



1.0 PURPOSE

When the lives of multiple people are at stake, as in an active shooter environment, barricaded suspect, hostage situation or terrorist attack, the need to enter a relative safe scene under force protection may come to pass with the primary objective of providing point of wound care to victims that otherwise would have died from preventable death injuries. A list of Tactical Response definitions is provided in Appendix A.

2.0 SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all personnel at Tactical Response Incidents within Riverside County.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- A. It shall be the responsibility of the Incident Commander at a Tactical Response incident to implement this guideline and to assure that all the applicable elements of this guideline are complied with.
- B. All suppression personnel shall complete the RCFCA Tactical Response Operations class.
- C. All suppression personnel shall complete at least one annual Tactical Response training drill or class.

4.0 PROCEDURE

- A. Pre-Incident Preparation
 - 1. It is the responsibility of all crewmembers to ensure that all Tactical Response Gear is maintained and accounted for on their unit each shift. See Appendix B for Equipment list.
- B. Dispatch Procedures
 - 1. Dispatch shall provide responding resources with detailed information, as well as the circumstances of the reported incident.
 - 2. As information comes in, consider requesting early, additional resources as the need for resources will grow rapidly. Responding units should, where possible, monitor appropriate Law Enforcement radio frequencies.





C. First arriving unit initial actions

1. Establish an appropriate initial staging area for responding units. Consider an area out of line of sight of incident, in line with approach to location, or a pre-determined area from pre-plans.
2. Determine if additional resources are needed and prepare for Primary RTF deployment.
3. Update incoming, and request additional resources.

D. First arriving Chief Officer

1. Establish & enter into Unified Command with Law Enforcement (LE).
2. Identify and establish operating zones with LE and begin a Dynamic Risk Assessment to determine RED vs GREEN light condition(s) for Tactical Response operations. If the zone in which the RTF is operating in changes from Warm to Hot due to a direct or immediate threat, immediately retreat to a safer location and determine with force protection whether to shelter in place or to leave the area.
3. Assign a Rescue Group Supervisor (RGS) and Assistant from Fire Department resources.
4. Assign appropriate resources to form Rescue Task Forces (RTF).
5. Consider assigning an Operations position.
6. May assign resources not qualified as RTFs to fill MCI or fire suppression positions that only involve working in the COLD zone.

E. Rescue Group Supervisor (RGS)

1. Coordinate with Law Enforcement to provide Force Protection (FP) to RTFs.
2. Coordinate rescue operations.
3. Establish RTF staging area.
4. Coordinate movement of patients from the Casualty Collection Point (CCP) to the Cold Zone treatment area.





- 5. Confirm Warm Zones/Hot Zones and entry point(s).
- 6. Relay Hazards to RTFs.

F. Primary Rescue Task Force

- 1. All RTFs will move in and out of the Warm Zone only through entrances and corridors primarily cleared by the initial contact teams.
- 2. Objectives:
 - a. Perform only lifesaving treatment in accordance with REMSA protocols.
 - b. Provide updated information to RGS and direction to incoming RTFs (“CAN” report).
- 3. Advance to a “STOP POINT”.
- 4. Upon exit, extract furthest immediate patients with the team to the CCP.
- 5. FP should provide 360° coverage to the RTF at all times.
- 6. FP should remain in close contact with the RTF at all times.
- 7. FP must be able to provide effective defensive cover fire to the RTF at all times.
- 8. FP should assist with patient treatment or movement if safe to do so.

G. Secondary Rescue Task Forces Objectives

- 1. Reassess the victims and perform only lifesaving treatment in accordance with REMSA, if not already done by Primary RTF.
- 2. Evacuate all patients to an established Casualty Collection Point (CCP). Evacuate all Immediate patients prior to the Delayed patients.
- 3. RTFs shall re-enter Warm Zone after patient evacuation, and retrieve remaining patients.

H. Considerations for all Rescue Task Forces

- 1. Company Officer will lead the RTF and maintain constant communication FP and RGS.





2. Primary RTFs must treat life threatening injuries before applying triage markings.
3. RTF members shall use constant tactical situational awareness and immediately advise FP if a weapon or an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) is seen or encountered.
4. As the RTF moves through the Warm Zone the RTF Leader in conjunction with FP will identify, report, and mark areas of Safe Refuge.
5. If the zone in which the RTF is operating in changes from Warm to Hot due to a direct or immediate threat, the RTF should immediately move to a safer area and notify the RGS of the threat and its location.
6. Print facility map and carry into environment.
7. Bring unit trauma bag to the RTF staging and drop it off.

