



## SOG Rescue Task Force/ Mass Violence Incidents

**PURPOSE:** To provide guidance for operating at incidents involving multiple victims of an intentional act, and/or an active assailant.

**RESPONSIBLE:** Incident Commander

### GUIDELINES:

#### I. Definition

##### A. Rescue Task Force (RTF) incidents involving:

1. Multiple victims of an intentional or violent act in which the scene is considered "active".
2. Mass Violence Incidents
3. Decision to launch RTF will be at direction of unified command

#### II. Resources:

##### A. Municipal/Urban Response

1. High Level Assignment
  - Two Engines
  - One Truck
  - Two Battalion Chiefs
  - One AMR Supervisor
  - Two ALS Medic Unit
2. Considerations
  - Verify Law Enforcement (LE) Response
  - Type of Act and Related Intelligence
  - Number of suspects and victims (triage)
  - Unified Command Post Location
  - Staging area for Fire, EMS, and LE
  - MCI Pre-Alert in coordination with Control Facility (SRMC, UCDMC)
  - Additional Ambulance(s) and/or Vans/Busses
  - TEMS and/or Special Ops



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**III. Procedure**

**A. Initial Radio Report/Size-up**

The first arriving resource activates command process by giving an initial radio report

1. Unit designation of unit arriving on scene
2. Establish incident orientation if not obvious ("Alpha" Side)
3. A brief description of emergency (Declare/Pre-Alert for MCI)
4. Conditions Actions and Needs (CAN)
5. Obvious hazards/ security issues
6. Identification and location of Command Post(if taking Command)
7. Communicate safe response routes if needed
8. Staging Location
9. Request additional resources if necessary

**B. First Engine**

Communicate initial actions based on incident priorities; as initial incident commander, the first arriving company officer should coordinate with law enforcement and establish incident command post unifying command.

1. Fire Suppression (Warm Zone)
  - Risk analysis to mitigate and prioritize need for fire attack.
  - Control Building Fire Protection Systems and FDC
2. Rescue Task Force (Warm Zones)
  - Immediate action work directly and collaboratively with law enforcement to rescue casualties.
  - Use internal casualty collection points (CCP)
  - Initial Triage at CCP
  - Evacuation Care at CCP
  - Casualty Evacuation from CCP to treatment and triage

**C. Second Engine**

Establish command based on incident priorities

1. Rescue Task Force (Warm Zones)



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- Assist and work and collaboratively with law enforcement to rescue casualties.
- Identify and use internal casualty collection points (CCP)
- Initial Triage at CCP
- Evacuation Care at CCP
- Casualty Evacuation from CCP to treatment and triage
- Overhead Page for Command Staff
- Establish Hot, Warm, and Cold Zones

### D. First Truck/Third Engine

Assignment based on incident priorities

1. Establish **Medical Group Supervisor, Treatment Unit and Triage Units** roles/functions (Cold Zone)
  - Retrieve Casualties from RTF/Litter Teams
  - Continuous re-triage and treatment of casualties until transport
  - Patient tracking (SSV worksheet 837-B)
  - Assist and support transportation unit
  - Order additional transport/medical resources through the IC

### E. ALS Medic Units

Command may assign Medical team to Patient Transportation Unit Leader until relieved by AMR Supervisor and/or Fire Captain.

1. Stage apparatus next to Triage and Treatment Unit to be used as medical Cache. (Cold Zone)
  - Assist with critical ICS roles as directed until relieved by high authority
  - Prepare gurney to be used by RTF/Litter Teams

### F. First Chief Officer

Assume or establish unified command with law enforcement if not already established

1. Considerations
  - Incident Priorities: Life Safety, Incident stabilization, Property Conservation, Environment



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- Request Additional Resources as needed (ALS Medic Unit(s))
- Establish Proper unified/MCI command structure
- Establish personnel accountability

### G. Second Chief Officer

Report to Command post in proper PPE in preparation to establish **Rescue Group Supervisor** and RTF(s) staging area.

#### 1. Considerations

- Ensure RTF(s) are briefed on zone boundaries and threats
- Support RTF(s) medical supply needs
- Fire/EMS and Law Enforcement personnel RTF teams are assembled in teams of: minimum three LE personnel and three Fire/EMS personnel.
- Maintain communications with command and RTF(s)

### H. AMR Supervisor

Report to Command post in proper PPE in preparation to establish **Patient Transportation Unit Leader** and follow up with Medical Group Supervisor.

