STATE OF FLORIDA
CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO HOSTILE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OF CBRNE MATERIALS

Goals

The goal of this concept of operations is to facilitate timely access to hostile environments for the purpose of rescuing viable victims while ensuring the safety of response personnel who are entering the environment. This concept sets forth objectives to allow any jurisdictional SWAT or Bomb Squad to interact with any CBRNE/ Hazmat Team.

This concept will not supercede local operating guidelines established by the local authorities having jurisdiction.

This is based upon the concept that all responding agencies will operate under the Unified Command System in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Training and Exercises will be necessary to reinforce the concepts set forth below.

Introduction

Due to the increased threat of the use of CBRNE materials a need has arisen to develop guidelines for rapid entry into hostile environments while protecting responders from CBRNE hazards. For the purpose of this concept, a hostile environment is defined as:

> *"Is any situation in which there exists a probability that a perpetrator(s) is present and likely to engage responders or occupants for the purpose of intentionally inflicting harm by any means including armed assault or the dissemination of CBRNE materials."*

Operational Considerations

Based upon this definition, the overriding operational objective would be to neutralize the threat of the perpetrator(s) while maintaining feasible protective measures for hazards likely to be encountered.

In situations involving the use of CBRNE the first arriving officer in charge shall identify, to the extent possible, all hazardous conditions present and shall implement appropriate emergency operations, and assure that the personal protective equipment worn is appropriate for the hazards deemed likely to be encountered. This hazard/risk assessment should be based upon information such as:

- Assessment of on-scene observations
- Victim signs and symptoms
- Bystander information
- Available intelligence
- Recommendations of reference materials, in particular the Emergency Response Guidebook, and
- Any other readily available information

After completing this assessment the incident commander can make a risk/benefit decision that a successful life saving rescue is feasible with the use of readily available personal protective equipment.

It is not the intent of this document to prohibit such a risk/benefit decisions provided that the decision is based upon an initial hazard/risk assessment of this nature.

However, anytime it is deemed probable that a hostile environment is present, personnel must immediately refrain from or disengage from such rescue efforts and the following procedures provided shall be implemented

Pre Entry Procedures

- Appropriate decontamination procedures will be implemented for ambulatory victims in conjunction with the implementation of this concept.

- An Emergency Decontamination process will be established for Entry Personnel until a Technical Decontamination area can be set-up.

- A security search for secondary devices should be conducted prior to setting up an Operations Area. Prior to any entry into the hot zone, attempt to identify any hazards or threats that may exist. For example:
  - Chemical threats
  - Explosion or structural damage
  - Likely presence of secondary or improvised explosive devices
  - Hostages or Shooter

1. Rapid Recon Team

Purpose

The purpose of a Rapid Recon Team is to make a rapid assessment of the situation/site, identify potential threat(s) and determine the nature of the environment and determine if it is safe and/or feasible for a Rapid Rescue Team to proceed. The Incident Commander, Operations Officer, and Site Safety Officer each have the ability to terminate the mission based on hazards found at the scene.

Unit Composition

This Rapid Recon Team should be comprised of appropriate Law Enforcement personnel (Special Operations Team or equivalent) and capable Hazardous Materials Team. These personnel should consist of the following disciplines:

- Tactical Law Enforcement Personnel (one is the team leader), to provide operational security to the team
- Hazmat Technicians to evaluate for chemical or radiological hazards and to determine the appropriate level of PPE, and the likelihood of viable victims in the incident area. Options for integration of hazardous materials technicians are:
  - Have the technician monitor the initial law enforcement tactical entry team through remote detection equipment.
  - Have technicians monitor through the use of remote, pre-deployed or robotically deployed detection equipment.
- Any other disciplines that would be appropriate for the anticipated hazards. Example: EOD Tech, Technical Rescue, Etc.
- A back-up rescue team shall be suited and prepared to enter, with the exception of being on air.

