

Scenes of Violence

This Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) provides general direction for the initial alarm companies operating at Scenes of Violence. It is the framework for effective actions as identified by the Department. If there is any adaptation and/or deviation from this SOG, an explanation will be required.

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Scenes of Violence include incidents that necessitate Law Enforcement (LE) to be the lead agency based on apparent or potential violence. LE operations should address scene safety and security issues prior to the start of Seattle Fire operations in the Warm Zone (see Definitions of zones below).
- 1.2. As first responders, we have a duty to act and a responsibility to maintain a high index of safety and situational awareness. Until notified by LE, Seattle Fire Units should stand by a safe distance away from the incident. A safe distance may vary, but is routinely understood to be two blocks away from the incident or out of direct line-of-sight of the Hot Zone. Units should prepare for operations while standing by.
- 1.3. Operational zones are determined by LE, verified by Command and announced over the radio: Hot Zone (direct threat), Warm Zone (indirect threat), Cold Zone (support).
- 1.4. A Unified Command (UC) should be established with LE and a Unified Command Post (UCP) location announced. SFD personnel should not be allowed to enter the Warm Zone as a Rescue Task Force (RTF) without the establishment of a UC.
- 1.5. Patient care and transport issues (including an MCI) are Cold Zone operations. Based on the number of patients encountered or expected, Command should consider an MCI response and establish the Transportation Corridor.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1. Area Security

- 2.1.1. "Area Cleared" – An indication by LE for an area that has been tentatively swept by LE, but still requires force protection, (i.e., a RTF or Safety Corridor). Generally, the Warm Zone.
- 2.1.2. "Area Secured" – An indication by LE for an area that has been swept and secured and does not require force protection. Generally, the Cold Zone.

2.2. Contact Team – Team(s) of LE Officers whose primary responsibilities are to operate in the Hot Zone to engage, mitigate, or neutralize the threat in order to clear and secure the area.

2.3. Extraction Team – Team(s) of Seattle Fire personnel assigned to move patients from the Warm Zone via the Safety Corridor to the Treatment/Transport Area in the Cold Zone.

2.4. Operational Zones:

- 2.4.1. Hot Zone – Area where only LE operates due to a direct and immediate threat.
- 2.4.2. Warm Zone – Area where a potential hostile threat exists, but is not direct and immediate. This is a cleared area of operation for RTFs and/or Extraction Teams.

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2.4.3. Cold Zone – Area where there is no identified threat. Seattle Fire personnel conduct treatment and transport operations in this area. UC should be located in this area. This is a secured area where LE should provide ongoing security.

2.5. Safety Corridor – Area inside the Warm Zone protected by LE with stationary personnel dedicated to on-going security, (i.e., static force protection). The stationary LE personnel allow safe movement of patients out of the Warm Zone by Extraction Teams.

2.6. Rescue Task Force (RTF) – Multi-disciplinary team(s) comprised of Seattle Fire personnel and LE personnel designated to operate in the Warm Zone. LE personnel should provide dedicated force protection (dynamic/mobile) for Seattle Fire personnel; Seattle Fire personnel should, in turn, provide immediate lifesaving treatment and extract victims. RTF personnel include four (4) LE personnel for protection and one Seattle Fire Unit for extraction.

3. STRATEGY

3.1. Assure LE operations have addressed scene safety and security issues prior to the commencement of Seattle Fire operations in the Warm Zone.

3.2. Establish effective coordination and communication with LE for a successful operation.

4. INITIAL ACTIONS

4.1. Stand by – Units should stand by together in a location that provides cover and concealment at a location designated by the first arriving Unit, (i.e., Command) until notified by LE that the Cold Zone may be established.

4.1.1. Battalion Chief's and MSO's should monitor the LE radio channel and may proceed past the standby location, based on their RBA, to establish direct contact with on-scene LE.

4.1.1.1. The decision by the BC/MSO to allow the remaining Units to leave the standby location should be based upon communication from the FAC, face-to-face communications with LE, or direct radio communications on a designated LE channel.

4.2. Command – The first arriving Officer should establish Command, provide a descriptive size-up, and include the term "Scene of Violence" over the radio, establishing that this SOG is in effect. In addition, the initial standby location, approach direction, and Transportation Corridor should be announced over the radio.

4.2.1. The first arriving Chief Officer assumes Command. Command should understand the operational zones as defined and communicated by LE. The ICS structure should address reconnaissance and intelligence gathering to understand hazards Seattle Fire personnel may have to confront, (e.g., fire, hazmat, and/or explosion, etc.) in addition to patient care, (e.g., extraction, extrication, triage, treatment and transport).

4.2.2. If a UCP has not yet been established, Command should consider suggesting a location to LE.

4.3. Cold Zone – Assigned functions and tasks may be conducted in the Cold Zone without specifically assigned force protection, (e.g., UC and MCI operations).

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4.4. Warm Zone – Operations may only be initiated with specific force protection assigned. Two options to achieve force protection are: Safety Corridor or RTF.

4.4.1. PPE should include gloves and goggles for BSI as well as ballistic gear, (i.e., vest and helmet).

4.4.2. Equipment used in the Warm Zone should be limited to wound care and MegaMovers.

4.4.3. The deployment parameters for Extraction Teams into a Safety Corridor are:

4.4.3.1. LE (representative in UC) should notify Seattle Fire (representative in UC) that a Safety Corridor exists in the Warm Zone.

4.4.3.2. Extraction Teams should proceed into the Warm Zone within the Safety Corridor. All patients should be removed to the Treatment/Transport Area.

4.4.4. The deployment parameters for a RTF are:

4.4.4.1. When formed and directed by UC, a RTF should deploy to the Warm Zone to begin extracting patients.

4.4.4.2. LE personnel should control movement of the RTF. They will not leave Seattle Fire personnel until those members return to the Cold Zone.

4.4.4.3. The first RTF should transmit pertinent medical and/or rescue information including an estimated number of patients.

4.4.4.4. When a RTF makes entry they should conduct rapid triage of the victims within their secured area of influence. Immediate lifesaving treatment, (e.g., trauma dressings, tourniquets, etc.) should be applied to stabilize victims for extraction.

4.4.4.5. Ambulatory victims should evacuate with the RTF.

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