#### 1. Considerations

- Order additional transport/medical resources through the Medical Group Supervisor
- Maintain adequate CF communications to ensure appropriate patient distribution
- Utilize the patient tracking worksheet to adequately track all patients
- Confirm Location of Staging

### I. Additional Resources

All resources respond on assigned tactical channel to staging location. Chief Officers and AMR Command Staff report directly to Command Post.

#### 1. Greater Alarm assignment

- Confirm location of staging
- Appropriate PPE
- Receive assignment from Unified Command



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### **DEFINITIONS**

#### **HOT ZONE:**

The area where a direct and immediate threat exists. A direct and immediate threat is very dynamic and is determined by complexity and circumstances of the incident. Could also be classified as the “inner perimeter” by law enforcement; an area within the range of active gunfire or secondary devices, Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH).

#### **WARM ZONE:**

The area where a potential threat exists, but the threat is not direct or immediate. An example of this is an unknown location of suspects in a given area already cleared. Fire department resources may be requested to enter into warm zones, but should be done with force protection, cover and concealment. These instances could be utilized for rapid extraction of multiple victims or officers down who need immediate assistance. Prior to entering into a warm zone a Risk Analysis should have been completed. Law enforcement could also refer to the warm zone as part of the “inner perimeter”.

#### **COLD ZONE:**

The area where no significant danger or threat can be reasonably anticipated. This could be achieved by distance, geographic location or inaccessible areas from the incident. The cold zone is the location for staging of resources, Command Post, and the Treatment/Transportation Area, and is located within the general perimeter of the incident. This zone should be maintained as part of the crime scene and should have law enforcement security. LE may also classify this zone as part of the “outer perimeter”.

#### **FORCE PROTECTION:**

Actions taken by law enforcement to prevent or mitigate hostile actions against personnel, resources, facilities, and critical infrastructure. These actions conserve the operational ability of fire and EMS resources so they can be applied as needed.

Similar to a Safe Refuge Area at a Hazardous Materials incident, the CCP is an area within the Warm Zone where victims are extracted or directed to, in order to be readied for transfer to the Treatment Area, located within the Cold Zone. RTF teams will work together to transport/direct victims to the CCP and then to the Treatment Area. Multiple RTF's will typically be required to expedite rescue and movement of victims. LE officers should conduct initial “screening” of victims at the CCP in order to ensure that wounded suspects are not a threat to Fire/EMS personnel.



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**RESCUE TASK FORCE (RTF):**

Team of Fire/EMS personnel coupled with LE Force Protection, assembled as a cohesive team, to enter into a Warm Zone environment in order to rescue savable victims. The task force moves together at all times and does not separate to accomplish other tasks. The Task Force Leader (TFL) will be from Law Enforcement. The team will conduct a pre-entry briefing which will include team tactics as well as an emergency escape/exit plan.

The RTF members will carry minimal EMS and litter equipment, using the “High Speed/Low Drag” concept. Victim treatment in the Warm Zone will be limited to life-saving BLS actions, primarily airway control (OPA, NPA, or occlusive chest dressing) and hemorrhage control (tourniquets and trauma dressings). Victims will be rapidly extracted to Casualty Collection Points (CCP), using rapid type litter moving equipment (Carry-All, etc.) Additional RTF’s will move victims from CCP’s to the Triage/Treatment/Transportation Area.

RTF members will not enter the Hot Zone and will immediately exit the Warm Zone if it becomes compromised. Force Protection will remain with rescuers at all times, while in the Warm Zone. RTF members will not remove deceased bodies.

**SUPPRESSION TASK FORCE (GROUP):**

Team of fire personnel coupled with LE Force Protection, assembled as a cohesive team, to enter into a Warm Zone environment in order to extinguish fires. The task force moves together at all times and does not separate to accomplish other tasks. The Task Force Leader (TFL) will be from Law Enforcement. The team will conduct a pre-entry briefing which will include team tactics as well as an emergency escape/exit plan.

The Suppression Task Force should consider defensive tactics, including the use of unstaffed master streams. In all cases, the Suppression Task Force should use minimal suppression tactics to control fire and plan for rapid egress. Fire streams should not be used intentionally to control crowds.

**References:**

**Review/Revision History:**

- SOG Rescue Task Force/Mass Violence Incidents ..... November, 2019





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**AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE DELIVERY OF EXCEPTIONAL FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES THROUGH COLLABORATION AND TEAMWORK**

**Signature Page**



**The undersigned Fire Chiefs approve the contents of this document**

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