

## Have a Plan

It is important to always have a plan in place for any type of emergency. A civil disturbance or protest is no different. Preparing your employees for various scenarios and then going over those procedures will help to prepare for the unexpected. It is strongly recommended that once you develop an emergency plan, you should practice that plan with your employees. Safe practices for your business should include:

- ≈ Having an emergency response plan for your business. Information on emergency preparedness can be found on the city's website, [www.vbgov.com](http://www.vbgov.com), search "emergency preparedness".
- ≈ Having a first aid kit in your business.
- ≈ Posting emergency phone numbers in a visible location and make sure all employees know where to look for them.
- ≈ Regarding access into your business, installing high-quality locking devices on your doors can make it more difficult to gain entry by force.
- ≈ Lastly, protecting property is not worth your life. Avoid confrontation. Let the property go.

For more information on this or any other crime prevention topic, please contact the Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Prevention Unit  
757-385-1006.

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To report crimes call:

Non-emergency ~ 385-5000

Emergency ~ 911

\* \* \* \* \*

Chief of Police

*James A. Cervera*

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Crime Prevention Unit  
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City of Virginia Beach  
Police Department

Civil  
Disturbance  
& Protests

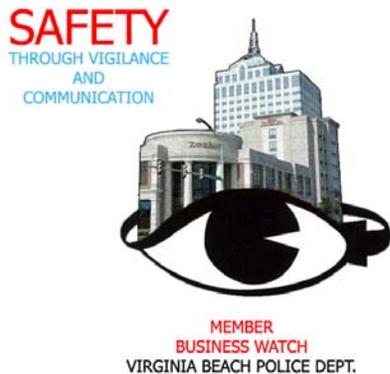


## Civil Disturbances & Protests

Civil disturbances are a public crises which occur with or without warning and may adversely impact significant portions of the population.

The City of Virginia Beach supports the rights of persons to self-expression, dissent, and to demonstrate – provided that the demonstrations are lawful, do not disrupt normal city operations, or do not infringe upon the rights of others.

Most demonstrations are peaceful. People who are not involved in protests should attempt to carry on business as usual, if it is safe to do so. It is the illegal acts which may arise during these activities that are of concern to city leaders.



## What You Should Do

- ≈ If activities threaten or result in damages to private businesses or threaten the safety of others, call the Police as soon as possible by dialing 911.
- ≈ Give the dispatcher your name and phone number.
- ≈ Give the dispatcher your exact location and any information you have regarding the disturbance. Describe the activity and the persons you see committing the disturbance.
- ≈ Avoid obstructing or provoking the protestors. Do not confront the protestors.
- ≈ If possible, lock doors and windows and close blinds to prevent flying glass.
- ≈ If it is safe to do so, remain at your location until police arrive. If you have one, select another room with a locked door that you can find shelter, if need be. The more distance and obstacles between you and any disruptive or violent persons, the better.
- ≈ If it is not safe to remain at your location, evacuate to another part of the building that is safer or completely exit the building, if safe to do so.
- ≈ Establish a plan with employees, making certain they know what to do should an incident take place.

## What Will Happen

- ≈ The Virginia Beach Police Department (VBPD) will respond to attempt to gain control of the situation. Try to remain calm.
- ≈ Dispatchers will activate the VBPD, Fire Department and EMS, as necessary.
- ≈ Responding officers will make an attempt to instruct building occupants in any required actions.
- ≈ If possible to do so and if necessary, the threatened building(s) may be evacuated by the VBPD.
- ≈ The City of Virginia Beach emergency alert system may be activated to inform the community to avoid the area of the disturbance.
- ≈ Mutual aid may be requested from neighboring city police departments and other agencies, as deemed necessary.

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