

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
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Active Shooter Response Ad Hoc Committee

Executive Summary

March 2017

Mission

The Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) convened an ad hoc committee of first responders, including law enforcement, fire, and EMS, to develop a statewide initiative to promote first responders' readiness and rapid emergency medical care delivery during active shooter incidents¹ in Ohio. The goal is to establish common language, expectations, and strategies to save the most lives with minimum risk to first responders.

Committee Members

The ad hoc committee began meeting monthly in September 2016. Members include representatives of the State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board), the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association, the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association, Ohio Homeland Security, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ohio Association of EMS, the Office of Criminal Justice Services, Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS), Ohio Emergency Management Agency, and other stakeholders. The meetings are open to the public. All are encouraged to attend.

Background

Historically, EMS personnel did not enter scenes of violence until after the scene was secured by law enforcement personnel to limit risk to responders. In active shooter incidents, the complexity in securing the scene can take hours, which has increased preventable deaths and injuries. The paradigm that EMS is adapting nationally is that of first responders engaging earlier and faster in active shooter incidents.

In 2015, the EMFTS Board issued a position paper promoting the rescue task force (RTF) concept. While the RTF model varies in different jurisdictions, in general it involves small teams of EMS and law enforcement personnel entering "warm zones" (not "hot zones" where they would be under direct threat) immediately after or even during an active shooter incident. The goal of the RTF model is to expedite treatment, stabilization, removal from the scene, and transport to the hospital of injured patients. The position paper prompted ODPS Director John Born to assemble this ad hoc committee of first responders who are tasked with supporting local communities statewide with their efforts to develop joint active shooter response plans.

Next Steps

The ad hoc committee is dedicated to encouraging joint planning, training and exercising by law enforcement and EMS personnel at local and regional levels, and to provide information that will help communities develop or enhance their coordinated response plans. The sharing of ideas and identification of best practices will support the ability of every community to improve response capabilities and save lives. The ad hoc committee is in the process of refining these concepts into specific goals, and is seeking input and support from associations representing EMS, fire, and law enforcement stakeholders.

¹ The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) definition includes incidents not involving firearms, counting any attack by "an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area." (<https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-study-2000-2013-1.pdf/view>)

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

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