



**ARCADIA FIRE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE**

RESCUE TASK FORCE

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PURPOSE

The Arcadia Fire Department will respond to a variety of incident types that may involve violence. Violent incidents include: Assaults, stabbings, shootings (including mass shootings or Active Shooter Incidents), bombings or bomb threats, attempted suicides, hostage situations, gang related acts, terrorist acts, civil unrest, riots, and the deliberate release of hazardous materials. Depending on the tactics employed and the actions of the suspect(s), these incidents can become more complex due to resulting or subsequent gunfire, explosions, fires, and/or chemical, biological or radiation releases.

PROCEDURE:

This policy is based on reference material from Urban Fire Forum 2013, FEMA USFA Active Shooter Guidelines 2013, Hartford Consensus 2013, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) guidelines, National Fallen Firefighter's Life Safety Initiative 12, CFFJAC Unified Response to Violent Incidents, FIRESCOPE, and OSHA Regulations.

I. DISPATCH CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Confirm type of violence, number of suspects and whereabouts, number of potential victims, location, and other intelligence related to type of threat
- B. Obtain location of Law Enforcement (LE) Incident Command Post (ICP) and suggested fire resource Staging Area
- C. Dispatch resources to Staging Area based on nature of incident and standard response plan
- D. Initial Dispatch will follow Verdugo Dispatches normal procedures for a shooting victim.
 - 1. 1 Engine Company/Truck Company
 - 2. 1 ALS Unit
 - 3. 1 Battalion Chief

II. RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Confirm type of incident
- B. Don appropriate PPE for situation (see AFD Guideline 122 Response to Violent Incidents)
- C. Verify scene security issues



- D. Determine safe response route(s)
- E. Determine a safe staging location based on type of incident and dispatch instructions. Staging will occur at a safe location. Apparatus and all personnel will be prepared for immediate response once the scene is cleared by law enforcement
- F. Maintain mobility to retreat
- G. Maintain LCES
- H. Maintain Situational Awareness (540 degrees)

III. COMMAND CONSIDERATIONS

- A. First arriving company/chief officer will make contact with law enforcement IC
 - 1. Obtain situation briefing
 - 2. Establish Unified Command
 - 3. Determine Unified Objectives
 - 4. Establish common communication methods (radio, phone, and/or face-to-face)
 - 5. Determine need for Rescue (RTF) or Suppression (STF) Task Forces
 - 6. Determine level of “Force Protection” required
- B. Order appropriate resources
 - 1. Fire resources
 - 2. EMS resources
 - 3. Technical Rescue Team (TRT)
 - 4. Hazardous Material Response Team
 - 5. Support personnel
- C. Determine/establish perimeter and control zones (Hot, Warm, Cold) and entry/access control points. Prior to deploying an RTF team, threat zones must be identified:
 - 1. **Hot Zone:** Areas 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.
 - 2. **Warm Zone (also known as the area of indirect threat):** Areas that ACPD has either cleared or isolated the threat where there is minimal or mitigated risk. This area can be considered clear but not secure. This is where the RTF will deploy, with security, to treat victims.
 - 3. **Cold Zone:** Areas where there is little or no threat, either by geography to threat or after area has been secured by Police (i.e., Casualty Collection Points). An area where AFD will stage to triage, treat, and transport victims once removed from the warm zone.
 - 4. Ensure perimeter/zones are relayed to all personnel

IV. EMS/RESCUE CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Determine appropriate staging location for EMS resources
 - 1. Provide for rapid access to Treatment/Transportation Area
- B. Determine if EMS will be part of Rescue Task Force (RTF)
- C. Implement MCI protocols (when three or more patients)
- D. Establish Casualty Collection Points (CCP) and Treatment/Transportation Area



- E. Provide rapid egress of patients to designated extraction points
- F. Identify and secure Landing Zones (LZ's) in coordination with law enforcement
- G. Develop ambulance loading ingress/egress (traffic plan)
- H. Consider need for decontamination of victims and responders
- I. Maintain all patient handling/treatment areas as part of the crime scene

V. FIRE SUPPRESSION CONSIDERATIONS

- A. Evaluate scene safety with law enforcement prior to making entry
- B. Determine fire attack strategy (offensive vs. defensive)
- C. Determine need and level of force protection required
- D. Assess risks of ammunition and/or explosives, gas, radiation etc., under fire conditions
- E. Consider use of unstaffed master streams
- F. Consider application of water from areas of cover
- G. Emphasize fast attack; salvage, ventilation, and overhaul should be limited.
- H. Consider need for Hazardous Materials Response Team and/or Technical Rescue Team
- I. Consider need for decontamination of victims and/or fire personnel from exposure to chemicals, radioactive or biological exposure

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. Examples of direct and immediate threat are an active shooter, a barricaded suspect, a hostage situation, a high-risk warrant service and possible terrorist acts. This 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 suspect(s) in a given area already cleared. Fire department resources may be requested to enter into warm zones, but should only 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 versus Gain 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”.

CONCEALMENT:

Concealment is anything that hides you from suspect observation and can be natural or man-made. Concealment does not protect you from suspect(s) gunfire. Do not think that you are protected from gunfire just because you are concealed. Natural concealment includes such things as bushes, grass, trees, and shadows. If possible, natural concealment should not be disturbed.

COVER:

Cover gives protection from bullets, fragments of exploding rounds, flame, nuclear effects, and biological and chemical agents. Natural cover includes such objects as logs, trees, stumps, ravines, and hollows. Manmade cover includes such things as vehicles, trenches, walls, rubble and craters. Build or locate cover such as shielding behind vehicles, walls and/or natural barriers.

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.

CASUALTY COLLECTION POINTS (CCP):

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.

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 LE, with an assistant TFL from Fire. 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 “Light is Right” 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 (SKED, 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:

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 LE, with an assistant TFL from Fire. The team will conduct a pre-entry briefing which will include team tactics as well as an emergency escape/exit plan.

The Suppression T/F will normally use defensive tactics, including the use of unstaffed master streams. In all cases, the Suppression T/F should use minimal suppression tactics to control fire spread/growth and plan for rapid egress. Fire streams should not be used intentionally to control crowds.