

Law Enforcement Topics

Standard practice and accreditation program for special weapons and tactics (SWAT) teams

A standard and an accreditation program are needed (1) to increase the confidence in SWAT teams and their capabilities and (2) to enhance consistency and interoperability among SWAT teams. There are some existing standards for SWAT teams; however, they do not meet the need for an accreditation program.

The standard should specify the following:

- Minimum number of people and specialty positions on a team
- Equipment list, including equipment for the team and for the specialty positions
- Training (initial and periodic) for teams and individuals, including certification of individual team members

The benefits of SWAT team accreditation may include:

- Enhancing safety of law enforcement and the public
- Setting a minimum level of performance
- Facilitating interoperability between accredited teams
- Improving public confidence in SWAT
- Potentially leading to grant funding for or reallocation of specialized equipment and training for accredited SWAT teams

Guidance for emergency medical support personnel deployed with law enforcement

A standard is needed for emergency medical support personnel that are deployed with law enforcement during police response to a mass assault and active assailant responses. The standard should address considerations, recommendations, and best practices; this guidance should not specify requirements.

These emergency medical support personnel need specific guidance to coordinate their efforts with law enforcement.

There are 3 basic types of guidance required:

- 1) Minimum tactical emergency casualty care training (*This is different than typical emergency medical services training.*)
- 2) Knowledge and use of personal protective equipment
- 3) Training on operational movements

Without this guidance, the emergency medical support personnel could hinder the operational response of law enforcement, potentially be injured, and be ineffective in assisting victims.

Fire Fighter – HazMat Topic

Test method(s) and/or performance specification for biological field detection instruments

Test methods and/or specifications are needed for instruments intended to detect and identify biological agents, and levels of detection should be included. These instruments are used by responders in the field, but there are no standards for assessing whether the instruments perform as expected.

Following the anthrax attacks in 2001, manufacturers developed several types of field detection instruments. The first generation of equipment fielded to first responders was based on immunoassays which had a limit of detection of about 10 million spores. Newer methods, such as those based on polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technology, are more sensitive with a limit of detection of about 20,000 spores.

Agreed upon test methods are needed to allow responders and purchasing agents to assess the limit of detection of the instruments as well as the probability of false positives and false negatives. The standard should not address recommended guidance for response to a biological incident, as that is a separate need.

End users will be first responders, including HAZMAT, law enforcement, and emergency public health along with their purchasing agents who will make decisions on which equipment to buy.

Cross-discipline (Law Enforcement - Fire Fighter – HazMat – Emergency Services) Topics

Guidance for selection and use of body armor by non-law enforcement responders

A standard guidance document is needed for the selection and use of body armor by non-law enforcement responders.

Firefighters, medics, and other non-law enforcement responders are facing increased exposure to scenes of violence, and, since the early 2000s, many departments have required that ballistic-resistant body armor be worn on emergency calls. For the past 40 years, law enforcement officers have been wearing body armor, and guidance has been provided to them by the National Institute of Justice. The concern for other responders is that the use and wear conditions are different than for law enforcement, requiring specialized guidance on how body armor works, limitations of body armor, levels of protection, threat assessment, use and care, compatibility with other required protective gear, and training. While many articles have been written on this topic, formal guidance document(s) need to be developed by a multi-discipline group of experts within a consensus process.

Those benefiting from having a standard include all non-law enforcement responders and their agency/department leadership.

Guidance for implementation and operation of a public safety small unmanned aerial system (sUAS) program

Many public safety agencies are using small Unmanned Aerial Systems (sUASs) for emergencies, situational awareness, search and rescue, scene documentation, and other situations. Many agencies do not have a written policy for sUAS, and most agencies use a

certificate of authorization (COA), instead of getting a Part 107 certification (see https://www.faa.gov/uas/public_safety_gov/).

Standardized guidance is needed for developing an agency policy for sUAS use; compliance with laws and regulations; restrictions; use procedures; personnel qualifications; and training. While the International Association of Chiefs of Police has published a model policy for law enforcement, it would be beneficial to all responders to have standardized guidance developed within a consensus process by a multi-discipline group of experts, representing all types of public safety agencies.

Guidance for initial first responders at an incident involving chemical or biological agents

A guidance document is needed for initial first responders to an incident involving chemical or biological agents. The chemical agents may be toxic industrial chemicals or materials, chemical warfare agents, or pharmaceuticals. The biological agents may be naturally occurring or potential biothreat agents, pathogens, spores, toxins, or viruses. The guidance should address minimum resources, personnel, and capabilities to perform assigned duties.

The guidance can be modelled along the lines of ASTM E2601-15, *Standard Practice for Radiological Emergency Response* (See <https://www.astm.org/Standards/E2601.htm>), which contains proven useful guidance for responders.

For incidents involving chemical agents:

The Department of Transportation Emergency Response Guide (ERG) is designed for responders to use at a transportation (e.g., highway and rail) incident involving hazardous materials and assists in making defensive decisions during the initial phase of the incident, but it does not provide the specific tactical guidance necessary for response to incidents involving chemical agents. The guidance should address the safety and incident response considerations for the following:

- Determining the feasibility of rescue and recovery operations
- Line-of-sight with ambulatory victims
- Line-of-sight with non-ambulatory victims

FY2019 Standards Development Priorities

- Non-line-of-sight with ambulatory victims
- Non-line-of-sight with non-ambulatory victims
- Rescue operations versus victim recovery
- Decontamination

For incidents involving biological agents:

29 CFR 1910.1030B contains guidance for bloodborne pathogens, but its scope is to provide safe work practices for all occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials that may result from the performance of an employee's duties; it does not provide any guidance for responders in making tactical decisions in an incident involving a biological agent. The guidance document should address the safety and incident response considerations for the following:

- Potential public health emergency
- Known point-source
- Potential area dissemination
- Decontamination

The guidance should provide a systematic process for analyzing the incident, using on-scene indicators to identify any potential hazards (e.g., biological or other), and evaluating potential consequences. It should include an "if this, then that" decision-making strategy and guide the responder to pick the best option based on the facts, science, specific circumstances, and available resources.

Those benefiting from having this type of guidance include all responders, including fire, law enforcement, and EMS.