

**ARTICLE 3.        RESPONSE TO ALARMS:  
GENERAL CONDUCT AND PROCEDURE**

**Issue Date 1/1/07**

**Section 25.        Guidelines for Fire Police**

- 3.25.1        Fire Police shall be responsible for:
- a.        Regulating traffic at all emergency scenes until relieved by Incident Command or local police agency.
  - b.        Protecting firefighters on scene from the dangers passing traffic may cause.
  - c.        Protecting the general public during emergency incidents (relatives, spectators, news media, etc.) by preventing them from obstructing or hampering emergency operations.
  - d.        Keeping emergency areas clear and open for responding apparatus and to provide adequate areas for the equipment to be operated properly.
  - e.        Protecting emergency equipment and tools by keeping all non-emergency personnel off and away from said equipment.
  - f.        Enforcing all New York State Laws relating to firematic activities such as reckless disregard of safe driving within emergency areas, driving over fire hoses, disrespect for safety zones by spectators, etc.
  - g.        Cooperating with all regular and local area police agencies.
  - h.        Protecting a victim's property at the scene of an emergency until released by Incident Command.
  - i.        Carrying out all orders of the Incident Commander.
- 3.25.2        All Fire Police will take steps to ensure personal safety:
- a.        Wear reflective equipment appropriate to weather conditions.
  - b.        Utilize flashlights, strobes, flares, and signs as necessary.
- 3.25.3        Fire Police shall respond directly to the scene of all emergencies in their own vehicles. All traffic laws will be obeyed. Blue emergency lights will be utilized at all times. Blue lights must be located on the Fire Police vehicle in such a manner that it is visible 360° around the vehicle.
- 3.25.4        Responders will begin Size-up of the scene upon arrival and position their vehicle in an area that will not hinder firematic operations.
- 3.25.5        Fire Police should try to locate the nearest fire hydrant to the scene and communicate this to Incident Command.
- 3.25.6        Streets and roadways will be cleared and shut down to allow for firematic operations to commence. Traffic should be re-routed through alternate streets. Traffic should never be re-routed through a service station or other parking lot unless directed to do so by local police.
- 3.25.7        If necessary, roadways will be closed down to one lane and traffic will be alternated by means of two fire police on either side.
- 3.25.8        If at all possible, it should always be the goal to keep traffic moving past the fire scene and still allow for the safe and timely arrival of fire apparatus.
- 3.25.9        One Fire Police Squad Member will be assigned to the Incident Command area. He/she will be responsible for relaying orders to the other Fire Police without tying up fireground radio communications.
- 3.25.10       All Fire Police communications will be transmitted on Schenectady County Channel 17. If necessary, the Fire Police Captain or Lieutenant may transmit on Schenectady Channel 9 to communicate with the Incident Commander.
- 3.25.11       No information will be released to spectators or news media. All requests for information should be referred to the Incident Commander or a Public Information Officer (PIO), if

- assigned. No spectators or news media will be allowed on the scene without the express permission of the Incident Commander.
- 3.25.12 Personal safety should always be a primary concern. If at all possible, Fire Police should not turn their backs to oncoming traffic.
- 3.25.13 Should problems arise with spectators, passing traffic, or news media, immediately report to the Incident Commander. Do not attempt to stop a moving vehicle. Do not engage in any confrontations. Report the problem and a possible description of the vehicle (if appropriate) and/or offender to the Incident Commander. He/she will notify the local police.
- 3.25.14 At completion of the call, Fire Police will remain on scene until the last fire apparatus has left. This will be to ensure the safety of all firefighters and to ensure all tools and equipment are accounted for. The Incident Commander will be the last on scene to ensure the safe return of all Fire Police.
- 3.25.15 Fire police will be issued the following equipment [PPE]:
- 1- 5-in-1 Coat (traffic safety green)
  - 2- Hard Hat (traffic safety green with Fire Police Crest and 3m High Visibility Stickers)
  - 3- ANSI Class 3 High Visibility Vest
  - 4- Portable Radio
  - 5- Bunker pants and boots
  - 6- Winter Gloves (traffic safety green)
  - 7- Stop and Slow sign
  - 8- LED Baton for Traffic Control
- Depending on weather Fire Police will be required to wear the proper gear to all calls.
- 3.25.16 **Fire Police shall not respond to the NYS Thruway in their personal vehicles.** Fire Police shall not ride Fire Apparatus to Fire Scenes. Fire Police will be allowed to drive Utility 162 or Utility 165, upon the request of the OIC, to deliver Traffic control devices.