

## What Does It Mean If The Police Tell You To Leave A

When a police officer issues a "Notice to Disperse" or asks people to clear an area, it is important that everyone realizes that this is a directive issued by law enforcement personnel in the performance of their duties in an emergency situation. This supercedes rights individuals usually have to peacefully assemble or observe a situation.

## So, if a police officer asks you to leave an area. remember the following:

- 1. You must leave right away. Failure to leave could result in your being cited or arrested for interfering with a police officer. This is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by jail time and up to a five thousand dollar fine.
- 2. Once the police have given an order to leave, you must leave.



- 3. While you may consider yourself an innocent bystander, your presence alone contributes to the crowd that police are ordering to disperse.
- 4. It is never a good idea to join a large crowd (even as an observer) that is gathering in the streets. While you may be curious to see what is going on, you are contributing to the problem if you remain in the area.
- 5. In large public disturbances, you should leave so that you aren't interfering with a police officer, and you should leave for your own safety. Bricks and bottles that are thrown in these types of situations have seriously injured people.
- 6. If the police ask you to step back into your residence or off a porch or balcony you should do so. Remember, dispersal orders given during an emergency situation supercede rights individuals usually have to peacefully assemble or observe a situation.

Brought to you by: Office of Student Life, ASUO, and Eugene Police Department