I. Zone Locations and Activities

1. Cold Zone

- a. Zone with little potential for harm from gunfire, explosive/blast injury, gas, etc. and contains:

1. Unified Incident Command Post (ICP)
2. Incoming equipment staging
3. Ambulance Staging
4. Casualty Treatment Areas

2. Warm Zone

- a. Zone with increased but limited potential for harm from gunfire, explosive/blast injury, gas, etc.

- b. The RGS should be located in the Warm Zone near the CCP :

1. Victims injured in the incident





2. Casualty Collection Points (CCP)
3. Zone in which RTFs will operate to assess, treat, and remove injured victims
4. Potential for secondary devices or second shooter, but previously cleared by initial LE Contact Teams
3. Hot Zone
 - a. Zone with high potential for harm or injury.
 - b. Zone where LE Contact Teams will operate to contain or neutralize an active shooter.
 - c. No RTFs or Fire Department Personnel should operate in this zone and contains:
 1. Active Shooter(s) and/or high potential for secondary devices
 2. LE Contact Teams
 3. Injured victims that cannot be accessed by RTFs due to high potential for direct harm or injury
 4. May be cleared and declared a Warm Zone by LE Contact Teams as they move through

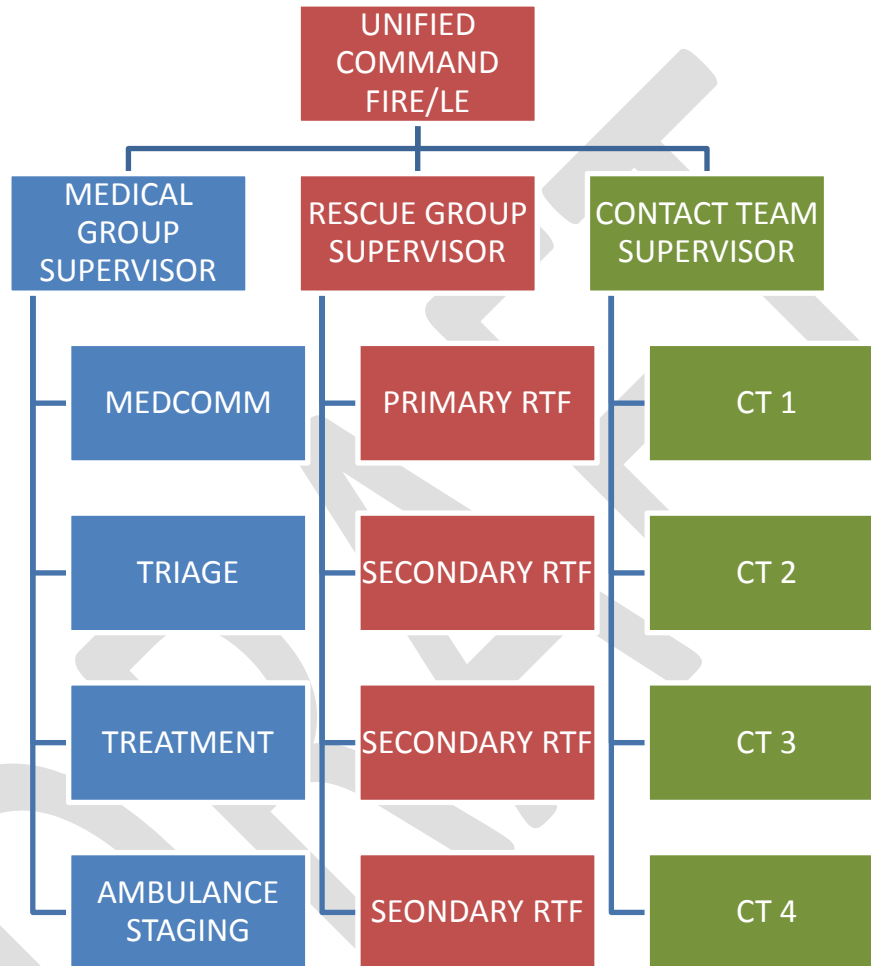
5.0 FIRE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT STAGING CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Consider last tactical option and do not over commit
- B. Centralized staging
- C. Monitor appropriate command and tactical frequencies
- D. Report to command post for assignment