Nothing here is intended to prohibit cross training tactical law enforcement personnel in the hazardous materials mission or training the hazardous materials technician in tactical entry support roles.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The selection of personal protective equipment shall be based on the Hazard Analysis/ Risk Assessment and mission. The PPE should include a respirator, skin protection, radio communications, and ballistic armor based on assessed hazards. Chemical detection equipment will serve to ensure that the environment has not exceeded the PPE selected. If personnel detect an odor, signs or symptoms, or see signs of a greater than estimated hazard; they shall all re-evaluate the mission and take necessary action.

Chemical Detection Equipment

The on-scene hazardous materials team will supply the Rapid Recon Team with sufficient equipment to detect the presence of a hazard in accordance with the unknown analysis procedure. The chemical detection equipment should be small enough to avoid interrupting the mission and overloading the team. The recommended minimal levels of detection would include: oxygen, % LEL, pH, radiological, toxic atmospheres (chemical agents and TICs). Other detectors may be added if the hazard assessment determines the potential need. Monitors requiring visual display shall be operated by a hazardous materials technician or can be wireless and interpreted by a technician from safe location.

The following are suggested parameters if no chemical agent is known to exist. Use the appropriate permissible exposure limits if a known chemical is present. These levels may be exceeded if the selected PPE protects the responder from the hazard.

Detector	Re-assessment Level	No-Go Level
Oxygen	<19.5% or >23.5%	
LEL	Any detectable	≥10% of LEL
Toxics	10% of IDLH	Exceeds protective capability of PPE
PID	10 ppm above background [2]	Exceeds protective capability of PPE
pH	<6 or >9	Exceeds protective capability of PPE
M8/M9	Discoloration	Exceeds protective capability of PPE
Radiation	2mR/Hr Rate	>25 REM Dose
Other sensors	10% of the IDLH	Exceeds protective capability of PPE

Revaluation of protective ensembles should be based upon risk/benefit analysis and the recommended PPE levels and respirator decision diagram found in the SOP for PPE Selection and Use

1 APRs would not be appropriate for atmospheres exceeding the maximum use concentration of the respirator.

2 If the material has not been identified a PID reading of 10ppm above background should be assumed to exceed the maximum use concentration of APRs.

Operational Considerations

- Movement of the rapid recon team shall not exceed the detection capabilities of the instruments being used. This speed of entry determination shall be made based upon factors such as: instrument operating principles, lag times, environment, materials potentially involved and other on scene factors.
- If any hazard is identified during reconnaissance, all rapid recon team members should organize to support the discipline that is most suited to handle the hazard.
- As threats are identified, the appropriate discipline should direct the actions of the unit and appropriate action teams should be called in to handle the threat/hazard.
- The Recon Team Leader should make the determination to proceed and mark the exclusionary and work zones, as well as travel paths for subsequent teams.
- Rescue Teams should only work in the designated work zones.

Rapid Rescue Team

Purpose

After the rapid recon team has completed a hazard/risk assessment and feasible protective measures are in place, then the rapid rescue team will rapidly extract the remaining survivors from the hazard area.

Unit Capabilities

These personnel should consist of the following disciplines:

1. Appropriate law enforcement personnel, to provide operational security to the team.

2. Rescue personnel (First Responder, EMT, Paramedic, or HazMat technicians) and a team leader with the appropriate levels of PPE and training to remove the casualties as rapidly as possible from the environment without causing additional injuries.

Operational Considerations

- If any additional threats are identified, the threats will be communicated and the mission shall be re-assessed.
- Rescue Teams will dress in the appropriate level of protection based on the Hazard/risk Assessment. Appropriate air monitoring will be implemented as deemed necessary by the initial hazard/risk assessment.
- Upon entry, force protection personnel should take up appropriate positions for the purpose of protecting the rescue team and victims.
- Viable victims shall be triaged for extraction and evacuated as quickly as possible, with the absolute minimum of medical intervention. The primary objective is to remove them from the threat area.
- All tactical rapid intervention teams shall be positioned appropriately to rapidly respond to and address threats that should arise.