



# Orting Valley Fire and Rescue

Pierce County Fire District 18  
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## Resolution 2021-015

### A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 18. ESTABLISHING THE LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR INCIDENTS INVOLVING LIKELIHOOD OF PHYSICAL HARM TO DISTRICT PERSONNEL.

**WHEREAS**, effective July 25, 2021, a new law on excessive force – House Bill 1310 (HB 1310) – requires Law Enforcement officers to use the least amount of physical force necessary to mitigate the circumstances and attempt de-escalation tactics;

**WHEREAS**, although HB 1310 has been interpreted differently among Law Enforcement agencies, HB 1310 has created challenges when Pierce County Fire District No. 18 (District) responds to dangerous incidents that would ordinarily receive Law Enforcement assistance, including certain calls (e.g., welfare checks, mental health calls involving suicidal idealization or involuntary commitment requests, drug and alcohol related calls where a crime has not been committed, escalating agitation (patient or bystanders) while on scene without violence, and use of LE Narcan);

**WHEREAS**, Law Enforcement officers might determine that their presence at a scene is not necessary because “no threat of imminent harm and no crime has been committed, is being committed, or is about to be committed,” which is one of the de-escalation tactics mentioned by HB 1310;

**WHEREAS**, the safety of its members is of paramount concern;

**WHEREAS**, if Law Enforcement agencies, in an effort to limit the use of force, do not respond or do not engage in certain calls, the District’s employees responding to the call could be put at risk; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the District’s available resources, training, and responder safety, the District adopts Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) 5010 setting a level of service for responding to calls in which Law Enforcement officers have not responded or have left the scene.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District 18 as follows:

1. **Applicability.** The SOG applies to calls involving scenes involving the likelihood of physical harm to District personnel where Law Enforcement would typically be relied upon to secure the scene but have determined that they will not respond.
2. **Policy.** The Board of Commissioners adopts SOG 5010 attached hereto, for responding to incidents involving the likelihood of physical harm to District personnel.
3. **Notify Law Enforcement.** The District shall provide a copy of SOG 5010 to its local law enforcement agencies within the District boundaries and in the areas where the District may respond via mutual and automatic aid.

Adopted this 14th day of December 2021.



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Margaret O'Harra Buttz-Commission Chair



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Kevin Gorder-Commission Vice Chair



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Arlene Dannat-Commissioner



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Joe Palombi-Commissioner



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Jason Bellerive-Commissioner



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Kimberly Kemp-District Secretary