

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE/EMS RESPONSE TO LARGE-SCALE VIOLENT INCIDENTS

Purpose: To guide Fire/EMS agencies in their responses to incidents involving threats or acts of violence in cooperation and coordination with responding law enforcement agencies.

Scope: Any incident requiring law enforcement intervention to render the scene safe prior to entry of Fire/EMS personnel and where the potential for multiple casualties reasonably exists.

Response Guidelines:

1. Initial Response

- a. Resource requests should be initiated through TCOMM by the first-due OIC based on available dispatch information to include appropriate level of MCI and any specialized resources based on hazard type.
- b. A Level 1 Staging area should be designated and communicated to TCOMM and all responding Fire/EMS units at a distance and location which provides adequate separation, shielding, and capacity for the initial response package.
 - i. Special consideration should be given to the possibility of secondary and diversionary threats.
 - ii. Level 2 Staging at a greater distance and capacity should be considered for second and subsequent MCI alarm responses.
- c. The first arriving Fire/EMS unit will initiate the Incident Command System and direct the actions of subsequent units. Any transfers of the Incident Commander responsibilities will be clearly identified and transmitted to Dispatch and all assigned units.
- d. Unified command should be sought and established with the primary law enforcement agency as soon as is practical and prior to any intervention by Fire/EMS units. All personnel and activities will be managed utilizing the Incident Command System.

2. Unified Response

- a. The unified command will conduct an assessment to identify the type, number, location, and associated risks of the known and potential hazard types. Mitigation strategies will be jointly developed based on the risk assessment and available resources. These strategies may include but are not limited to:
 1. Rescue Team Deployment: to "warm zone" areas from where the identified threat(s) have been isolated or removed and a risk analysis leads to a reasonable belief that viable victims exist and that Team deployment would increase the probability of survival.

2. Rescue Teams will don and maintain all designated personal protective equipment, remain intact as a team, and in constant communication with their supervision throughout any deployment.
 3. Methods and direction of team movement and communication (e.g. Diamond Formation, Power T, and radio frequencies) will be clearly identified prior to Rescue Team deployment.
 4. The activities of the Rescue Team will be focused on the rapid assessment and triage of victims. Interventions will be limited to those necessary for immediate stabilization of life or limb. Rescue Teams may convert to the role of Extraction Teams based on need, capability, and in coordination with supervision.
 5. Rescue Teams will self-initiate or be ordered by their direct supervision to withdraw or abandon any area(s) where the level of threat is recognized to be above acceptable levels for any reason.
- ii. Multiple Casualty Response: All casualties outside or removed from "warm zones" will be managed in accordance with the Thurston County Multiple Casualty Incident Response plan.
 - iii. Rescue Operations: To stabilize or alter entrapping hazards in order to remove victims or prevent future entrapments. These activities should be conducted under the direct supervision of a Rescue Group Supervisor with the requisite knowledge of the hazard type(s) and in accordance with established departmental and/or SORT Team Guidelines.
 - iv. Fire Suppression: To stabilize existing or potential fire hazards. These efforts must be in coordination with other law enforcement priorities and rescue activities. Suppression activities should be conducted with a focus on crime scene preservation whenever possible.
 - v. Specialized Responses: Incidents known or believed to involve CBRNE elements require response, stabilization, and mitigation by qualified Technicians. Fire/EMS personnel activities should focus on the isolation and denial of entry to affected areas and operate only to their level of training and certification. Washington State Patrol is the established Authority Having Jurisdiction over CBRNE incidents and should be consulted on all tactical decisions.
 1. Gross decontamination should be established for potentially exposed victims and responders whenever possible.
 2. Isolation and intervention strategies should be based on the DOT Emergency Response Guidebook.

3. Post Response/Recovery

- a. The Unified Command will identify prioritized objectives and strategies for the demobilization of initial response units and the subsequent activities associated with investigation and recovery.
- b. No information regarding the incident will be shared with the public or media without the expressed approval of the Unified Command. A Public Information Officer and a Joint Information System should be strongly considered for the coordinated and consistent sharing of information.

Definitions

ACTIVE SHOOTER: One or more subjects who have used, is using or threatening to use a weapon to inflict deadly force on other, and/or continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. Prior actions demonstrate intent to continuously harm; objective appears to be mass injury or murder.

BARRICADED: A static situation involving an armed suspect, with or without hostages, who has demonstrated, or verbalized the intent to commit, violence. The suspect has fortified a position of advantage in a room or building.

CONCEALED / CONCEALMENT: Protected from observation, not from weapons fire.

CONTACT TEAM: One or more law enforcement officers whose intent is to take action to stop the suspect's deadly actions.

COVER: Protected from observation and weapons fire.

DIVERSIONARY THREAT: A threat that is intended to draw emergency response resources away from the primary target.

DYNAMIC SITUATION: An incident that is evolving with constantly changing tactical challenges.

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT: An incident in which the emergency medical needs of the patients overwhelm the available resources to the extent that altered standards of care may become necessary.

RESCUE TEAM: A multidisciplinary team of Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS personnel who enter the Warm Zone for the purpose of triage and initial stabilization followed by extrication of viable patients. The configuration of the Rescue Team is intended to mitigate provider risk while forward deploying stabilizing medical care in conditions that might otherwise delay treatment.

SALT TRIAGE: A consensus triage system endorsed by multiple medical and scientific bodies. It allows for stabilizing interventions for life-threatening conditions as well as an additional step that allows providers

to consider the entire context of the incident when performing triage. In this context, SALT is used in the warm zone.

