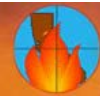




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Emergency Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents

Tactical law enforcement incidents present unique challenges to responders that may include: an active shooter, a barricaded suspect, a hostage situation, a high-risk (known felon) warrant service, and possible terrorist acts. Tactical law enforcement incidents have the potential to result in serious injury to law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, EMS responders, the public, and/or the suspect(s). Depending on the tactics employed and the actions of the suspect(s), these incidents can become more complex due to resulting explosions and/or fires. These incidents require unique planning and Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG).

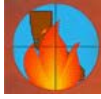
Tactical law enforcement incidents require close coordination between law enforcement, fire, and EMS responders due to the threat complexity. Whenever possible the fire service should consider “force protection” when working in this environment. These incidents often involve the identification of zones (Hot, Warm and Cold) that indicate the level of threat in a given location. The concept of cover and concealment will be seen throughout the document and is explained in detail in the definitions. It must be understood that even though you are utilizing cover or concealment, you are not guaranteed to be safe. A cold zone can normally be considered a safe location, however these incidents are dynamic and continuous evaluation should take place.

PRE-PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- Develop Standard Operating Guidelines/Policies, model IAP's, assess Risk versus Gain, determine adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and determine leader's intent.
- Develop communication interoperability with EMS, law enforcement, or any other cooperating agencies.
- Identify different work zones within an incident.
- Identify Target Hazards and key components to each; control rooms, master keys, card swipes, isolation corridors, maps, and internal communication systems if applicable.
- Assess “soft targets” identified by law enforcement such as bus/train stations, hotels, hospitals, theaters, concerts, shopping malls, schools and airports.
- Train personnel on operational tactics, strategy, and contingency considerations similar to a Rapid Intervention Crew (R.I.C.).
- Develop joint training with assisting/cooperating agencies.

INITIAL DISPATCH CONSIDERATIONS

- Confirm type of incident i.e. active shooter, barricaded suspect, hostage situation, terrorist acts.
- Verify scene security.
- Determine the number of victim(s)/hostage(s), and their status.
- Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including helmets and protective body armor.
- Identify hazards, threats, and/or intelligence.



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- Identify Incident Command Post (ICP) location and Staging Areas, control points, or any established perimeter.
- Determine appropriate access and response routes.
- Identify communications plan.
- Determine protective actions status and needs.
- Identify law enforcement contact person or Liaison with phone number.
- Determine overhead and resource needs.
- Determine the resource ordering process.

INITIAL BRIEFING

- Obtain briefing from law enforcement upon arrival and develop the ICS organization as necessary.
- Establish Unified Command (Reference FOG manual 420-1, Chapter 6-Unified Command).
- Establish and communicate Leader's Intent.
- Determine level of "Force Protection" required to take action.
- Ensure Force Protection is assigned to groups or functions as needed.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement to confirm type and location of threat.
- Obtain current incident status and threat assessment.
- Determine resources currently assigned, requested, and their locations.
- Determine the number of suspects/threat and their status.
- Determine the number of victim(s)/hostage(s), status.
- Identify incident potential.
- Identify zones and perimeters.
 - Do not get fixed in on concentric circles surrounding a crisis site, the zones might be discontinuous depending on shooter or threat locations and available cover or concealment.
- Identify Incident Objectives.
- Determine if "shelter in place" or "evacuation" strategy is going to be implemented?
- Determine number and location of sorting areas for evacuees to facilitate law enforcement processing.
- Confirm Incident Communications Plan.
- Determine type of frequencies; low band/high band, encrypted/non-encrypted, narrowband/wideband.
- Establish and communicate appropriate Escape Route(s).

MEDICAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Determine appropriate location for staging of medical resources.
- Identify patient treatment area.
- The Staging Area should:
 - Provide rapid access to the incident location.



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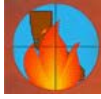
- Be located outside the view of the incident location.
- For operational efficiency, separate staging areas may be identified for each discipline.
- Consider requesting law enforcement for security.
- Verify ambulance transport capability. Order additional units as needed.
- Notify the appropriate medical authority.
- Determine status of local medical facilities, drawdown or diversion.
- Provide rapid egress of patients – to pre-designated extraction points.
- Identify and secure Landing Zones (LZ's) in coordination with Law Enforcement.
- Develop ambulance loading ingress/egress traffic plan.

