



**ARCADIA FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

**RESPONSE TO VIOLENT INCIDENTS**

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**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for the safe response of Fire Department companies to incidents involving violence. Violent incidents are defined as any type of incident in which Fire Department members may be exposed to harm as a result of a violent or threatening act.

**PROCEDURE**

**DISPATCH AND RESPONSE**

1. All personnel will wear department issued body armor when responding to a violent incident.

Company Officers or Incident Commander will provide direction to their personnel if additional PPE will be worn. The type of call that companies are responding to will dictate the additional equipment that would be worn.

- On a response to an Active Shooter/Active Killer, personnel assigned to a Rescue Task Force shall wear their structure helmet and be dressed in their normal work uniform. **Turnouts or brush jacket should not be worn in this situation.**
- On a response to a gun shot wound where the suspect has left the scene and the scene has been cleared by law enforcement, company officers may require their personnel to wear brush jackets over their body armor.
- On a violent incident involving a fire, proper structural firefighting PPE shall be worn over the body armor.

When companies are responding to this type of incident they will communicate and receive direction on the PPE to be worn and discuss their travel route and staging location. If they are in quarters this will be done face to face. If the companies are responding from different locations they will communicate over the radio.

2. Fire units may contact APD Dispatch on Fire Tac and request additional information or monitor APD frequency for information such as Code 4, safe for Fire to enter scene. Verdugo communications will advise specific instructions such as;
  - a. Recommended response route
  - b. Any special conditions
  - c. Location for fire units to stage

3. Fire units may be directed to stage until the arrival of police units. Stage a safe distance from the incident, or out of sight of the incident, with at least two (2) means of egress (backing out doesn't count). Units shall notify Verdugo Dispatch when they are staging and the location.
4. Members should remember that the crowd may be a hazard.
5. Units should turn off warning lights when staged and then turn them back on when completing the response to the scene. Turning off warning lights at the scene may reduce crowd attraction to the incident.

If Fire Department companies respond to an incident of an unknown nature and find themselves in a violent situation, they will immediately retreat to a safe location. Emergency traffic should be used if necessary. Verdugo shall notify APD Dispatch and should request a police response.