

## **Drill: Conduct 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.** Form and deploy Rescue Task Force to incident site to provide immediate medical care, triage, and extrication of casualties from a warm zone

### **Conditions.**

- a. Law Enforcement establishes:
  - (1) Perimeter around the incident scene.
  - (2) Secure cold zone route from staging point into the crisis site
  - (3) Establishes warm zone for RTF operations
  - (4) May establish one or more Casualty Collection Points
  - (5) Keeps paths of access and egress open for EMS
  - (6) Assigns a minimum of two (2) dedicated Law Enforcement officers to each Rescue Task Force
  - (7) 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
  - (8) Monitors ambulance and other transport vehicles movement to and from the crisis scene
  - (9) All EMS personnel are trained & have exercised in Active Shooter/Active Attack scenarios
  - (10)

### **Standards:**

- 1. Deploy to designated staging area/location**
- 2. Establish Situational Awareness/Common Operating Picture**
- 3. Form Rescue Task Force**
- 4.**
- 5. Actions Upon Notification/Dispatch**

- Monitor radio traffic of law enforcement officers
- Obtain information on:
  - i. Number of casualties
  - ii. Reported injuries (i.e., shooting, stabbing, burns, explosions, etc.) of casualties
  - iii. CBRNE
- Seek information on
  - i. possible access problems
  - ii. need for forced entry
  - iii. distance of evacuation routes
- Begin development of operational goals and objectives
- Disseminate information among crew members – prepare them for what they are about to see
- Remind personnel of
  - i. RTF concepts
  - ii. BATH assessment algorithm
  - iii. Triage
  - iv. Lifts, drags, carries
- Begin Size Up and Incident Action Plan

## **6. Actions in the Staging Point/Area**

- (1) Stage in proximity to the crisis site
- (2) Check in with Staging Area Manager
- (3) EMS/Fire Services co-locate with Law Enforcement
  - Park behind cover when possible
- (4) Establish joint communications; monitor Incident Command
- (5) Obtain task and purpose from Incident Commander
- (6) Monitor

## **7. Form Rescue Task Force**

- a. Form Rescue Task Force(s) with
  - (1) Assigned dedicated Law Enforcement that does not leave the RTF
    - Minimum of two (2) Law Enforcement officers; 4 preferred
  - (2) EMS and Fire Services (medical) personnel
    - One (1) to four (4) fire and EMS assigned
- b. Conduct check of equipment and supplies
  - Radios
  - Personal Protective Equipment (ballistic protection)
  - First Aid Supplies
  - Tourniquets
  - Equipment for Limited Visibility requirements
  - Water
- c. Rehearse movement of RTF
  - Assign observation sectors in movement
  - Actions upon contact

- Movement in environments of limited visibility

#### **8. Actions Enroute 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)
  - Create back-up plan for rapid evacuation should “drive through” not be possible at incident scene
- d.

#### **9. Arrival On-Site**

- a. Coordinate 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
  - Enter 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 will coordinate with law enforcement 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 indirect threat care and triage
- f. Separate casualties into groups for “Immediate” and “Delayed”
- g. Continue to reassess the wounds of each casualty’s 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

#### **10. Aftermath**

- a. Provide Critical Incident Stress Briefing (CISD) for all RTF members

### **Performance Measures.**

11. Stress keep access paths open for EMS
12. Establish multiple CCP/triage/transportation areas
13. Consider tactical physician at scene
14. Consider ‘cleanup/hydration’ station

15. CISM, EMS staffing at FACs
16. Maintain integrity of crime scene

**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