TACTICAL MEDICAL TEAMS

- WEAR appropriate level of Tactical PPE (i.e. body armor)
- If Tactical Medical Teams are present, obtain briefing and determine their possible resource needs.
- Depending on complexity, multiple medical teams may need to be deployed around incident.
- All emergency medical care performed by Tactical Medical Team members will conform with local Patient Management Protocols and guidelines as scene safety allows. If no Tactical Teams are available, patients will either be brought to fire department EMS personnel (extraction points) or treated upon the establishment of a safe zone with Force Protection.
- Injuries to Tactical Law Officers: When treating a Tactical Officer, their medical information card will normally be located in/on their clothing or PPE.
- The Tactical Medic will accompany and act as the patient advocate during their medical treatment to the cold zone “Outer Perimeter.”

FIRE SUPPRESSION CONSIDERATIONS

- Evaluate scene safety before making entry.
- Determine fire attack strategy (Offensive vs. Defensive).
- Determine if force protection is necessary.
- Determine location and status of occupants.
- Assess risks with ammunition or explosives under fire conditions and flash grenades.
- Consider and/or coordinate the use of unstaffed master stream appliance(s).
- Consider applying water to fires from cover.
- Assess the need for decontamination of victim's and/or fire personnel secondary to exposure to pepper spray, flash bangs, nuclear or biological chemicals.
- Consider multiple staging locations.



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Emergency Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents

- Pre plan water sources and routes into incident for water supply.
- Consider the need for Hazardous Materials resources.

DEFINITIONS

Zones and Perimeters

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. 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). Law enforcement should also consider the area to be IDLH if they can visualize the shooter or determine a threat.

WARM ZONE:

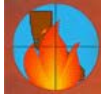
The area where a potential threat exists, but the threat is not direct or immediate. An example of this is an unknown location of suspects in a given area already cleared. Fire department resources may be requested to enter into warm zones, but should only be done with Force Protection, cover and concealment, or in accordance with your local fire department policies. 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, ICP, treatment and transportation of patients. Could also be classified “Outer Perimeter” by law enforcement.

Body Armor:

Body armor is intended to protect personnel from gunfire and is graded according to effectiveness.



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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.

Adapted from Army Field Manual 21-75 Ch.1

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.

Adapted from Army Field Manual 21-75 Ch.1

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.

Adapted from Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms, Joint Publication 1-02

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.

SET/SWAT:

Specialized Enforcement Team (SET), Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). There may be other names utilized by law enforcement for tactical response teams.



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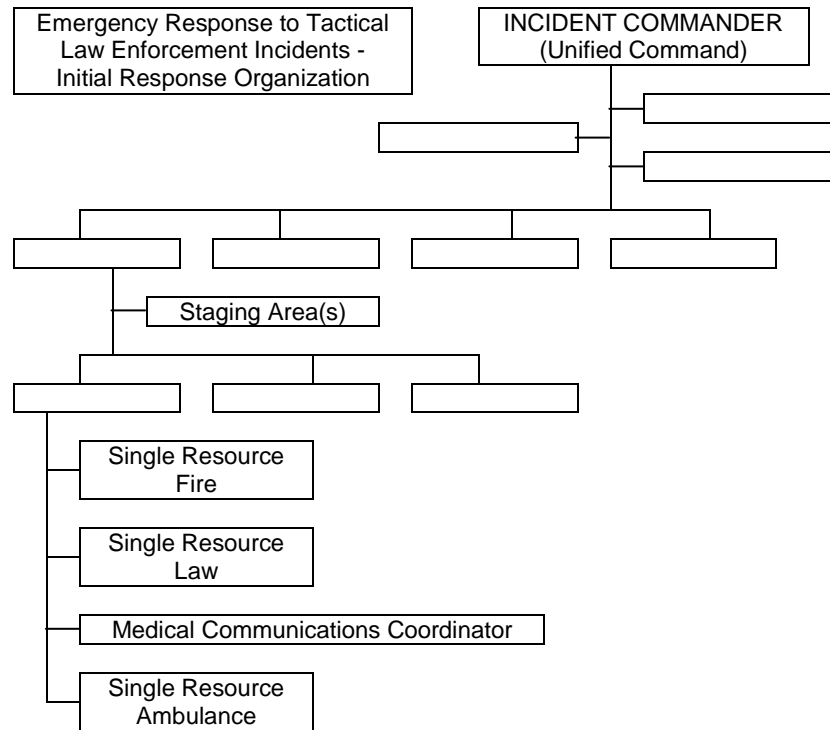
Soft Target:

A person or thing that is relatively unprotected or vulnerable to terrorist attack. Something that is easy to attack or get an advantage from. Examples of “Soft Targets” are shopping malls, sports arenas, hotels, restaurants, bars, nightclubs, movie theaters, housing complexes and schools.

