

USE OF CIVILIANS

Purpose:

To provide personnel with an understanding of their authority and responsibilities relative to the rare utilization of civilians during emergency operations.

Guidelines:

- A. Whenever, under unusual circumstances, civilians must be utilized or are allowed to participate in fire department operations, the Incident Commander of such operations shall utilize the civilians in such capacities, which will not place them in obviously dangerous areas or hazardous environments. The Incident Commander shall also ensure control over their actions and well being.
- B. Whenever personnel enlist the aid, assistance or help of civilians, the department automatically assumes liability for both the safety of such civilians and for their actions and the results of their actions.
- C. Incident Commanders are responsible for overall control of an emergency scene and, as such, shall ensure control over the non-use or use and safety of civilians (whether they have been enlisted or have volunteered) during operations.
- D. All personnel must keep the safety of the public foremost in their minds and must refrain from utilizing civilians or restrain and prohibit their participation whenever they are not needed or whenever conditions are too dangerous to allow their involvement.
- E. The Incident Commander should ensure that a “Hot Zone” is established and marked with fire line tape to prevent civilians from entering an unsafe area.