

SHELBYVILLE FIRE & RESCUE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

	SECTION: Operations SUBJECT: Civil Disturbances	S.O.P: 109.14
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	Approved By:	Effective Date: December 1, 2012 Revision Date:

Purpose:

Civil disturbances can occur without warning. Firefighters are subject to even greater hazards during these events. The SFD can respond to civil disturbances either in Shelbyville or elsewhere because of mutual aid agreements.

Procedure:

1. The Incidents Commander shall have full authority to disengage from fire suppression or other efforts if he/she believes the safety of firefighters is unreasonably compromised during civil disturbances.
2. The incident Commander shall have the full authority to wait for adequate protection from law enforcement agencies before responding to the area of any civil disturbances.
3. Prior to responding to the area where a civil disturbance has occurred, or is likely to occur, all hand tools, such as pike poles, axes and fire extinguisher that are mounted outside shall be relocated in compartments. These items can be easily used as weapons against firefighters.
4. In the event a civil disturbance occurs within Shelbyville, and a law enforcement command post has been established, a liaison officer shall be assigned from the fire department to the law enforcement command post. This is to ensure that areas are reasonably secure before fire department response.
5. Whenever a request to respond on a non-emergency basis is made by law enforcement agencies, the desired response level should be made, unless otherwise determined by the Incident Commander.
6. No information shall be given to the media without prior consultation with law enforcement, public information officers, and approved by the Fire Chief.
7. Every effort shall be made to ensure that fire apparatus has at least two escape routes upon arrival at the scene of a civil disturbance.
8. The laying of supply lines should be restricted to only when absolutely needed, for life safety purposes.