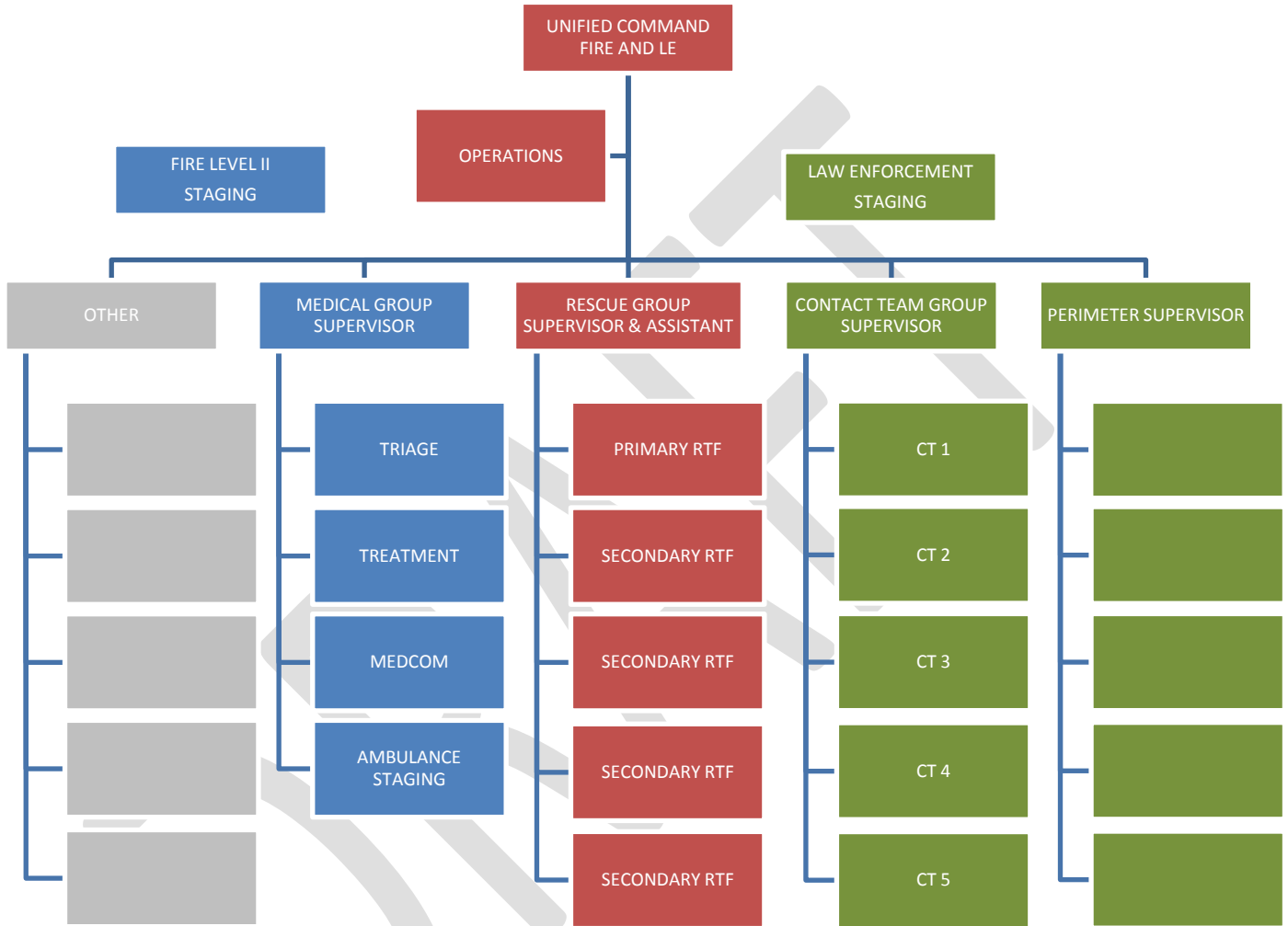
6.0 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

