

WASHTENAW AREA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION



OFFICERS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2023

The Officers Subcommittee met on September 19, 2023. Capt. Foulke presented his recommendations for several updates to the WAMAA – EMS Rescue Task Force Operations (RTF). I have attached the policy, with the recommended changes for your review. We hope to make the recommendation for adoption at the WAMAA meeting in November 2023.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023, at 09:00, at the Ann Arbor Township Fire Station #2, which is located at 4319 Goss Rd. Ann Arbor, MI 48105.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Nicholai

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ATTACHMENT:

- ❖ WAMAA – EMS Rescue Task Force Operations (RTF) Policy – Version 2, Rough Draft

WASHTENAW AREA MUTUAL AID ASSOCIATION POLICY

Reference Number:	104
Subject:	EMS Rescue Task Force Operations (RTF)
Approved Date:	
Effective Date:	
Revision Number:	2 - DRAFT
Signature of Approval:	

WAMAA PRESIDENT - James Rachwal

PURPOSE:

To establish policies and procedures on the use of an EMS Rescue Task Force in Washtenaw County.

DEFINITIONS:

Extraction Team – Police and fire personnel whose sole responsibility is to move casualties from the warm zone exit point to the cold zone. Whenever possible this should consist of 2 fire fighters and 2 police officers.

Rescue Task Force (RTF) - set of crews deployed to provide care to victims where there is an on-going ballistic or explosive threat danger. Teams treat, stabilize, and remove injured while wearing Ballistic Protective Equipment (BPE) in a rapid manner under the protection of law enforcement. Whenever possible an RTF should consist of 3 Fire personnel and 4 Police personnel. RTF response can be deployed to work in, but not limited to, the following:

- Active shooter/killing in a school, business, mall, conference, special event, etc.
- Any other scene with the possibility of an on-going ballistic or explosive threat.
- County RTF assets, or portions of county assets, may be requested to be deployed proactively for major events. These requests shall be made to the WAMAA RTF Coordinator.

Ambulance Exchange Point (AEP)

- Location where an ambulance(s) is sent to pick up extracted casualties.
- Separate from the ambulance staging area (cold zone)
- Tactically secure and guarded (warm zone)
- Easy access/egress for the ambulances

Evacuation Corridor

- A pathway secured by LE for the purpose of accessing and removing victims.
- LE strategically positioned to defend against potential attacks.
- Allows free movement within designated area.
- Consider to aid in movement of casualties to AEP

Casualty Collection Point (CCP)

- Forward location where victims can be assembled for movement from areas of risk.
- Often based on a security concern of police members
- Easier to defend.
- Could be for a safer or more convenient exit.
- Consider multiple victims in a smaller area.
- Must remain guarded by police.

PLANNING / TRAINING:

WAMAA provides initial RTF training, which is the adopted training program for Washtenaw County Fire Departments.

Each Washtenaw County Fire Department shall provide a list of the number of RTF teams they would dispatch to an incident if a countywide RTF activation occurred. An RTF teams is comprised of no less than 3 trained and equipped fire personnel.

GENERAL:

The Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Police Agency will be the lead agency and will establish a Unified Command with AHJ Fire Department to rapidly deploy RTF crews into established zones.

Prior to deploying an RTF crew, threat zones must be identified:

- Hot Zone
 - Area where there is known hazard or life threat that is direct and immediate. An example of this would be any uncontrolled area where the active shooter could directly engage an RTF crew. RTF crews will not be deployed into a Hot Zone.
- Warm Zone
 - Areas that the Police contact team has either cleared or isolated the threat and there is minimal or mitigated risk (also known as the area of indirect threat). This area can be considered clear but not secure. This is where the RTF will deploy to treat and remove victims.

Depending on the size of the incident and location, injured victims may need to be placed

in a Casualty Collection Point (CCP) before transition to the cold zone.

- Cold Zone
 - Areas where there is little or no threat. An area where Fire personnel will stage to triage, treat, and transport victims once removed from the warm zone.
 - Additional information / direction will be found in the approved Washtenaw / Livingston County Medical Control Protocol – Mass Casualty Incidents #10-6.
 - Ambulance exchange point
 - Reunification center / site.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- The law enforcement AHJ talk group is for the contact team and police IC only.
- The initial Interop assigned by Central Fire Dispatch is THE incident talk group. Assume that Central Dispatch will NOT be monitoring additional talk groups.
- Consider a separate Interop for RTF and Extraction crews.
- Consider a separate Interop for staging.
- Building construction features may limit the operational capabilities of the radios. It may be advisable for field units to communicate among themselves on an 8TAC channel vs. the trunked radio system.

