



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 1901

Subject: Police Response to Structure Fires		
Date Issued: 07-25-80	Effective Date: 03-24-11	Revision Number: 4

POLICY:

The primary function of police at a Fire Department response is to establish a sufficient perimeter for the Fire Department to effect rescues, extinguish fires, and contain hazardous material while being unhindered by the public.

The Racine Police Department will assist the Racine Fire Department at fire scenes when practical. The Department's duty will be to protect the scene as well as to protect the equipment and manpower that the Fire Department brings to the scene to stabilize the fire.

PROCEDURE:

When you are notified of a potential or active fire at a location, you will respond in the following manner:

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Dispatch fire equipment to the scene as required by protocol.
2. Dispatch squads and a Sergeant, providing them with all available information.
3. If there is no Sergeant in service, immediately contact the shift commander.
4. When RFD indicates they are going back in service, provide that information to the on-scene sergeant to ensure that he or she can then determine the needs at the scene.

MEMBER:

1. Respond immediately and directly to the area of the call for service.
 - a. Maintain a safe distance until hazardous material can be identified, then approach from upwind or uphill of hazardous material spills.
 - b. Do not respond to the middle of smoke filled areas. And/or do not enter smoke filled rooms.
 - c. If possible, do not drive or park within the same block as the target building.
2. Coordinate your response with other responding squads and supervisors to assure that both vehicular and pedestrian access to the fire scene can be controlled.
3. Position your squad at a cross street near the fire scene and at a safe distance.
4. Advise Communications of your arrival and location.
5. Exit your vehicle and direct traffic as necessary; however, do not leave the vehicle unattended. An issued traffic vest or raincoat (orange side out) shall be worn when directing traffic.
6. In all but the most extreme circumstances do not enter dwellings exhibiting signs and/or indications of fire or hazardous materials.
7. The on-scene Fire Department Commander will coordinate any police assistance with rescue efforts.
8. Provide assistance as directed by the on-scene police supervisor.
9. Prior to entering a scene (after the fire is out) to perform follow-up, check with the Racine Fire Department Safety Officer to ensure that the protective gear you have is adequate or that no special requirements exist.
10. If you are designated to enter the perimeter of the scene (the area between the trucks, hose and target buildings), you **must** wear your helmet or a Fire Department issued helmet.

SERGEANT:

1. Respond to the fire scene.
 - a. Upon arrival assume command of police personnel.
 - b. Initiate the Departments Incident Command System as needed, coordinating those efforts with the Fire Department.
2. While enroute, attempt to make sure that responding officers have been directed to specific assignments if information and time permits.

3. Establish a perimeter outside of the fire scene.
 - a. Provide for relief officers if the perimeter will be maintained for an extended period of time.
 - b. Return unnecessary police personnel to service.
4. Ensure police vehicles are not interfering with Fire Department operations.
5. Ensure that any Department personnel within the perimeter are wearing the appropriate protective headgear (their own helmet or a fire department helmet).
6. Confer with the Fire Department Commander to address any additional manpower/equipment needs.
7. Control access to the scene, directing authorized individuals to the Fire Department Command Post. These may include:
 - a. Government employees in the performance of their duties.
 - b. Working press, when displaying proper identification.
 - c. Utility employees requested by the Fire Department.
 - d. Property owner or tenant.
 - e. Other persons with expressed authorization of the Fire Chief.
8. Request barricades from DPW if the perimeter must be maintained for extended periods.
9. Keep the shift commander advised of conditions at the scene.

**SHIFT
COMMANDER:**

1. When Communications advises that there is no available sergeant on the road, ensure that you direct one that may be inside doing paperwork, to respond.
2. Per Procedure #212 (Reporting of Major, Unusual, or Noteworthy Occurrences), initiate the Shift Commander's Report and any other notifications specified in the procedure if necessary.
3. All press inquiries are the responsibility of the Racine Fire Department and shall be referred to appropriate Fire Department Command Staff.

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