INITIAL RESPONSE EXAMPLE



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EXPANDED RESPONSE EXAMPLE



APPENDIX A – DEFINITIONS

- A. Active Shooter:** Any armed person who uses or has used deadly physical force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims.
- B. Unified Command:** A unified team effort which allows all agencies with responsibility for the incident, either geographical or functional, to manage an incident by establishing a common set of incident objectives and strategies. Initial Law Enforcement, ICP, RTFs will utilize compatible maps/Block plans/GIS technology. This is accomplished without losing or abdicating agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.
- C. Dynamic Risk Assessment:** A continuous process of gathering and evaluating information throughout the entire incident in an effort to properly determine risk (i.e. a Green vs Red light condition). Considerations: A strong Unified Command, Number/location of shooters, determine whether shooter is engaged/ barricaded or eliminated, known rescue, known IED's, availability of security element, Properly trained Fire personnel, identified access points/travel routes, proper PPE, etc. It is important to remember that when determining threat zones, do not get fixated on concentric circles surrounding the scene; zones might be discontinuous/dynamic depending on the threat locations.
- D. Green Light Condition:** No direct or immediate threat to RTF and area of operation will be relatively safe. This is an information rich environment (all considerations in the Dynamic Risk Assessment have been met). This is a "GO" condition.
- E. Red Light Condition:** Direct and immediate threat to RTF exists. This is a very information poor environment (all considerations in the Dynamic Risk Assessment have not been met). This is a "NO GO" condition.
- F. Stop Point:** This is a term used to describe anytime a RTF has changed its objective, or has a change of condition from Green light to Red light for any reason. This could be from running out of supplies, encountering an IED, Loss of communication, Lack of "LACES" or no more patients. When using this term it should be immediately communicated to the ICP with "Why Stop"





- G. **Hot Zone:** Area where there is known hazard or life threat that is direct and immediate. An example of this would be any uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage an RTF team. RTF teams will not be deployed into a Hot Zone.
- H. **Warm Zone:** Areas that Law Enforcement have cleared where there is minimal or mitigated threat. This area can be considered clear but not secure; this is where Rescue Task Forces deploy to treat and extract victims.
- I. **Cold Zone:** Areas where there is little or no threat, due to distance, shielding and or secured by law enforcement. Areas where resources will stage, triage, treat, and transport victims once removed from the warm zone.
- J. **Level 1 Staging:** Level 1 staging is in total control of the Incident Commander and typically represents the first alarm assignment. Generally at the incident or close at hand for the IC to utilize during the initial tactical operations, down the street, nearest corner, secondary water supply etc. Level 1 staging allows the IC time to determine the best initial strategy and tactics and to minimize on scene congestion allowing for an organized positioning of apparatus and deployment of initial resources.
- K. **Level 2 Staging:** This level of staging is generally used for greater alarm assignments and directs responding companies to a designated standby location (chosen by the IC) located a short distance away from the immediate scene location. All other support services can be directed to this location. This distance should be no closer than 300 feet from the incident but close enough for immediate deployment of resources when requested. Level 2 staging areas always have a staging manager and preferably at least 1 assistant, who reports directly to the IC when running the incident or to the Operations Section Chief if one has been established. Areas within level 2 staging can include on-deck or immediately available crews, and food, medical, rehab, fuel, etc.
- L. **Casualty Collection Point (CCP):** An area that has been determined by the Rescue Group Supervisor to have both cover and concealment and will function as the drop off point between the warm and cold zone. When needed, the CCP will be used as a safe temporary location until victims can be moved into a treatment area well into the cold zone. The RGS will assign a RTF to manage the CCP and coordinate the transitions of victims from the CCP to the cold zone treatment areas. TECC can also be performed in this location by RTFs as needed.
- M. **Clear:** An area that during an initial sweep revealed no immediate or direct life threat. (It is critical to differentiate the difference between clear of threats vs victims)
- N. **Secure:** An area that has been actively maintained free of any immediate or direct life threats by Law Enforcement.





