

Drill: Deploy Rescue Task Force (RTF)

Definitions. A Rescue Task Force (RTF) is a trained group of firefighter and EMS paramedics partnered with law enforcement to effectively respond to the scene of an active threat, such as an active shooter or terrorist attack. The RTF operates anywhere within the incident's designated warm zone to provide immediate medical care, triage patients, and evacuate casualties.

Task. Deploy Rescue Task Force to crisis site to provide immediate medical care, triage, and extrication of casualties from a warm zone

Conditions. Given a situational update; law enforcement has established a warm zone within the crisis site; provided no less than two, armed, Law Enforcement Officers and several trained Fire Fighters or Emergency Medical Services personnel; with clearance to deploy by incident command.

Standards. Law enforcement and EMS/Fire Services organize per Rescue Task Force in Staging Area or designated point; deploy to crisis site via cold zone route; move tactically to warm zone; triage and provide emergency medical treatment to casualties; extricate wounded to Ambulance Point or Casualty Collection Points and subsequent evacuation to medical facilities.

Performance Measures.

1. Law Enforcement establishes:
 - a. Perimeter around the incident scene.
 - b. Secure cold zone route from staging point into the crisis site
 - c. Establishes warm zone for RTF operations
 - d. May establish one or more Casualty Collection Points
 - e. Keeps paths of access and egress open for EMS
 - f. Assigns a minimum of two (2) dedicated Law Enforcement officers to each Rescue Task Force
 - g. Establishes a Casualty Exchange Point
 - Ability to provide security to this point
 - The number of casualties requiring evacuation
 - A location large enough for ambulances and other transport vehicles to quickly arrive, load and depart
 - h. Monitors ambulance and other transport vehicles movement to and from the crisis scene

2. Actions During Movement to Incident Site

- a. Upon clearance to deploy, move along secure cold zone route from staging point into the crisis site
- b. Request Traffic Control Points at the access and exit locations to the Incident scene
- c. Establish a “drive through” route for ambulances (clear streets)
- d. Create back-up plan for rapid evacuation should “drive through” not be possible at incident scene

3. Arrival On-Site

- a. RTF coordinates all movement with law enforcement on-site
- b. RTF moves tactically to approach and enter the crisis site
 - Maximize cover
 - Law Enforcement provides security – does not leave the RTF
 - Enters crisis site through a Protected Corridor secured by Law Enforcement prior to RTF arrival
 - Fire/EMS provide medical support within the security area (Protected Corridor or warm zone) provided by law enforcement officers
- c. If not already done, Fire and EMS personnel on RTF coordinate with law enforcement officers on-site to establish Casualty Collection Points, delineate save zones
 - Depending upon the situation, the establishment of multiple CCP/triage/transportation areas may be necessary
 - Consider requests for tactical physician and/or additional RTFs on -scene
- d. RTF Law Enforcement personnel provide security
- e. RTF EMS and Fire Services personnel assess casualties and provide medical care and triage
- f. Separate casualties into groups for “Immediate” and “Delayed”
- g. Continue to reassess the wounds of each casualty in the CCP until they are evacuated; recheck positioning of tourniquets and bandages
- h. Move wounded from CCP to Casualty Exchange Point when informed ambulance is on site to receive them
- i. Take necessary actions to maintain integrity of the crime scene

4. Aftermath

- a. Provide Critical Incident Stress Briefing (CISD) for all RTF members
- b. Consider hydration/clean-up station
- c. CISM, EMS staffing at FACs

References.

- **The Harvard Consensus**

Notes:

Critical Strategic Responses: 'THREAT' Principle

T = threat suppression

H = hemorrhage control

RE = rapid extrication

A = assessment by EMS providers

T = transport to definitive