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Rescue Task Force Model Policy

Adopted November 18, 2020

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to enable the rescue and treatment of casualties during an ongoing scene of violence.
- 1.2 Law enforcement highly encourages joint training with fire/EMS and communication center personnel in their jurisdictions and regionally on a reoccurring basis.
- 1.3 A rescue task force should be considered for any incident involving ongoing violence, the potential for ongoing violence, or extended operations that include fire/EMS.

2.0 DEFINITIONS & COMMON TERMINOLOGY

2.1 Area Security

- 2.1.1 **Area Cleared:** An indication by law enforcement for an area that has been tentatively swept by law enforcement, however this area still requires force protection in the form of a Safety Corridor or Rescue Task Force. Likely the Warm Zone.
- 2.1.2 **Area Secured:** An indication by law enforcement for an area that has been swept and secured and does not require force protection. Likely the Cold Zone.

2.2 Casualty Collection Point: A secure area designated or created for the temporary gathering, triage, medical treatment, holding, and/or evacuation of casualties during a mass casualty incident.

2.3 Contact Teams: Law enforcement officers whose primary responsibility are to find and stop an active threat(s).

2.4 Force Protection: The escorting of personnel by armed law enforcement in and out of a warm zone. Force protection will remain intact except in circumstances in which an immediate threat is encountered. Law enforcement will endeavor to provide an element of force protection to assist with extraction and/or provide cover until the threat is resolved. Force protection law enforcement officers should maintain direct communication with the contact team(s).

- 2.5 Rescue Task Force (RTF):** A team consisting of law enforcement and fire/EMS personnel designed to enable entry of fire/EMS into the warm zone escorted by law enforcement to effect extraction of victims who could not self-extract themselves. The primary responsibility of fire/EMS personnel on a rescue task force is the initial triage, treatment and extraction of victims. The primary responsibility of law enforcement personnel on a rescue task force is the protection of the fire/EMS personnel.
- 2.6 Safety Corridor:** Access path to and from patient locations in the warm zone to the cold zone. This area will be protected by law enforcement with stationary personnel dedicated to on-going security allowing safe movement by ambulatory patients and fire/EMS personnel throughout the defined path.
- 2.7 Staging Manager:** (STAM) is responsible for managing all activities within the staging area. Staging areas are locations set up at an incident where resources can be placed while awaiting a tactical assignment. The purpose of the STAM is to reduce over convergence, improve communication, and improve assignment information and the proper formation of resources.
- 2.8 Threat:**
- 2.8.1 Warm Zone:** Any area in the incident scene where there is a potential hostile threat to persons or providers, but the threat is not direct and immediate. This is the area of operation for the Rescue Task Force (RTF).
- 2.8.2 Hot Zone:** Any area within the incident scene in which there is a direct and immediate threat. Only law enforcement should be present in the hot zone, and under no circumstances should fire/EMS personnel be present in a hot zone.
- 2.8.3 Cold Zone:** Areas where there is little or no threat. The area where the RTF delivers extracted victims. Fire/EMS conducts treatment and transport operations in this area. Unified command will be located in this area.
- 2.9 Transportation Corridor:** An ingress and egress corridor that allows emergency equipment to move in and out of the area. This corridor needs to be set up early and kept open to allow ambulances, medic units, armor, and other specialty equipment to move in and out of the scene.
- 2.10 Unified Command:** An authority structure in which the role of incident commander is shared by two or more individuals (i.e. law enforcement and fire/EMS), each already having authority over a different responding agency or discipline. Agencies work together through the unified command to establish and execute a common set of objectives and strategies.

3.0 PROCEDURES

- 3.1 Situational Awareness:** Situational awareness and danger avoidance is the primary strategy for ensuring the safety of rescue personnel. Always review premise history

when available. Maintain situational awareness even if the scene is reported as safe (secure). Be aware that information is often limited and may be incorrect. When approaching a scene, pay attention to your surroundings.

- 3.2** Staging for Fire/EMS: Fire/EMS personnel responding to scenes of violence should stage a safe distance from the scene. Communication centers may provide direction for fire/EMS units to stage or give information so that arriving law enforcement officers can make that determination. Responding units should not cross through the incident to access staging. If you cannot drive safely to the staging site, report this to dispatch/IC and setup a second staging site. Staging sites should not be in view of the incident scene and have “hard” barriers between the staged unit(s) and the scene. Unit(s) should make efforts to stage where suspects fleeing the scene cannot readily see them. Dispatch should confirm with all responding units the receipt of staging instructions. As the incident grows, the incident commander or unified command will determine the location(s) for any established staging area(s) and the assignment of a Staging Manager.
- 3.3** A transportation corridor should be maintained giving access to a set extraction location coordinated with fire/EMS. Whenever possible, emergency vehicles should park on the right side of the roadway (or off the road) leaving the left side clear for ingress/egress and establishment of a transportation corridor.
- 3.4** Move command post if feasible so it is located within the cold zone so unified command can be established with fire/EMS. The command post shall be established in an area that is separated from ongoing operations.
- 3.5** Command Considerations: The law enforcement incident command coordinates all mutual response activities with fire/EMS incident command.
 - 3.5.1** In the event that law enforcement has not established a formal command post due to operational issues, fire/EMS should establish their own command and seek to include law enforcement as law enforcement personnel are available. This location will be communicated to law enforcement so that unified command can be established.
 - 3.5.2** The command post will be established in an area that is separated from ongoing operations and is deemed safe from further violence or disruption.
 - 3.5.3** All information in a unified command will be communicated in plain English.
 - 3.5.4** Initial responsibilities of the unified command include:
 - 3.5.4.1** Organizing and establishing interagency communications;
 - 3.5.4.2** Establishing hot, warm and cold zones;
 - 3.5.4.3** Establishing areas within the cold zone designated for staging, the

casualty collection point, transportation corridor, reunification for family members of persons at the scene, victim/witness debriefing, and media.