OPERATIONS RESPONSE:

- **Initial report of an incident**
- When an incident for a reported mass killing or active shooter incident has occurred, Central Fire dispatcher will prepare to make a countywide request for the Rescue Task Force.
- Central Dispatch will provide continuous updates to responding agencies to assist them in deciding the correct response to an initial assignment. Central Dispatch does have the ability to activate RTF based on developing information being received by Central Fire Dispatch. However, once a member of the fire department arrives, the upgrade(s) shall only be at the direction of the Incident Commander. The responding officer will take updated information into consideration and determine the appropriate level of resources needed to manage the incident.
- **The minimum response of RTF activation includes:**
 - The Fire Department from the AHJ
 - 1 EMS Supervisor
 - Minimum of 3 ALS Transport Units
 - County fire departments RTF resources as identified in the attachment – Washtenaw County Fire Departments – EMS Rescue Task Force – Activation Resources
 - Additional resources that should be considered include:
 - County Sheriff Command Unit
 - HVA command unit

- Additional ambulances
 - Medical helicopters
 - HART
 - Haz-Mat Team
 - Technical Rescue Team
- **Activation of the Countywide RTF:**
 - Central Fire Dispatch, when requested, or when applicable, shall do a Countywide fire department all-call requesting departments to respond with the predetermined RTF resources.
 - Dispatch shall provide the assigned fire service interop talk group.
 - Dispatch information should include information on the designated staging area, and any other pertinent routing information.
- **Responding AHJ agency**
 - Consider the route into the area that offers protection upon arrival.
 - First in units will park in such a manner as to not block access or egress to / from the scene.
 - First arriving unit should identify a staging area for all incoming units. This would include EMS units.
 - Consider an area out of the line of sight of incident, in line of approach to location, or possible predetermined area from pre-plans. Some may consider a staging area one to two blocks away at an intersection.
- **Arrival AHJ agency**
 - First arriving Fire Officer shall establish Unified Command and being sure to coordinate with law enforcement the fire department actions including:
 - Determine the Command Post location.
 - Determine Staging location.
 - Work with law enforcement to identify zones.
 - Creation of primary and secondary RTF and Extraction crews.
 - **RTF crews will not deploy into the warm zone without approval from the Unified Command post.**
 - Prior to RTF crews making entry, the Contact team will be advised of their deployment.
- **Mutual Aid Apparatus**
 - Respond directly to the designated staging area unless advised otherwise. Personnel will equip themselves with the appropriate BPE (ballistic personal equipment) and EMS go bags.

OPERATIONS ENTRY:

- **Prior to Entry**
 - An RTF crew preparing to make entry will conduct a brief meeting with all crew members along with Police and Fire command.

- Entry will be made utilizing the route previously cleared by the Police contact team.
- Briefing will cover the following:
 - The Interop talk group / 8TAC the RTF crew will operate on.
 - Identify the communication leader for the RTF crew.
 - Estimate of casualties and their location given by the contact team.
 - Equipment checks to include treatment bags, radios, ballistic helmet, and vest.
 - Brief overview of the area / building.
- **Making Entry**
 - An RTF crew making entry will stay together at all times using recognized **"T"** formations for entry. **At no time will any member of the RTF separate themselves from the crew.**
 - Keep command aware of the number and location of injured and deceased.
 - Consider the possibility of establishing an interior Casualty Collection Point (CCP).
 - This decision will be in conjunction with Police officers assigned to the RTF and Incident Commander.

OPERATIONS INTERIOR:

- RTF crews will advise all non-injured civilians and ambulatory wounded to exit the building through the route the crew entered.
- If a CCP is established, patients will be moved into the protection of the CCP.

OPERATIONS TREATMENT:

- Treatment will utilize threat-based care.
- The first RTF crew will enter and treat as many patients as possible until they run out of equipment, or all accessible victims have been treated.
- Additional RTF crews may be utilized if the patient count is high or extra equipment is needed.

OPERATIONS EXTRACTION/TRANSPORT

- As soon as operationally possible, extraction crews will be deployed to move patients to the ambulance exchange point **(AEP)**.
 - **The AEP(s) will remain guarded by law enforcement.**
 - **Ambulances will remain in staging until directed to the AEP.**
- Coordination with area hospitals should be the responsibility of the EMS Unified Command representative

DEMOBILIZATION

- Collection of equipment.
- Conduct an on-scene debriefing to include all fire personnel that operated at the

incident.

POST INCIDENT

- Create an after-action report.
- Set up times for critical incident stress debriefings with all responders.

ATTACHEMENTS:

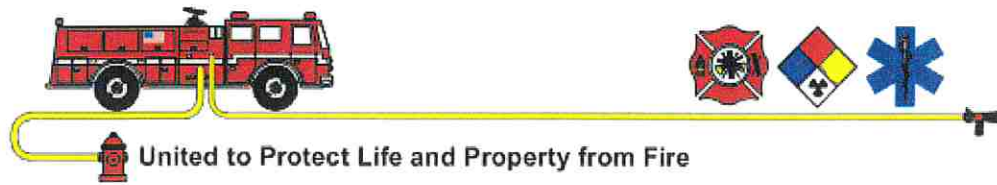
- Attachment A WAMAA RTF Standardized BPE / Equipment Listing
- Attachment B WAMAA RTF Activation Resources by Department



