

3.7 REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



**City of Oak Point
Department of Public Safety
Fire Department**

TITLE: Requests For Assistance By Law Enforcement Officers

SECTION/TOPIC: General Administration

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1.0 POLICY REFERENCE

The Director of Public Safety will structure the organization and make assignments of officers and members in an effort to provide the best possible services to the citizens of Oak Point, effectively utilize the time and talents of all members and position the Department to operate in a manner that facilitates change and places maximum emphasis on effectiveness.

2.0 PURPOSE

This standard operating procedure/guideline addresses safety of fire personnel when assistance from law enforcement is requested/needed. Fire personnel are encouraged to discuss this SOG with the Director of Public Safety should they have any questions.

3.0 SCOPE

This SOP/SOG pertains to all personnel in this organization.

4.0 PROCEDURES/GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

4.1 General Regulations

Whenever possible wait for additional officers to arrive.

On many calls for service the possibility exists that fire members may be ordered, asked or simply feel the need to assist a law enforcement officer in the handling of a resisting or combative prisoner. This policy in no way is intended to stop anyone from taking action that will assist a law enforcement officer in securing a scene for the safety of all involved. Its intent is to make fire personnel think

about their actions and hopefully prevent any unnecessary exposure to physical risk or civil liability to themselves.

Fire personnel must remember that injuries can occur in many unexpected manners. One of the most dangerous injuries that can occur is a human bite, or that human saliva carries bacteria and viruses some of which can be fatal, yet both can occur if a fire fighter finds himself trying to restrain a suspect even one in handcuffs.

Firefighters can also expose themselves to legal liability if injuries occur to the suspect when the action is not immediately necessary. When called upon to assist a law enforcement officer outside the normal scope of fire/ems duties, fire personnel must remember that they are not trained in nor do they practice use of force techniques or police tactics. There is a reason police officers are permitted to carry tasers, batons, pepper spray, knives, etc. These fights are extremely dangerous and unpredictable. Fire personnel must quickly evaluate the situation asking themselves,

- Is the need immediate?
- Can the situation wait for additional law enforcement officers to arrive?
- Is there a danger that if the suspect overcomes the officer he will be able to control the officer's weapons?
- Are there multiple subjects and one officer?

Do not expose yourself, if immediate action is unnecessary. If a suspect is handcuffed and simply sitting on the floor screaming there is no immediate need to assist an officer in further restraining the suspect or moving them to the patrol vehicle. But if an officer is actively fighting a suspect and asks you or you take it upon yourself to help the officer your actions can easily be justified due to the safety to everyone involved.

When physical action is taken by fire personnel they are required to complete a statement on a standard statement form and turn into the Directors box as soon as practical regarding the incident.

Medical Evaluation of Combative Suspects

If necessary firefighters are to wait until a subject is non-combative to perform a medical evaluation but this must be noted in their report along with the actions that led to the delay.