Adapted from Cambridge Dictionaries 2011

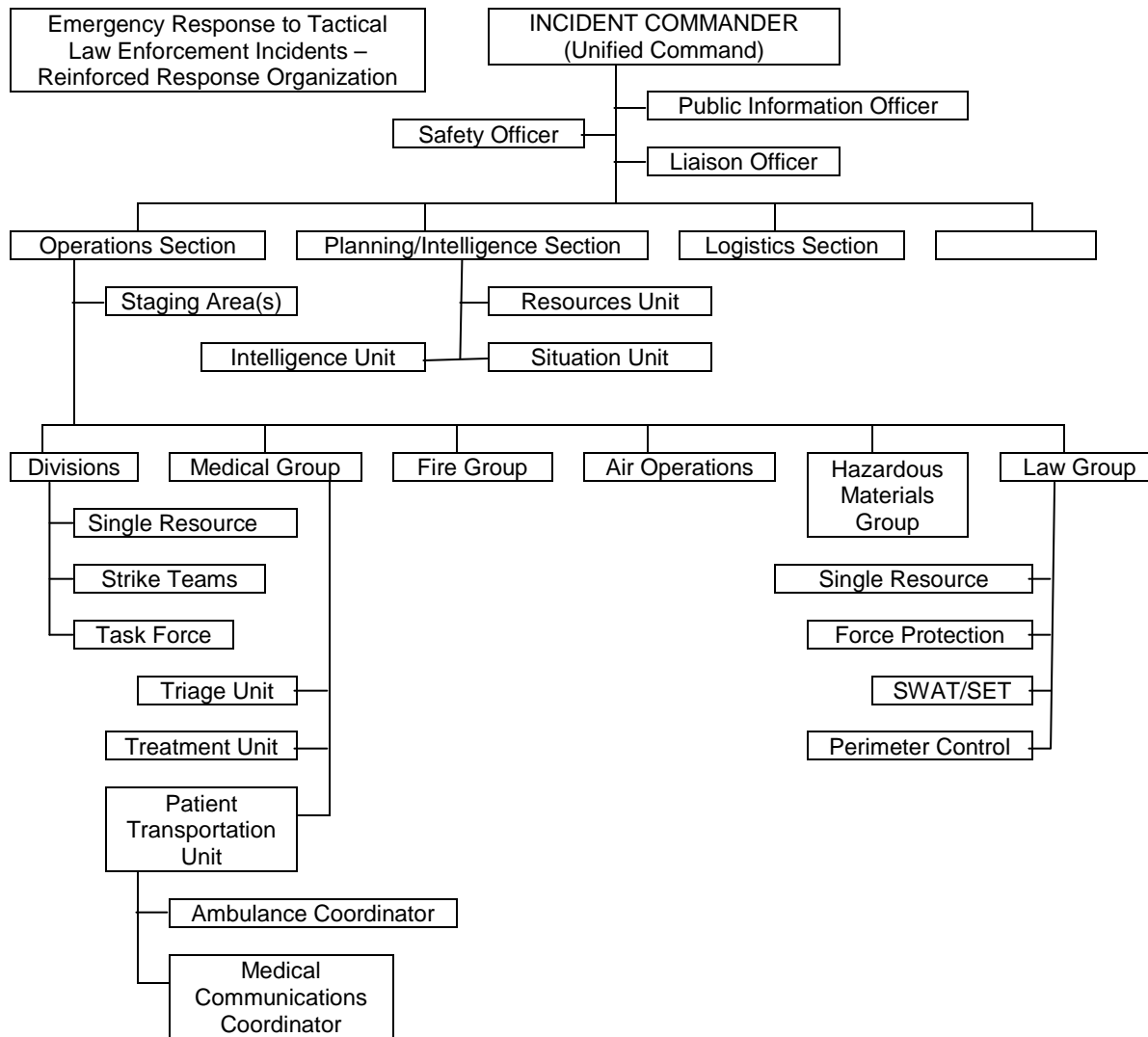
Tactical Medic:

The Tactical Medic is a fire department member assigned to a SET/SWAT team who has received specific tactical training. The primary mission of the Tactical Medic is to provide emergency medical care in the field, in accordance with the Tactical Medic’s local EMS policies and protocols.

