

Active Shooter and Other Violent Incidents

323.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Violence committed in schools, workplaces and other locations by any individual or group of individuals who are determined to target or kill persons or to create mass casualties presents a difficult situation for Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist members in making decisions in these rapidly unfolding and tense situations.

323.2 POLICY

The Blue Ridge Fire District will endeavor to plan for a rapid response to violent incidents involving an active shooter or other violent situations. The Blue Ridge Fire District is committed to preparing and planning for rapid responses to these incidents by coordinating with law enforcement and other EMS personnel, as well as with those responsible for operating sites that may be the potential target of a violent incident.

323.3 ACTIVE SHOOTER/VIOLENT INCIDENT PLAN

The Fire Chief should designate a member who is responsible for developing and managing an active shooter/violent incident (AS/VI) plan to assist in the Blue Ridge Fire District's response to an AS/VI.

The AS/VI plan should address:

- (a) Any applicable EMS Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) protocols.
- (b) Identification of state, local and regional agencies that are likely to respond to an AS/VI.
- (c) Procedures to facilitate interagency sharing of information related to AS/VI.
- (d) The joint development of protocols for responding to AS/VI with fire, EMS and law enforcement personnel, including but not limited to:
 - 1. Identification of likely critical incident target sites and the availability of plans or schematics of such locations.
 - 2. Rapid entry and evacuation routes.
 - 3. Equipment needs.
 - 4. Communication interoperability.
- (e) Any mutual aid agreements that may exist.
- (f) Integrated use of the National Incident Management System and Incident Command System approach by personnel likely to respond to an AS/VI.
- (g) Any guidelines for an AS/VI that are established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Interagency Board.
- (h) Common communications and terminology to be utilized by responding personnel.

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- (i) Use of readily identifiable and visible identification by responding personnel to make them easily discernible.
- (j) Identification of which personnel will need additional personal protective equipment (PPE), including ballistic gear (e.g., vests, helmets) and what training will be needed for the use of such gear.
- (k) Procedures for completion of post-incident reviews of AS/VI.

The AS/VI plan manager should, in conjunction with appropriate law enforcement and other EMS personnel, review the Blue Ridge Fire District's plan annually and make any necessary updates.

323.4 FIRST RESPONDERS

When responding to AS/VI, members must decide, often during difficult and rapidly evolving circumstances, whether to enter the scene or to stage at a safe area. When deciding on a course of action members should:

- (a) Determine whether law enforcement has secured the scene or developed a plan for entry. If the scene has not been secured, members should work in teams with law enforcement and other EMS personnel on-scene to develop a plan for entry and contact with victims with life-threatening injuries.
 - 1. Members tasked with entry should wear PPE appropriate for the circumstances.
- (b) Coordinate with available law enforcement personnel to create a staging area for additional member resources.
- (c) Identify and prepare members for operations in areas of higher risk, if appropriate.
- (d) Decide whether individuals who are under imminent threat can be moved out of danger with reasonable safety.
- (e) Plan for rapid triage, treatment and extrication of any individuals with life-threatening injuries.
- (f) Consider the risk of fire hazards and secondary devices at any main or secondary scenes if there is a reasonable belief that improvised explosive devices have been or may be used.
- (g) Utilize Tactical EMS Support personnel or Rescue Task Forces, if available.

323.5 TRAINING

The AS/VI plan manager should coordinate with the Training Coordinator so that members are provided with AS/VI training. The training should include:

- (a) Review of the AS/VI plan.
- (b) Review of any applicable EMS MCI protocols.
- (c) Review of trauma care guidelines in high-threat pre-hospital situations and the various treatment methods available during an AS/VI.
- (d) Interagency training with law enforcement and other EMS personnel.

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- (e) Reality-based training at locations that may be a potential target of a critical incident.