

CSTI Fire and Rescue Training

California Specialized Training Institute | STATE OF CALIFORNIA



CIVIL UNREST TRAINING ALERT

Civil unrest is generally understood to include violent and non-violent group acts such as riots and protest. It is important that firefighters can respond effectively during these situations. The following are some considerations for firefighters to reference regarding civil unrest, however, firefighters should always refer to agency policies and procedures during a response.

ACTIONS

CRITICAL ACTIONS FIREFIGHTERS SHOULD CONSIDER TO ENSURE A SAFE RESPONSE DURING CIVIL UNREST INCIDENTS

Prepare for the unknown

- Normal response routes may be blocked. Ambushes may be set up. Hydrants and other fire protection equipment may have been tampered with. Gain a situational awareness of the impact area.

Preparedness and planning

- The number of simultaneous incidents can quickly become overwhelming. Pre-established mutual aid may be needed to support the impacted area.

Exercise interagency training

- Multidiscipline interagency drills are invaluable. Civil unrest responses will operate under unified command with law enforcement providing force protection.

Resource management tools

- Use resources such as the Firescope Field Operations Guide and the Unified Response to Violence.

Uniforms and personal protective equipment

- Ensure uniforms clearly identify firefighters. Don the brush jacket or turnout coat for identification. Use personal protective equipment such as body armor, eye, and head protection.

Preparation for rapid extraction of victims

- Determine a casualty collection point in a safe location.

Be prepared to adapt to changes if the scene becomes untenable

- Have an exit strategy developed before arrival. Recon an area to know where the escape routes are and consider a code word for an emergency retreat.

Remain alert for rapidly escalating conditions

- Focus on responder safety. During civil unrest, effective communication, vigilance, company continuity and accountability are responsibilities of all members.

Take steps to preserve evidence

- Remain cognizant and aware of your surroundings, you can play a vital role in preserving the scene for the fire and law enforcement investigators.



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