- O. **Safe Refuge Area:** An area identified within the Warm zone where RTFs or individuals can seek temporary refuge. These areas may be identified by the RTFs as they progress through the warm zone.
- P. **Cover:** Gives you protection from bullets, fragments. Could be a large tree, fire engine, concrete wall, etc.
- Q. **Concealment:** Anything that hides you from suspects observations. Does not protect you from bullets, fragments, or fire.
- R. **Law Enforcement Officer:** Standard uniformed or plain clothes police officers assigned specified geographic areas or functions. May engage/ contact the shooter(s) as a single resource or as part of a Contact Team.
- S. **Qualified Law Enforcement personnel for RTF:** Qualified RTF Law enforcement personnel
- T. **Force Protection (FP):** (Security Element / Detail) - Law enforcement component of an RTF that provides protection to Fire Rescue personnel.
- U. **Contact Team:** Initial Law enforcement teams of up to 4 officers who form immediately on arrival to scene and deploy into building moving rapidly with objective of initiating contact to contain / eliminate the active shooter to prevent further injury or loss of life.
- V. **Contact Team Group Supervisor (CGS):** Law enforcement person who assumes overhead position early into the incident to direct and coordinate the operations of the contact teams. The CGS position will likely be filled by one of the responding law enforcement sergeants or senior officers and will serve as the communication point between law enforcement dispatch / ICP and the Contact Teams. The CGS will help gather information from the Contact Teams and relay intelligence: suspect/shooter location, estimated number of casualties, Hot/Warm Zone(s), Rescue (RTF) access route(s) etc. to the ICP and or Rescue Group Supervisor (RGS). The Contact Group Supervisor plays a critical role in initiating the “Green light” for the joint rescue mission of the Rescue Task Forces (RTFs).
- W. **Rescue Task Force (RTF):** Rescue Task Force (RTF) is a team made of both Fire and Law Enforcement personnel deployed in the Warm Zone to provide point of wound care to victims where there is an on-going ballistic or explosive potential. These teams triage, treat, stabilize, and extract the injured while wearing Ballistic Protective Equipment (BPE) in a rapid manner. An RTF consists of: Three to four Fire personnel to include a Company Officer and three qualified law enforcement





personnel. It is desirable that one of the Fire personnel is a paramedic. Based on the dynamic risk assessment and needs of the incident, unified command has the option of modifying the number of qualified law enforcement personnel per RTF. This response can be deployed to work in, but not limited to, the following; Active shooter in a school, business, mall, conference, special event, etc. Any other scene that is or has the possibility of an ongoing ballistic or explosive potential. RTFs should retain their respective department designators while operating as RTFs. The incident commander will assign which units will have primary or secondary assignments.

- X. **Rescue Group Supervisor (RGS):** A Fire Suppression member will be assigned as RGS. The RGS will direct / coordinate RTF(s) and the rescue operation for rapid treatment and extraction of victims. The RGS will monitor conditions and confirm Warm / Hot Zones; determine RTF staging, entry points, and the CCP(s). The RGS will be the point of contact between the ICP and the RTFs. The RGS will communicate/coordinate with the incident Medical Group Supervisor for the relocation of victims from the CCP to MCI Treatment Areas.
- Y. **Rescue Task Force staging area (RTF Staging):** An area “On Deck” that has been determined by the RGS to have both cover and concealment, and will function as the staging area of the RTF(s). This will be the area where the RTF reports for deployment into the Warm Zone.
- Z. **RGS Assistant:** A Fire Suppression member assigned to the RGS that will assist with; accountability, movement of patients between the CCP and Cold zone / treatment areas, communications etc.
- AA. **Improvised Explosive Device (IED):** A device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, incendiary or chemicals designed to destroy incapacitate, harass or distract.
- BB. **Tactical PPE:** All ballistic protective equipment worn by the RTF. See Appendix B for Equipment List.
- CC. **Tactical EMS Gear:** Tactical Medical and evacuation gear carried on RTF teams. See Appendix B for Equipment List.



APPENDIX B – EQUIPMENT

1. Inventory of Personnel Protective Equipment

- a. Ballistic vest
- b. Ballistic helmet
- c. EMS gloves

2. Accessories on ballistic vest

- a. 3 triage tape dispensers, non-reflective
- b. 3 rolls of triage tape: black/white, red and yellow
- c. Radio pouch
- d. SCBA mask pouch
- e. Extra gear pouch
- f. Trauma sheers with a pouch and retractable gear keeper
- g. Large Velcro identified as RESCUE on back of vest
- h. Compact right angle flash light
- i. Anti-fog wipes for mask

3. Inventory of Tactical EMS bag

- a. 2 Tourniquets
- b. 2 3.25” Needle Thoracotomy kits
- c. 2 Large Israeli dressings
- d. 2 Small Israeli dressings
- e. 2 Occlusive dressings (Hyfin chest seal)
- f. 2 Oral Pharyngeal Airways
- g. 2 Triangular Bandages
- h. 1 Aid belt
- i. 2 Medical Litters

