

Unified Response to Violent Incidents

I. PURPOSE

To provide triage, medical care and extrication to patients involved in an incident involving an active shooter/violent incident or other hazardous incident being primarily managed by law enforcement agencies/departments.

II. RELATED POLICIES

GPC 12 MCI / MPMP
4613 Trauma Triage

III. AUTHORITY

1797.153, 1797.116, 1797.204, 1797.220, 1797.250, 1797.252, 1798.0, 1798.6 Health & Safety Code

IV. DEFINITIONS

Violent Incident - any criminal offense that involves the use or threat of force or violence. These can include shootings, stabbings and civil disobedience, as well as large scale incidents such as mass shootings, bombings and riots.

V. POLICY

Violent Incident Response/Active Shooter:

Education, training and joint exercises with Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS must be conducted before Fire and EMS providers are allowed to enter an active scene

Any law enforcement, fire and/or EMS provider shall have department policies regarding entry of responders into warm zones or secure areas as described in this policy

The EMS response to violent encounter/active shooter incidents should be coordinated utilizing ICS, SEMS, NIMS and Unified Command with on scene Law Enforcement/ Fire / EMS / Facility Cooperator

Concepts applied are based on curricula from the following courses; the Tactical Combat Casualty Course (TCCC), the International School of Tactical Medicine (ISTM) and the Unified Response to Violent Incidents (URVI)

Law Enforcement will be responsible for patient extrication if other first responders are not able to enter the scene. Patient extrication will be initiated at the earliest possible opportunity after the scene is relatively secured and/or the threat is neutralized

The on scene Incident Commander/ Unified Command, in addition to departmental policies, will determine PPE requirements for entry into any warm zones

VI. Considerations

- Communications must be maintained throughout the incident with respective dispatch centers and on scene medical, fire and law enforcement
- Law enforcement is in charge of the incident. While in a warm zone environment, EMS should follow the direction of law enforcement
- In accordance with department safety standards, EMS providers need to be ready to enter a secured scene quickly and aggressively
- Make sure law enforcement command knows that an EMS team is ready, staged and awaiting direction. Most SWAT teams have an imbedded tactical medic that would be the logical liaison to EMS assets on scene
- Law enforcement may provide a protective envelope (force protection model) around Fire/EMS providers and escort them into “warm zone” areas to treat or extricate victims (No Active Threat in the Area)
- EMS providers should be “forward leaning” and have trauma focused medical gear and triage tools available
- Working closely with law enforcement is critical in getting life saving medical assets to the injured as soon as the threat has been mitigated or neutralized. The UNIFIED COMMAND model is best for these types of incidents
- Make sure to have emergency egress routes and casualty collection points as well as evacuation rally points identified
- If EMS team is brought into extricate patient, only minimal equipment should be carried. Roll up evacuation stretchers should be considered
- EMS teams need to be prepared to split up if law enforcement requires it
- EMS providers should use individual medical packs with lifesaving bleeding and airway tools so they can work “independently” on trauma victims
- Patients should be moved as quickly as possible from CCP to FRFTS with only lifesaving procedures performed in the warm zone if applicable

- Spinal motion restriction is not indicated for patients suffering only from penetrating trauma not involving the spinal column
- Once the threat is eliminated, law enforcement may be available to help extricate the injured

VII. References

- The FEMA/US Fire Administration “Fire/EMS Department Operational Considerations and Guide for Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Incidents” (Sept. 2013)
- The FIRESCOPE “Emergency Response to Tactical Law Enforcement Incidents” position paper (Dec. 2014)
- The IAFF “Active Shooter” position statement (Aug. 2014)
- Unified Response to Violent Incidents, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee, CSFM, CPF (2013).