

**SUBJECT:** LAW ENFORCEMENT LIAISON**SECTION:** 307.01**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 15, 2008**PAGE(S):** 3

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## PURPOSE

To provide guidelines for inter Police and Fire Department response, and notification of special needs at, or after an emergency incident.

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## POLICY

It is the policy of the Reading Fire Department to notify Police and respond to Police Department needs by utilizing the following guidelines.

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## PROCEDURE

- A. If at any time during Fire Department operations the need for Police assistance presents itself, request such assistance via “Reading Fire” radio channel.
- B. If requested to the scene of a Police operation, make contact with the officer in charge and coordinate with same. Dispatcher can arrange common radio frequencies for communication.
- C. When requesting a Police response for traffic control, the request should be via “Reading Fire” channel specifying the exact location of the need and that “traffic control” is the nature of the request.
- D. When special traffic control measures are needed, such as with hazardous materials incidents, the basic requirements may be relayed through dispatch with a special request for a Police Supervisor to the Command Post.
- E. The Police Department shall enforce a Fire Line as identified by the Fire Department. It is the responsibility of the Police Department to keep unauthorized persons outside of the Fire Line. Authorized personnel, inside the Fire Line are the responsibility of the Fire Department, including the news media, utility personnel, etc. Command must identify the area to be controlled to the Police Department, keeping in mind the possible dangers of the situation and the area needed for operations.
- F. At incidents involving potential exposure of large numbers of citizens to some danger, such as hazardous materials incidents, it often becomes necessary to use Police Officers to effect and maintain evacuation of an area. In these

- cases it is essential that the Incident Commander and the Police Supervisor get together to coordinate manpower needs and assignments establish perimeters and exchange information. Accurate and timely information must be shared by both departments to minimize risks to personnel and the public.
- G. When Fire Department personnel encounter interference from anyone at the scene of an incident, a specific request shall be made to the Police Department identifying the type of problem encountered and the desired action.
  - H. If the situation reaches a point where Fire Department personnel are physically endangered by an unstable situation, Fire Department units will withdraw from the area until the Police Department can stabilize the situation.
  - I. Deceased persons are a responsibility of the Police Department, delegated by the Hamilton County Coroner. Care should be taken by Fire Department personnel to maintain scene integrity and avoid disturbing potential evidence that may be utilized for investigative purposes.
  - J. Request for a Coroner's response shall be made by Police Department personnel.
  - K. When providing assistance to the Police Department, coordinate with the officer in charge and provide such assistance that may be safely provided by Fire Department personnel.
  - L. As published in the Reading Police Department Procedure Manual, Directive 06-13 "Notifications". Police Department notification of the Fire Department, Medics and Life Squad is mandatory in any of the following cases.
    - a. All reports of fire, explosion, chemical spills, smoke, suspicious odors (such as natural gas).
    - b. Bomb threats.
    - c. Upon encountering any person that is seriously injured or ill, or upon receiving report of same, unless it is certain that the Medics or Life Squad has already been notified.
    - d. When it becomes necessary to transport an unruly person that is believed to be mentally ill.
    - e. When it becomes necessary for the Medics or Life Squad to be notified, whether on a "stand-by" basis or to respond to any location and stand-by at the scene in case of injury, such as impending riot, hostage situation, high-risk search warrant, etc., notification shall be made with the approval of the O.I.C. of the relief.

- M. As published in the Reading Police Department Procedure Manual, Directive 06-03A "Advanced Taser". Persons who have been subjected to the Advanced Taser, or the probes, shall be treated as follows:
- a. Once in custody, the arresting officer shall advise Reading Paramedics that a person has been subjected to the Advanced Taser and relate the approximate time the action occurred. If the probes penetrate the skin, the puncture sites shall be brought to the attention of the on duty supervisor, Paramedics and/or Emergency Room Staff. Only Emergency Room Staff may remove Advanced Taser probes that are embedded in sensitive soft tissue areas such as the neck, face and groin. Removal from other areas will be at the discretion of the on-scene attending Paramedics.
  - b. After examining the affected person, the Paramedics will make the determination if the person should or should not be transported to the hospital. Transportation to a medical facility will be by police transport unless an ambulance is more appropriate.
  - c. In the event that a chemical irritant is deployed, the Fire Department on-duty Medics may be requested to evaluate and treat the subject when less than lethal force was deployed, and determine the need for further medical evaluation or treatment.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

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All personnel shall follow these guidelines when notifying Police or responding to Police Department needs.