



Las Cruces Police Department
GENERAL ORDERS
FIELD OPERATIONS VOLUME 2
GO-202 FIRE SCENE RESPONSE (Less Critical)
Revised 11/1/2012

202 FIRE SCENE RESPONSE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures and guidelines for responding to incidents with the Las Cruces Fire Department.

POLICY

The Las Cruces Police Department (LCPD) shall support the Las Cruces Fire Department (LCFD) by responding to LCFD incidents when dispatched or requested to respond by LCFD. Employees shall assist with traffic control, crowd control, scene security, and access for emergency vehicles. The department also provides investigative and logistic support to LCFD as needed.

APPLICABILITY

This General Order applies to all commissioned employees. This General Order supersedes all previous versions.

REFERENCES

- NMML ADM.15.02

202.01 RESPONDING TO FIRE ALARMS

- A. Officers responding to fires alarms shall evaluate whether or not there is a fire and where the fire may be located and forward all information learned to LCFD. Officers shall not enter structures with an active fire alarm. Once LCFD has arrived on-scene, officers shall assume the responsibilities of traffic management, crowd control, and scene security after their arrival. The first officer on-scene shall assess the situation and make a determination as to what is needed with regards to traffic and crowd control, and security of the fire scene.
- B. A supervisor and/or officer shall contact the LCFD Incident Commander (IC) for coordination of effort as soon as practical.



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202.02 FIRE SCENE MANAGEMENT

- A. The first officer(s) on-scene shall park his/her patrol unit away from the burning structure or vehicle, or any fire hydrants, and will first determine if any persons are injured and if anyone is located inside the burning structure or vehicle.
- B. Officer(s) shall notify dispatch if people are inside the burning structure or vehicle.
- C. Officer(s) are strongly discouraged from entering any burning structure or vehicle in order to rescue people inside. Survivability for persons without full firefighting gear is very low. *(Officers should be aware of the dangers associated with structure fires and understand that those not outfitted in full firefighting protective gear, including a breathing apparatus, are never allowed to enter a burning structure.)* Officers should also avoid opening door or breaking windows as this may supply extra oxygen to the fire and cause the fire to spread.
- D. If the first officer on-scene arrives after LCFD, he/she should place the patrol unit at a safe distance away from the immediate fire scene at the most plausible traffic control point in order to manage traffic flow. Police vehicle(s) should be parked to provide enough room for LCFD to freely maneuver equipment into and around the scene. Officers on a traffic control point shall remain with their vehicle in order to quickly move the vehicle to make way for fire apparatus and EMS.
- E. An ongoing assessment shall be made as to how many additional resources are needed and whether streets can be blocked using barricades or traffic cones.
- F. The supervisor and/or primary officer shall maintain frequent communication with LCFD IC in order to assure LCPD assets are released from the scene as soon as possible.
- G. Officers shall not leave the fire scene until relieved by the LCFD IC or the officer's supervisor gives instructions to do so.

202.03 SECONDARY DUTIES

Officers on fire scenes should assume that arson may be a likely cause of the fire, and to locate any witnesses or suspicious persons. Officers should note anything unusual, including the smell of any flammable substance, and then document that information in a supplemental report to the LCFD Fire Marshal's offense/incident report.



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202.04 MAJOR STRUCTURE FIRES

- A. Supervisors shall respond to fires determined to be a major fire. The supervisor shall make contact with the LCFD IC at the command post (CP). The LCFD IC will determine what support from LCPD is needed and the supervisor shall determine how those needs can best be met such as how far the perimeter should extend and traffic control measures.
- B. If a supervisor is unable to respond to the fire scene, the primary officer on-scene shall report to the LCFD IC in the supervisor's place.

202.05 SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Officers responding to fire dispatches and alarms shall make every effort to park their vehicles to leave access for LCFD apparatus to the immediate area of the fire scene and any nearby fire hydrants. It is also important to leave a path between the fire hydrant(s) and fire location for fire hoses.