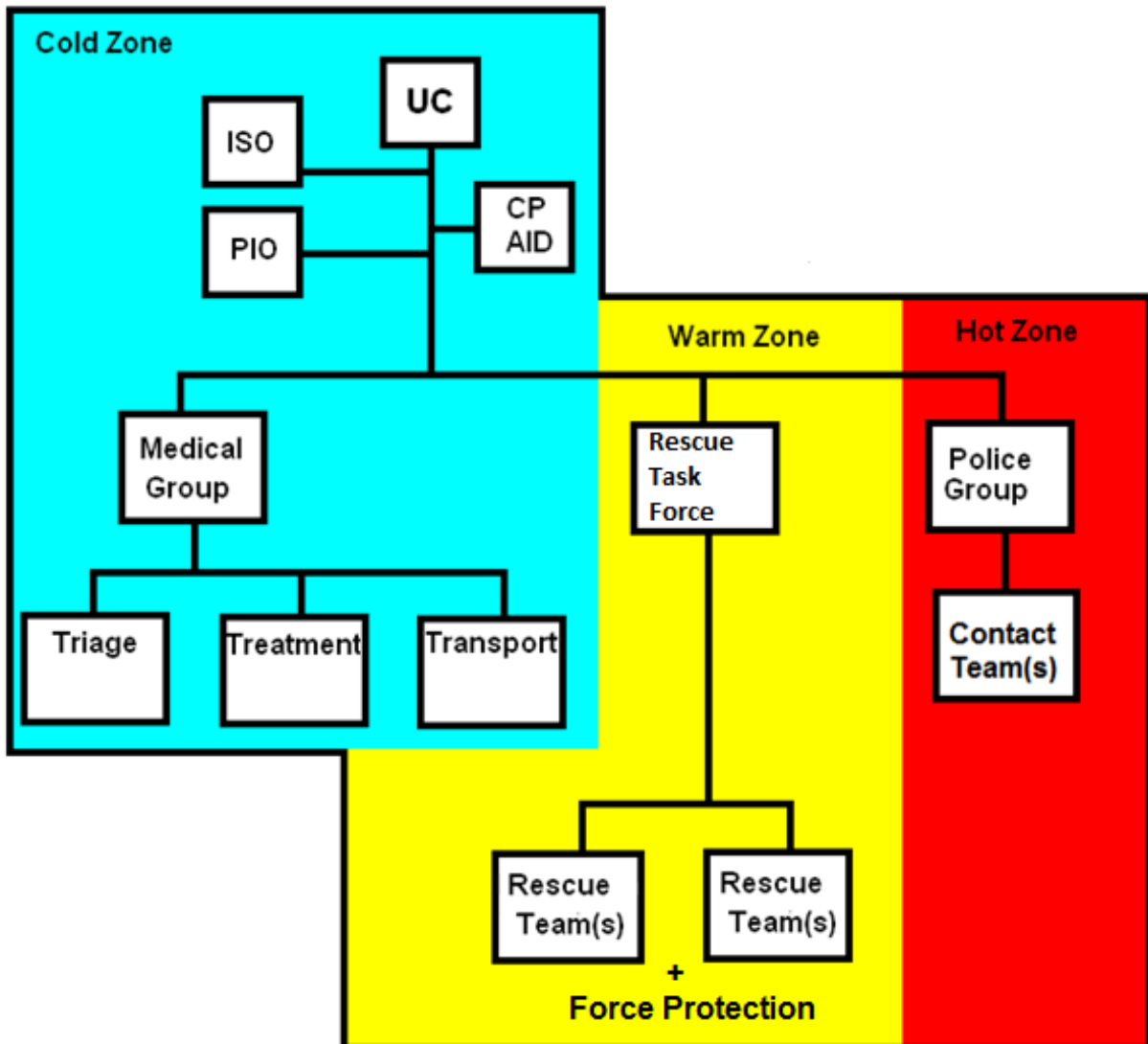
3.5.4.4 Appointing a Staging Manager; and

3.5.4.5 Evaluating and requesting mutual aid as necessary.

- 3.6** When an area has been declared a warm zone, the incident commander may designate a Rescue Task Force composed of law enforcement and Fire/EMS to assist with the extraction of victims/patients. This may involve the use of a safety corridor through a warm zone leading to a casualty collection point or an evacuation area.
- 3.7** While law enforcement will do everything in their control to maintain the safety of the Rescue Task Force, which includes Fire/EMS personnel, it should be noted that these are dynamic scenes and circumstances can change quickly. In the event that the law enforcement members of the RTF engage a threat, the Fire/EMS members of the RTF should retreat to the cold zone if feasible, or, if not feasible, seek cover and concealment as appropriate. It is recommended that the Fire/EMS members of an RTF be equipped with body armor.

-END-

COMMAND STRUCTURE AND CONTROL ZONES ILLUSTRATION



Scene Diagram

- LINKS**
- DISPATCHER
 - UNIFIED CMD
 - FORWARD SUPERVISOR
 - RTF

ZONE	-COLD ZONE-	-WARM ZONE-	-HOT ZONE-
AREAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment • Transportation Corridor/Pt Loading • UCP • Base • Staging • Casualty Collection Point 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety Corridor (static) • RTF (dynamic/mobile) • Casualty Collection Point 	
PERSONNEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LE • Fire Personnel • Support Personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LE • Fire Personnel in "Safety Corridor" • Fire Personnel in RTF (LE Escort) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LE ONLY!

