



## Rescue Task Force Awareness Training



The concept of the Rescue Task Force (RTF) came from the Arlington County (Virginia) Fire Department. Looking at active shooter events around the country, Arlington Fire Department leaders created a model that enables emergency medical services (EMS) to provide emergency medical intervention immediately, while efforts to secure the scene continue.

With a goal to save lives, the Rescue Task Force (RTF) concept focuses on the needs and care of victims, not responders. Known as “warm zone integration,” the RTF consists of EMS and law enforcement personnel who work together to provide immediate basic medical care to victims—EMS members of the RTF work with law enforcement officers, in areas cleared by law enforcement personnel, to deliver immediate medical intervention for readily treatable injuries, such as severe bleeding and airway compromise. The team then stabilizes victims for evacuation to definitive care. The RTF differs from Tactical EMS, which usually focuses on medical care for the responders.

In an effort to encourage implementation of the rescue task force concept in Ohio, the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS) established an ad hoc committee to pursue the development of awareness level training on the concept. The committee, consisting of fire, EMS, and law enforcement personnel completed development of the training in late 2017. The program was converted to a narrated online training module by the Ohio Department of Public Safety in the first quarter of 2018. The goal of the training module is to provide EMS, fire, and law enforcement personnel with an awareness of the RTF concept, and to better understand the need for, and role of an RTF. It is the foundational training that will prepare for additional operational level training required for RTF participation, should local fire, EMS, and law enforcement leaders decide to implement the rescue task force concept in their community.

**All EMS providers are encouraged to login to the Ohio Department of Public Safety Training Campus (PSTC) to view the *Rescue Task Force Awareness Training Module* (Catalog ID WBT906). The Public Safety Training Campus can be accessed via the Division of EMS website or via the following link:**

**<https://trainingcampus.dps.ohio.gov/cm/cm710/pstc/pstc.html>**

**Upon completion of the training module students will receive a certificate of course completion. Students should keep a copy of the certificate in their files, as successful completion will meet future Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) requirements.**

### Future Requirements

In order to ensure all EMS providers are aware of the RTF concept, the EMFTS Board has taken steps to require that all EMS providers receive the Rescue Task Force Awareness training. Effective with changes to the Ohio Administrative Code, planned for later this year, the following will be implemented:

- Rescue Task Force Awareness training will be incorporated into Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) initial training.
- All EMS providers (EMR, EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic) will be required to view the *Rescue Task Force Awareness Training Module*, with successful completion of the training credited toward continuing education (CE) necessary for certificate renewal.

Information on the changes to the EMR and EMT curricula and continuing education requirements will be provided once details have been finalized.

Please contact the Division of EMS at 1-800-233-0785 or 1-614-466-9447 with questions.