WASHTENAW COUNTY EMS RESCUE TASK FORCE - ACTIVATION RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT	RESOURCE for MA	TOTAL DEPT. EQUIPMENT	TRAINED MEMBERS
Ann Arbor City Fire	2 RTF	17 Sets of BPE	50 Trained
Ann Arbor Township Fire	1 RTF + 1 Supervisor	6 Sets of BPE	14 Trained
Augusta Township Fire	1 RTF	4 Sets of BPE	6 Trained
Chelsea Fire	1 RTF	2 Sets of BPE	10 Trained
Dexter Area Fire	1 RTF + 1 Supervisor	3 Sets of BPE	20 Trained
Manchester Township Fire	1 RTF	3 Sets of BPE	15 Trained
Milan Area Fire	1 RTF	4 Sets of BPE	10 Trained
Northfield Township Fire	1 RTF - Equipped In ~ October 2023	5 Sets of BPE	12 Trained
Pittsfield Township Fire	2 RTF	6 Sets of BPE	22 Trained
Salem Fire	1 RTF	6 Sets of BPE	20 Trained
Saline Fire	2 RTF	6 Sets of BPE	8 Trained
Scio Fire	1 RTF + 1 Supervisor	4 Sets of BPE	16 Trained
Superior Township Fire	1 RTF	12 Sets of BPE	12 Trained
Ypsilanti City Fire	1 RTF	7 Sets of BPE	18 Trained
Ypsilanti Township Fire	1 RTF	7 Sets of BPE	24 Trained
Belleville City Fire	0	Purchasing in Future	
Clinton Fire			
Green Oak Township Fire			
Hamburg Township Fire			
Putnam Township Fire			
South Lyon City Fire			
Sumpter Township Fire			
Van Buren Township Fire			

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RESCUE TASK FORCE STANDARDIZED BPE AND EQUIPMENT LIST

An EMS Rescue Task Force is comprised of a trained 3-person team. The equipment required for deployment is:

Body Armor (3 Complete sets for each RTF Team)

Vendor – AR500 Armor

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY PER MEMBER
Testudo-Carrier-CY	Testudo Plate Carrier (Color: Coyote)	1
10123 + CBFLW	Level III + Lightweight 10" x 12" Plate FULL Multi-Curve, Build Up Coat	2
06083 + FS	Level III + 6" x 8" Plate Base Coat	2
	FIRE ID Patch*	2

*Optional Customized Department ID Patch

Vendor - Copquest.

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY PER MEMBER
05-1321	Custom ID / Sleeve Patches - 6x2 – Hook Backing Coyote Back / Two Lines / Black Letters Top Line: DEPARTMENT NAME Bottom Line: FIRE-RESCUE	2

Ballistic Helmet Vendor (3 Helmets for each RTF Team)

Vendor - North American Rescue

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY PER MEMBER
70-0083	Helmet, Batlskin Viper A5 w' MSS (Color: Black)	1

Chest Stocked Chest Packs (3 Complete sets for each RTF Team)

Vendor - North American Rescue

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY PER MEMBER
85-1568	COMPLETE KIT WITH ALL CONTENTS	1
REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT NUMBERS / QUANTITY OF ITEMS IN KIT		
30-0003	GAUZE, S-ROLLED - 4.5" x 4.1yd	2
ZZ-0034	KIT, NASOPHARYNGEAL AIRWAY w' LUBE - 28F	2
80-0169	BAG, NAR-4 CHEST POUCH - BLK	1
ZZ-0121	LUMINOUS ID PATCH - MED (Pk of 2)	1
ZZ-0106	KIT, HEADLAMP – NAR	1
ZZ-0063	SHEARS, TRAUMA (LRG) - 7 1/4"	1
ZZ-0359	MARKER, PERMANENT - BLK, LARGE	2
ZZ-0282	KIT, GLOVE SAND BEAR CLAW NITRILE - LARGE	3
70-0005	LEASH, TRAUMA SHEAR – BLK	1
30-0001	TOURNIQUET, COMBAT APPLICATION - BLK	2
10-0037	DRESSING, CHEST SEAL - HYFIN (VENTED) TWIN PACK	1
30-0168	DRESSING, RESPONDER EMERGENCY TRAUMA - 6" (S)	2

Resupply (1 Complete Bag for each RTF Team)

ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY PER TEAM
85-1567	Complete Kit with all Contents	1
REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT NUMBERS / QUANTITY OF ITEMS IN KIT		
30-0003	GAUZE, S-ROLLED - 4.5" x 4.1yd	6
30-0057	TOURNIQUET HOLDER - BLK	6
ZZ-0830	CUTTER, SEAT BELT - EMI LIFESAVER PLUS	2
80-0395	BAG, RAPID RESPONSE - BLK	1
ZZ-0063	SHEARS, TRAUMA (LRG) - 7 1/4"	1
ZZ-0359	MARKER, PERMANENT - BLK, LARGE	2
ZZ-0282	KIT, GLOVE SAND BEAR CLAW NITRILE - LARGE	3
30-0023	TOURNIQUET, COMBAT APPLICATION - ORG	6
10-0037	DRESSING, CHEST SEAL - HYFIN (VENTED) TWIN PACK	6
30-0168	DRESSING, RESPONDER EMERGENCY TRAUMA - 6" (S)	6

VENDOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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