START TRIAGE: A method of triage that relies on the assessment of three physiologic parameters: Respirations, Pulse, and Mentation.

SECONDARY DEVICE: Usually an improvised Explosive Device (IED) that is designed to detonate after the arrival of first responders, in the hope of disrupting the response.

STAGING AREA: An incident area where resources are gathered prior to engagement.

STATIC SITUATION: The suspect(s) does not appear to be moving. Note that a static situation may become dynamic at any time the suspect escapes containment.

UNIFIED COMMAND: Incident Command entity comprised of Fire/EMS, Law Enforcement, and any other critical stakeholder based on involvement and incident type and/or complexity.

ZONES:

HOT ZONE: An incident area that has the following characteristics:

- 1) There is a known or suspected active threat in this area.
- 2) Law enforcement tactical actions are ongoing in this area.

WARM ZONE: An incident area that has the following characteristics:

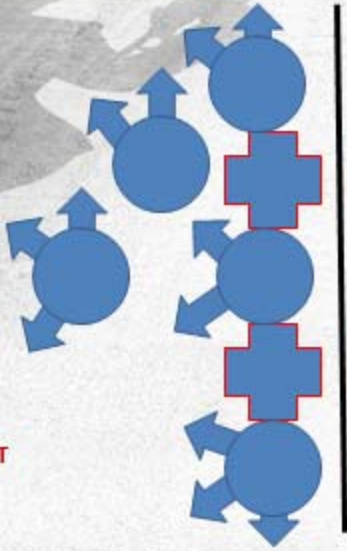
- 1) The threat is neutralized, or contained in another area. There is no known, active threat in the defined area.
- 2) Law Enforcement has established, and maintains, control of the ingress and egress to the area.
- 3) The area has been searched by Law Enforcement.
- 4) There are potentially viable patients in the area.
- 5) There are possible undetected hazards (e.g. IEDs) in the area.
- 6) Unarmed responders working in this area have continuous, dedicated force protection from Law Enforcement

COLD ZONE: An incident area that has the following characteristics:

- 1) There is no known active or suspected threat in this area.
- 2) Responders working in this area do not require unusual protective measures

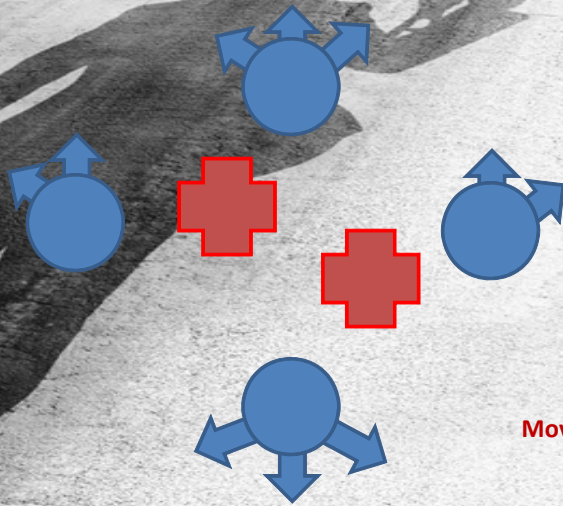
RESCUE TEAM

MOVEMENT IN HEAVY HEAD, NEXT TO WALL

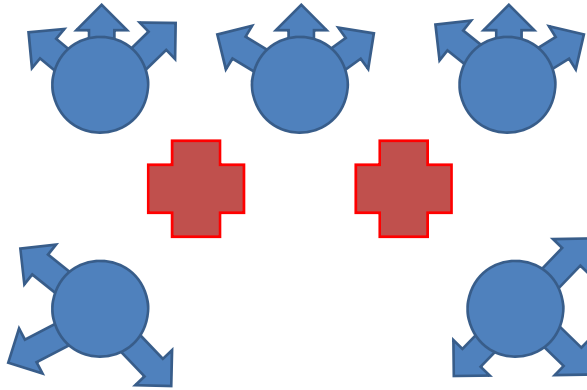


RESCUE TEAM

Movement in Diamond Formation

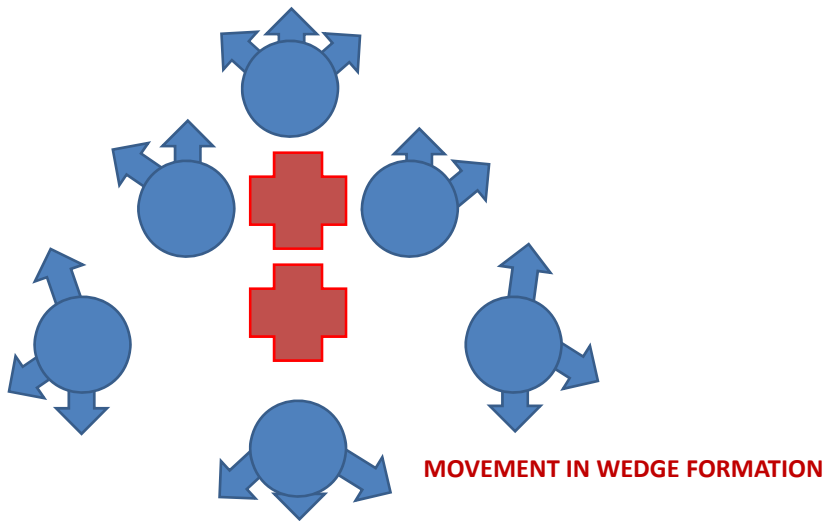


RESCUE TEAM



Movement in "T" Formation

RESCUE TEAM



MOVEMENT IN WEDGE FORMATION