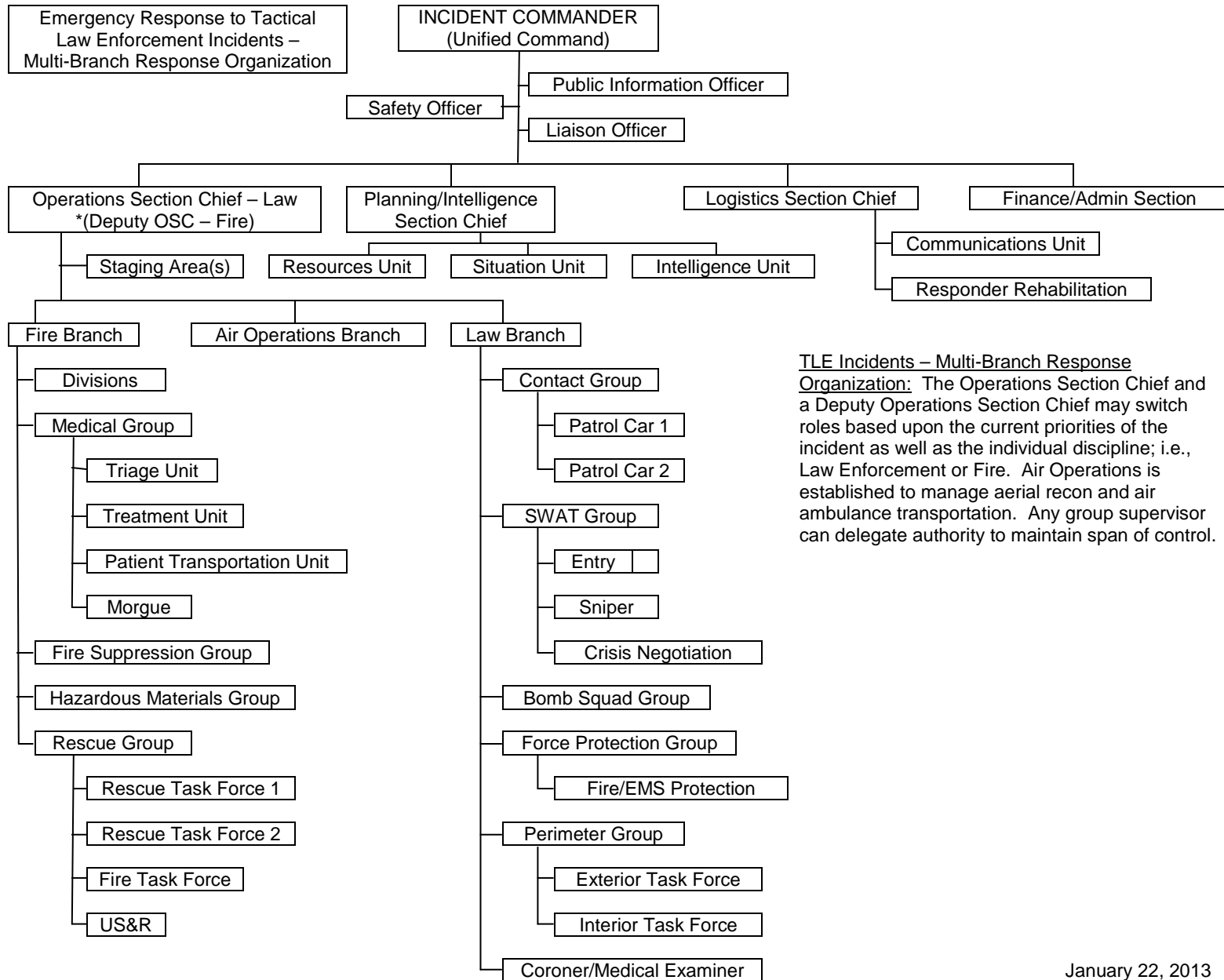


TLE Incidents – Initial Response Organization: The first arriving fire resource should establish contact with law enforcement. If no law enforcement resources are on scene, initiate immediate actions to isolate, deny entry, and establish safety for responding resources. MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS. Confirm type of incident and number of casualties. Stage resources in a safe location and prioritize common communications. Initiate Simple Triage and Rapid Transport (START).

January 22, 2013



TLE Incidents – Reinforced Response Organization: As additional resources arrive, the Incident Commander has activated the Operations Section along with multiple Divisions to supervise emergency responder activities. Groups may be assigned certain functions such as medical care for victims, Hazardous Materials handling or Law Enforcement activities. Air Operations will coordinate helicopters used for medical transportation and reconnaissance. The Planning Section is activated to track and document resource, intelligence and situational status. The Logistics Section is assigned to provide for the service and support needs of the incident.



TLE Incidents – Multi-Branch Response Organization: The Operations Section Chief and a Deputy Operations Section Chief may switch roles based upon the current priorities of the incident as well as the individual discipline; i.e., Law Enforcement or Fire. Air Operations is established to manage aerial recon and air ambulance transportation. Any group supervisor can delegate authority to maintain span of control.