TOLEDO FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT

C-39 Fire Lines

Emergency Manual

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Policy/Procedure

1. Fire lines are visible boundaries, normally defined by stretching yellow disposable ‘scene tape’ between stationary objects such as trees, utility poles, or street signs, that are placed at the scene of an emergency to keep onlookers and non emergency personnel away from the scene. They protect civilians from falling debris, heat and smoke, and allow emergency forces to work unhampered. The officer in charge of an emergency can ask police units on the scene to establish fire lines. All Chiefs and Fire Investigators have scene tape in their cars.

2. Fire lines should be set up at all major fires and at fires in multiple occupancy buildings such as apartment houses, rooming houses, and hotels. This may be the only way that an Incident Commander can maintain security of the premises. An Incident Commander may request assistance from the Police to monitor fire lines and also to determine the lawful occupants of the building. Once TFRD crews take over a building to extinguish a fire or eliminate any other emergency, the building and its contents are the responsibility of the Department until command is passed to law enforcement or returned to the owner/occupant of the building.

3. Fire lines shall be established at any incident that calls for an immediate response by a Fire Investigator, to preserve evidence or maintain the integrity of the scene.

4. Fire lines are established to protect civilians INCLUDING THE MEDIA, and to keep unnecessary personnel away from the scene.

See Also:

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