



CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF OPERATIONS



Operations Memo OM-05-25
June 12, 2025

SUBJECT: SAFETY REMINDERS FOR CIVIL UNREST AND PROTESTS

Beginning this weekend protest marches related to immigration issues are expected to take place in Chicago. As we have seen in the past, and more recently in other cities, there is a risk of violence during these events against law enforcement in particular and against all first responders in general. Therefore, all CFD personnel are directed to take the following precautions when responding to emergency incidents at scenes of civil unrest or during protest events:

- Remain professional and restrained at all times. Focus on the task at hand and **do not get drawn into arguments or confrontations** with anyone who may try to use verbal taunts and abuse to attempt to provoke CFD members.
- Allow law enforcement to do their job without interference. **CFD personnel are not to engage in any law enforcement action.**
- Coordinate all CFD activity (fire extinguishment, EMS, rescues, etc.) with law enforcement on scene to ensure the safety of both the first responders and civilians involved. **Do not enter any hazardous area without proper police protection.**
- Wear full PPE, **especially helmets and eye protection** when operating on scene. There is a significant risk of being hit by debris, rocks, projectiles, or fireworks.
- Ensure all apparatus windows remain closed when responding and while on scene.
- Ensure all apparatus are properly secured and monitored while on scene, and secure any readily available tools such as axes, hydrant wrenches, pike poles, etc., which could be taken from the apparatus and used as weapons.
- Work together as a company and do not become separated in crowds.

By order of:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Walker".

Donald Walker
Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner
Bureau of Operations

TO BE READ AT FOUR (4) ROLL CALLS AND POSTED.
Distribution: A