



**COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS
FIRE SERVICE POLICY**

Policy No. 5230	Date Issued: June 1, 1996
Section: 5200 – Field Unit Safety	Date Revised: November 13, 2023
SUBJECT: DISPATCH TO INCIDENTS WITH POTENTIAL VIOLENCE	
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Chairperson, Fire Service Users Subcommittee
APPROVED: <signed copy on file>	_____
	Amethyst Uchida, General Manager

- 1.0 Purpose
 - 1.1. To ensure scene safety information is relayed to responders during incidents with potential violence.

- 2.0 Policy
 - 2.1. Dispatchers will notify all responding fire personnel, during initial dispatch, of any security or safety risks at an incident.
 - 2.2. If a weapon is involved, dispatch will advise the type of weapon.
 - 2.3. Dispatchers must receive an acknowledgement from responding units of all information regarding security or safety risks.
 - 2.4. Responding units will determine what constitutes a safe perimeter.
 - 2.5. Dispatchers will, as time permits, inform responders of the incident's law enforcement status (on scene, en route, not responding) and response code, if known.
 - 2.6. Dispatchers will notify the appropriate law enforcement agency of all such incidents unless they know law enforcement has already been dispatched.

- 3.0 Security or safety risks include, but are not limited to:
 - violent crime scenes
 - domestic violence
 - suspicious reports
 - attempted suicides
 - person in mental health crisis
 - overdoses

- 4.0 Dispatchers will use clear text when informing field units of a risk.
- 5.0 Scenes are not “secure” until they are determined safe for unarmed personnel to enter. In general, this will only occur after law enforcement personnel have advised the scene is secure.