

SOUTH PORTLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

SOG #:	6.131	Effective Date:	7/21/2005
Title:	Police/ Fire Departments Cooperation	# of pages:	3
Category:	General Operations	Classification:	Yellow

1. **PURPOSE:** To ensure cooperation between the South Portland Police & Fire Departments and to identify which department will be in Command at various scenes and situations.

2. **PROCEDURES:**

Emergency Response

- One piece of emergency equipment will not pass another unless signaled to do so. When responding to an accident, the police, rescue, and the fire apparatus will have the right of way. When responding to a fire call, fire apparatus shall have the right of way.

Fire Scene

- Fire Officers will have complete control of the scene. If they wish the road to be shut off, they will request the police to do so.
- If it is necessary to shut off traffic, as soon as possible fire equipment and hoses will be removed so as not to create undue traffic tie-ups.
- Call firefighters will be admitted through police lines when showing proper identification. They will, however, park so as not to impede other emergency vehicles. Control of this parking will be a fire department responsibility.
- Police will shut off traffic at nearest intersection and be mindful not to park as to obstruct fire hydrants.
- Whenever possible, barricades will be erected to relieve more than one police unit tied up on extended traffic duty.

Accidents and House Calls

- Police personnel will be in charge of all traffic direction, investigations and securing of property.
- Fire personnel, when called to the scene, will be in charge of any injured at the scene.
- Fire personnel are charged with the responsibility to take vital signs and stabilize the patient. Hospitals require rescue personnel to perform this function.
- In case of any suspected foul play, the fire personnel will be expected to cooperate with the police personnel who will assume command of the scene.
- If traffic is hampering the removal of the patient, the Fire Officer shall request the ranking Police Officer to rectify the situation.
- The Police department will assist the rescue units at the scene if the manpower is available. The officer will remain 10-10. The Police Department will not operate the rescue to the hospital except in extreme emergency (i.e., no manpower in the Fire Department due to a fire, etc).

Unattended Deaths

- If it is obvious that the patient is deceased then scene will be turned over to the Police Department who will notify the Medical Examiner office. In the event of an obvious homicide, suicide or accidental death, police personnel will be in complete charge of the investigation. Police will secure the scene, allowing no one to interfere until the medical examiner and proper police personnel are satisfied that such protection is not longer needed.

Bomb Scares

- This is a police function and will be handled by the Police Department.
- Fire personnel will standby, away from the building, unless the Police Department requests their assistance.
- Police will conduct a routine inspection of all premises and confer with personnel in charge of the building. Prior to ordering any evacuation, the Police Department will assist in any way possible.

Search Parties

- A basic police function and all other agencies will cooperate fully if requested.

The following guidelines are established for the handling of patients where both the Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical issues are involved. Any situation outside of the guidelines shall be resolved to the benefit of the patient. Supervisors shall base decisions on patient care should conflict develop between personnel of the two departments.

For Intoxicated/Psych. Patients

- People in police custody who request medical assistance must at a minimum are seen by rescue personnel. This is a liability issue for the police; they obviously have a responsibility to honor a request for medical assistance.
- Unconscious persons who are intoxicated will be transported to the Emergency Department by the rescue unit. This is a medical issue; an unconscious person is a medical emergency. There also may be other medical problems occurring.
- Persons, who have overdosed or are suspected of having overdosed, will be evaluated and transported by the rescue unit.
- Psych. patients who are injured, or who may have overdosed will be transported to the emergency room by the rescue.
- Psych. patients who do not meet the above criteria will be transported by the police.
- Intoxicated persons who are coherent without other medical problems will be transported to a residence or to an appropriate facility by the police.

If a problem should occur, at the scene of an emergency, it should be handled by a quiet personal conversation. Any operational problems not resolved, shall be forwarded up the chain of command of both department for resolutions. If all personnel are not satisfied with the end results, they shall report the full details of the incident, in writing, to the Chief of their respective departments. If any problems are handled differently, a report will be forwarded to the Chief of Police with twenty four hours.

3. REFERENCES:

- None

By Order Of:

Kevin W Guimond

Kevin W. Guimond
Fire Chief