAY FROM THE SCENE ARE CRITICAL TO EFFECTIVE RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION BY THE POLICE. ANY FIRE-RESCUE-EMS PERSON WHO FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS SCENARIO SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO THE SCENE. NO JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS ARE TO RESPOND TO THESE SITUATIONS.**

Fire and EMS personnel should NOT discuss anything with members of the public or media unless directed to by the OIC. Radio communications should be managed to necessary only communication on non-county wide channels.

Operations:

Routine operations call for the establishment of a:

- **Hot Area - REQUIRES POLICE ESCORT**
- **Warm Area - REQUIRES POLICE ESCORT**
- **Cold Area - NO THREAT**
- **Safe Zone - SECURED AREA**
- **Safety Corridor - TO GET FROM SAFE AREATO THREAT AREA TO ACT**

Standard Operating Procedures employed by major cities with highly trained and competent tactical teams indicate the following standing orders for Fire-Rescue and EMS personnel in these situations:

- Firefighter (includes Fire-Rescue and EMS) should never be left unprotected
- Firefighters will remain in the safe zone until deployed
- Firefighters will remain in the safe zone and follow tactical direction of the police, until performing Fire-Rescue-EMS tasks
- Firefighters will follow triage/medical direction based on Fire-Rescue-EMS I.C. with PD assistance

Police command staff understand that any deviation from these procedures will require approval from Fire-Rescue-EMS Command. All Fire-Rescue-EMS personnel must understand the importance of discipline at these incidents and realize that anything conducted that might impact the security of the situation, may result in the directive by UMPD to leave the scene.

APPENDIX:

Fire Department or Tactical EMS Considerations

Due to the size or complexity of the crisis sight, it may be appropriate to establish a triage within the crisis sight. If reasonable and necessary, the following definitions and guidelines will assist in that endeavor.

Hot Area

- unsecured area where contact teams are still pursuing the assailant(s)
- #### **Warm Area**
- Area that is clear of assailants but has the potential for a change in condition
 - Area that Rescue Teams are sent for victim evacuation
 - Areas that police personnel establish a safety corridor to escort firefighters and paramedics to a safe zone to triage/treat victims
 - Rescue Team can become Contact Team depending on the assailant's actions
- #### **Cold Area**
- Area where there is little or no threat from the assailant. Location of Command Post, staging of personnel, etc.

Safe Zone

- Zone within the Warm Area that is secured by police personnel for firefighters and paramedics to triage/treat victims
- Once established, police personnel do not leave the Safe Zone unprotected
- Safety Corridor
- Path that police officers take firefighters and paramedics from the Cold Area through the Warm Area to the Safety Zone
- Path that police officers take firefighters, paramedics, and victims from the Safe Zone through the Warm Area to the Cold Area.

Fire Department or Tactical EMS Rapid Deployment Procedures

Firefighters and Paramedics will normally only enter a Warm Area accompanied by police officers unless there are mitigating circumstances that will then require approval by the Incident Commander (Police IC) with the concurrence of the Fire Department.

Firefighters and paramedics will proceed through the Safety Corridor to the Safe Zone and remain there under police protection. The Rescue Team officers that accompany the firefighters will REMAIN with those firefighters as security or until the danger is mitigated. Other Rescue Teams that are not assigned to the firefighters who have the responsibility of bringing victims to the Safe Zone have no such restrictions.

The Firefighters and paramedics that are taken to the Safe Zone are there for the purposes of triaging and treating victims.

- firefighters and paramedics assigned to the Safe Zone will follow the tactical direction of police personnel assigned to that zone
- firefighters and paramedics assigned to the Safe Zone will follow medical direction of the IC and Fire-Rescue-EMS commanders

Treatment in the Safe Zone is limited and the ultimate goal is for victims to be transported to the hospital; therefore, firefighters and paramedics will determine the severity of the victim's injuries and request police escort for victims identified that require immediate evacuation. Situations where Rapid Deployment is NOT INVOLVED will be handled according to the decision of Fire Department Supervisors

on scene. Officers are reminded that deviation from the above procedure needs approval from Fire Department personnel.

There will occasionally be scenarios that require Immediate Action and Rapid Deployment from first responders. The immediate and swift implementation of "Contact" and "Rescue" teams might possibly save lives. The goals of rapid deployment are to stop deadly behavior, isolate, contain, bring order to chaos and save lives.