

**MILWAUKEE FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
**Operational Guidelines**

Approved by: Chief Mark Rohlfing

2019

**35.7 – CIVIL UNREST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **GENERAL**

It is the intent of this plan to address what actions the MFD will take upon notification that a civil disturbance may commence or has already begun. As these incidents are largely dynamic, this plan is intended to function as a guideline. Incident specific information will be released as appropriate in an event plan with a COMMPlan.

## **NOTIFICATION**

The Operations Bureau will generally receive prior notification from MPD STAC for pre-planned demonstrations. Whether or not advance notification is received, it will be up to the Operations Assistant Chief or Firefighting Deputy Chief to determine if any action beyond notification of Command Staff members is necessary, to include the establishment of Forward Operations and staging location(s).

## **HOT ZONE**

The first priority subsequent to making any necessary notifications is to determine the boundaries of the Hot Zone/Zones. It is from this early information that response, staging, and Command decisions will be based. The Hot Zone location shall be shared with dispatch and all personnel to ensure no crews enter the Hot Zone unless specifically assigned to the Forward Operations staging location. Partner agencies, to include Red Cross, DPW, DNS, WE Energies, etc., shall also be informed of the Hot Zone perimeter for the safety of their personnel.

## **COMMAND**

It is necessary that we provide a Chief Officer to function as the MPD Intelligence Liaison, either in the MPD Command Post or in the Intelligence Fusion Center. If the EOC is activated Car 1 or his designee will respond there. Car 3 is initially to remain in their office to coordinate and manage the needs of the crisis as well as the rest of the city as City Command. Car 2C or his designee will respond to the identified Forward Operations location as determined by MPD or MFD in order to function as (*Incident Name*) Command in the MFD ICP. Chief Officer(s), either duty or recall, will be activated to respond to the identified Forward Operations staging location as directed by (*Incident Name*) Command or Car 3 in order to function as Task Force Leaders. All command positions may benefit from an Aide for tracking, accountability, and planning - ICP staff should be delegated these functions as able. It is anticipated that Deputy Chiefs and Battalion Chiefs will be recalled.

For long-term events, operational periods of 6-8 hours should be pre-established. Due to the potential complexity and resource depleting nature of these events a Shared Services Chief will function as the (*Incident Name*) Command's or EOC Chief's Liaison

to arrange for mutual aid requests. Incident-specific assignments will be detailed on a COMMPan for each operational period.

## MEMBER SAFETY

Once the Hot Zone is identified, an evaluation will need to be made by Car 3 as to Fire Stations adversely affected or at risk. If any stations are considered at risk, Car 3 is to transfer the affected company to a location outside of the Hot Zone.

The possibility of sending crews into the Hot Zone will be evaluated by the (*Incident Name*) Command Chief. Safety needs must be met via predesignated, dedicated law enforcement protection prior to committing any fire department or partner agency assets or Task Forces on assignment into the hot or warm zones. This will be coordinated by the (*Incident Name*) Command Chief through the MPD Intelligence Liaison

## STAGING

The (*Incident Name*) Command Chief is to determine a sufficient number and type of resources to have pre-deployed to a forward staging area as Fire and/or EMS Task Force(s) [see [Appendix 40.2](#)]. This staging area should be a sufficient distance from the hot zone to provide for member and partner agency safety, but close enough to allow for a rapid response. This location should be near the Forward Operations location and out of the public eye as much as possible. Assigning an additional Chief Officer as the staging manager will allow for continuous site security evaluation and for accountability in resources and deployment. A Compressed Air unit should be stocked and available at the staging location if Fire Task Forces are established.

## COMMUNICATIONS

In an effort to simplify communications in the time of crisis we are pre-designating Profile 13 as the Profile to be used during civil unrest [see [Appendix 40.1](#)].

- 13-1** Citywide dispatch
- 13-2** (*Incident Name*) Command communication with dedicated dispatch – extra dispatcher to EOC
- 13-3** (*Incident Name*) Command communication with Task Force Leaders and staging manager
- 13-4** Task Force 1 communications (V-Tacs set)
- 13-5** Task Force 2 communications (V-Tacs set)
- 13-6** Task Force 3 communications (V-Tacs set)
- 13-7** EMS Task Force communications
- 13-8** TEMS communications (TEMS embedded with MPD TEU)
- 13-9** Command channel with EOC, MPD Intelligence Liaison, and City Command

**\*Incident-specific COMMPlans may be different than the above\***

Once dispatch is advised of the 'Hot Zone' and (*Incident Name*) Command is established, all calls within that area will be forwarded to the (*Incident Name*) Command Chief for action, including calls that would normally be routed directly to the Private Ambulance Providers. The (*Incident Name*) Command Chief will determine if a response is possible (sufficient force protection available, no active threat, communicate with MPD and have the patient brought out of the hot zone, etc.). The (*Incident Name*) Command Chief will then utilize their staged resources (Task Forces) to respond to the call. If the situation warrants, a response can be prioritized or delayed until such time as the scene can be made safe. Communication with Dispatch is vital as to when a call is actually responded to, on scene, and cleared. This is for documentation and tracking purposes.

## EMS

(*Incident Name*) Command can request the establishment of an EMS Division with established EMS Task Force(s). It is advisable to have an additional Chief Officer or Car 15 to function as the EMS staging manager to allow for continuous site security evaluation and for accountability in EMS resources and deployment. It is advisable to pre-stage Private Ambulances within an EMS bullpen in the MFD staging area, as well as utilize Private Ambulances as part of the established EMS Task Force(s).

## FIRE ATTACK STRATEGY

The Fire Task Force Leaders will be tasked with making multiple Risk vs Benefit analyses' regarding the most efficient and safest mean of extinguishment utilizing the limited resources of the Fire Task Force, typically a defensive or transitional strategy. A volatile situation may dictate a 'Fast Attack Strategy' for fire containment. In this option, engine companies, with MPD force protection, would approach a fire incident, utilize their 500 gallons of tank water via the deck gun, and leave. No hand lines are stretched, no overhaul performed, and maximum crew integrity is maintained.

## FIELD PREPARATION

Upon advance notification of a potential large-scale period of civil unrest, all companies are to keep their apparatus and station fuel tanks full. Sufficient groceries and water should be accumulated for a potential long term event.

When dispatched or detailed to a forward staging area for this type of event, ensure that extra radio batteries are placed into the rig and hand lights are charged.

The Shop Deputy Chief will coordinate to ensure extra staff vehicles are prepared and available and spare apparatus is operational and outfitted fully for recall or rapid change over.

# DECONTAMINATION

In the event a member(s) of either the Fire or Police Department is contaminated with a hazardous or foreign substance, (Incident Name) Command must be notified immediately. A 'Gross Decontamination' site location is to be determined and an Engine is to be brought up from staging or brought into the Forward Operations location via special call to dispatch. Utilizing tank water, and a spray nozzle attached to a discharge gate, affected members are to thoroughly wash themselves and their equipment with soap and water to remove as much of the substance as possible. Following this initial wash down members are to be conveyed by their respective department to a closed shower facility.

In the event that the substance in question is suspected to be a Hazardous Material, a full decontamination site location is to be determined, and the Haz Mat team requested to the scene to set up and operate as the decontamination group.