



KOOTENAI COUNTY FIRE MODEL PROCEDURE

SECTION 17 – RESCUE TASK FORCE

Adopted: July 14, 2017

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1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This model procedure is endorsed by the Kootenai County Fire Chiefs Association as a template for planning and training for all fire departments and districts within Kootenai County.
- 1.2 This Model Procedure is for use and dispatch of the Kootenai County Rescue Task Force (RTF) for response to Mass Casualty Acts of Violence (MCAV), such as an Active Shooter Situation or explosives event. As a medical resource for Law Enforcement Calls where there is a reasonable threat to civilian or uniformed life, such as a barricaded subject with a hostage.
- 1.3 The purpose of the RTF is to assist Law Enforcement during an active shooter incident by deploying medical resources that might otherwise delay treatment.

2.0 REFERENCES

- 2.1 Coeur d'Alene Fire Department – *Rescue Task Force*

3.0 DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 Rescue Task Force (RTF): A set of teams deployed to provide point of wound care to patients where there is or might be an ongoing ballistic (active shooter) or explosive threat. An RTF is ideally comprised of two (2) law enforcement officers (but no less than one (1) law enforcement officer) and at least two (2) fire departments members; at least one (1) member of the RTF should be a paramedic.
- 3.2 The Kootenai County RTF (KCRTF) is currently comprised of three (3) Engine Companies – currently Engine 11, Engine 4, 521 and a Battalion Chief from Coeur d'Alene Fire, Northern Lakes Fire Protection District or Kootenai County Fire & Rescue depending on the location of the incident. The KCRTF will be dispatched upon request by the host Battalion Chief or first arriving Company Officer.

- 3.3 Contact Teams: Contact Teams are comprised of at least two (2) Law Enforcement officers whose primary objective is to neutralize the active shooter. Contact Teams will quickly deploy into the an area of threat, with the goal of initiating contact to contain or eliminate the Active Shooter to prevent further injury or loss of life.
- 3.4 Hot Zone: Areas where there is a direct and immediate known hazard or threat to life. An example of a hot zone would be any uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage the RTF team.
- 3.5 Warm Zone: Areas that Law Enforcement have cleared where there is a minimal or mitigated threat. A Warm Zone is an area that can be considered “secure but not clear.”
- 3.6 Cold Zone: Areas where there is little or no threat, either by geography or has been fully secured by Law Enforcement.
- 3.7 Casualty Collection Point (CCP): A hardened and securable area located at the trailing edge of the warm zone where patients can be brought by RTF Teams for additional care or evacuation further away from hazards. The Rescue Group Supervisor should be located at the CCP, and can oversee the evacuation of patients to the triage, treatment and transport areas. Once secured by law enforcement, non-RTF resources can enter this area to expedite patient evacuation.
- 3.8 Secure Corridor: Areas of ingress/egress where there is minimal or mitigated threat which can be used by the RTF Teams for patient/victim access and evacuation.
- 3.12 Rescue Group: Established when multiple RTF teams are deployed into the warm zone. The Rescue Group Supervisor will be responsible for monitoring the status and locations of RTF teams and coordinating the evacuation of victims from the Casualty Collection Point (CCP) to the Triage, Treatment, and Transport areas. If RTF teams are deploying immediately upon arrival then the first arriving Officer should establish the Rescue Group.
- 3.13 Way Points: If RTF Teams are operating at extended distances from the CCP then “way points” may be established in secure corridors as a place for RTF Teams to temporarily locate patients, rather than take them all the way back to the CCP. Once secured by law enforcement, patients can be moved from these areas to the CCP by non-RTF personnel under the direction of the Rescue Group Supervisor.

4.0 MODEL PROCEDURE

- 4.1 For situations where there is an indication of more than one (1) victim but it appears that the event is localized to a smaller level, Central Dispatch may add a single RTF Resource (closest Trauma ALS Unit as conventionally dispatched, additional QRU as RTF, or an on-duty Shift Commander).
- 4.2 Upon notification, the KCRTF will be dispatched to the MCAV incident.
 - 4.2.1 If one of the KCRTF Engine Companies are already assigned to an incident, when they clear their assigned incident they will be dispatched to the Active Shooter event.
- 4.3 An initial staging area will be determined by the first arriving Company Officer or Shift Commander as assigned by the Law Enforcement Incident Commander.
- 4.4 The assigned KCRTF Leader will make contact with the Law Enforcement Incident Commander.
 - 4.4.1 Either Unified Command or a Fire Branch shall be established.
 - 4.4.2 A communications plan shall be established taking into consideration Law Enforcement agencies that may not operate on the 700 MHz radio system.
 - 4.4.3 An ambulance Staging shall be identified
 - 4.4.4 The KCRTF Leader shall establish and organize the Engine Company personnel assigned to the incident.
 - 4.4.5 The KCRTF Leader shall request additional resources as required.
 - 4.4.5.1 Additional Ambulance for transport
 - 4.4.5.2 MCI trailers/vehicle, etc.
 - 4.4.5.3 Additional RTF personnel
- 4.5 Once Unified Command or Incident Command has been established, Secure Corridors have been established and the need for RTF has been determined, RTF Teams will form and deploy into the warm zone to begin patient care.
- 4.6 The initial Contact Teams will enter the hazard area and as they move through the area/building they will note the need for RTF Teams and communicate the locations and estimated number of victims that will need care.
- 4.7 RTF Teams will be assigned by # (i.e. L-13, E-521, E-4)
- 4.8 RTF Teams shall not be deployed into Hot Zones.
- 4.9 RTF Teams shall not be deployed into Warm Zones unless accompanied by not less than one (1) Law Enforcement officer; ideally two (2).
- 4.10 RTF Teams will ingress and egress only through designated secure corridors that have been cleared by Law Enforcement.

- 4.11 The Fire Departments will be responsible for victim care using the TECC guidelines and communicating the number and severity of victims to the appropriate Branch Director or Division/Group Supervisor.
- 4.12 During RTF operations, no triage will be conducted. All patients encountered by the RTF Teams will be treated as they are accessed.
 - 4.12.1 Ambulatory patients will be directed to self-exit down the secure corridor.
- 4.13 Fire Department personnel engaged in an active shooter incident will be required to make a statement and document their actions with Law Enforcement.
- 4.14 If a Defusing or Debriefing Session is necessary refer to Section 11, CISM.
- 4.15 If the Zone in which the RTF Team is operating changes from Warm to Hot due to a direct or immediate threat, the RTF Team will be immediately evacuated to appropriate cover or exit the building or location as directed by Law Enforcement.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITY

- 5.1 Local Agencies are encouraged to review and conduct training on Rescue Task Force duties on an annual basis.