

CIVIL DISORDER

WHAT IT IS

Civil disorder may result from many situations, including a labor action (strike), political demonstrations and counter-demonstrations, or anniversaries of controversial incidents. Civil disorder can be a dangerous condition that can become increasingly chaotic and volatile.

KEY TERMS

- ▶ **Shelter-in-place** means selecting a small, interior room, with no or few windows, and taking refuge there.
- ▶ A **Curfew** is an order from public safety officials requiring people to remain indoors between specified hours, typically at night.

WHAT TO DO

Before (Preparedness/ Mitigation)

- Sign up for Fairfax Alerts and have a battery or crank powered radio available.
- If you know of a protest or demonstration that you suspect (or officials are warning the public) has the potential to turn violent, you should plan alternate routes to work, school, or any other destination. Avoid the area if possible.
- Obtain as much information as possible about the current situation.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Ensure your insurance policies are up to date.
- Learn First Aid.
- Refer to “Medical Emergency,” below.

During (Response)

- Stay away from the area.
- Lock and stay away from windows and doors.
- Stay informed about the current situation.
- Know emergency exit routes in the event you must evacuate.

During (When police arrive)

- Listen to official information.
- Comply with any law enforcement directives.
- Stay away from the area.
- If you witness the event changing, call 911 with the information.

After (Recovery)

- Check the area to make sure it's safe.
- Receive physical First Aid and/or mental health First Aid, if necessary.
- Check personal property for damages, if damaged, report it to police.
- Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.