



Protesting

Know Your Rights

Together We Care: Fountain Hills

Bill of Rights for Protestors: 1st, 4th, 5th & 14th Amendments

1st: freedom of speech, right to peaceably assemble and to petition the Government of injustices enacted on the People.
 4th: protects from unreasonable searches and seizures by the government.
 5th: protects against self-incrimination.
 14th: guarantees all natural-born citizens "equal protection of the laws".



Dispersal Orders: What to do when the crowd breaks up

Dispersal orders are enacted when law enforcement breaks up crowds in order to disseminate protestors.

Police must warrant a reasonable time frame for compliance and offer an alternative pathway for protestors to exit safely.

Ask questions, like "Where can I go?"; "How much time do we have?"; "How do we leave?"



When being detained...

Police must have reasonable suspicion for detainment; about or process of committing a crime.

If you do not give consent to search, you have the right to record and film the officers. However, officers can legally search you if they have a suspicion that you may possess contraband or a weapon.

DO NOT RESIST. No matter how innocent you are, officers can use your actions against you in court.



In case of detainment...

When detained, all belongings, including your phone, wallet, keys, etc., will be taken into possession by law enforcement.

You are permitted one phone call, but will not have access to your property. Be sure to call someone that CAN help you. Many protestors write down phone numbers of their lawyers or their state ACLU affiliate on their arms.

You do not have to answer any questions until you are provided legal support, however, you will be required to provide your name and questions related to identity.



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Being Prepared

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What to Wear



Shoes that you can run in, clothing that protects your skin from pepper spray and sun (t-shirt/long-sleeve and pants), extra set of clothes in case of chemical contamination, and hat.

If there are concerns of tear gas, wear goggles, a gas mask, sunglasses, or even a wet bandana covering your mouth and nose can help (soaked in water, lemon juice or vinegar to protect from chemicals).

With the prevalence of COVID-19, be sure to wear a mask or other face covering.

What to Bring

Even if the host organization provides for first aid or water, it's good to bring a backpack of your own items. This way, you don't have to rely on others and you can assist other individuals in need.

In case of emergencies, you should have: a water bottle that sprays, snacks (energy bars), money, phone or camera for documentation, basic First Aid Kit, wet wipes/tissues, I.D., and menstrual pads (if you're jailed, you won't be able to change your tampon).



Following the Leaders

When you attend a protest, be sure that you are following the organizers' instructions. Most of the time, when a crowd is broken up, it is because an individual who is not affiliated with the host group goes against the original plans.

If there is a new disturbance, whether from police or opposing parties, stay with the crowd.

If the hosting group changes plans or course of the route last-minute, be sure that you continue to follow them. Being in contact with group members through social media, like on Instagram or Twitter, can be helpful. Leaders of protests have plans in place in case of emergencies.



Treating Tear Gas

Blow your nose and rinse your mouth with water by coughing and spitting. Avoid swallowing.

If you wear contacts, be sure to have someone or yourself remove them immediately.

Use a solution mix of water and liquid antacid. (Mylanta is the best brand.) *Do not use milk. Milk may relieve irritation with pepper spray, however, does little to relieve irritation from tear gas.*

DO NOT RUB EYES.

