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## ACTIVE SHOOTER/HOSTILE EVENT RESPONSE

### SCOPE

This guideline shall apply to all members of the Stoney Point Fire Department and shall be adhered to by all members.

### PURPOSE

To establish the procedures for response to and operations at an active shooter/hostile event by members of Stoney Point Fire Department.

### DEFINITIONS

**Active Shooter** - One or more individuals actively engaged in harming, killing, or attempting to kill people in a populated area by the use of firearm

**Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response** – (ASHER) response to an incident involving one or more individuals who are or have been actively engaged in harming, killing, or attempting to kill people in a populated area by means such as firearms, explosives, toxic substances, vehicles, edged weapons, fire, or a combination thereof

**Casualty** – person that is injured or killed because of an accident

**Casualty Collection Point** - temporary location used for the gathering, threat-based care, subsequent medical care, and evacuation of nearby casualties

**Guideline** - a general rule, principle, outline of a policy

**Member** – any career, volunteer, staff, and auxiliary personnel affiliated with the department

**Rescue Task Force** – tactical team assembled from available Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS personnel to provide lifesaving treatment and evacuation during active shooter/hostile events response (typically 2 LEO and 2 Firefighters)

**Shall** - indicates a mandatory requirement

**Triage** - continuous process of determining the priority of casualty based upon the severity of their condition and resources available

### GUIDELINES

Stoney Point Fire Department is an all-hazards emergency response organization. Active Shooter/Hostile Events are a possibility in every jurisdiction, including the Stoney Point Fire District. There are many potential targets for an active shooter within the district, to include schools, day care and nursing facilities, churches, and shopping venues. It is imperative for all operational members to be prepared for a response to an active shooter or other hostile event. Body armor, helmets and trauma kits have been assigned to the first out Engine at both Stations and to Rescue 13.

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### **Incident Command at Active Shooter/Hostile Events**

The Incident Command System shall be utilized at all incidents that Stoney Point Fire Department personnel respond to, including Active Shooter or Hostile Events. A Unified Command shall be established with representatives of Law Enforcement, Stoney Point Fire Department, and Cumberland County Emergency Medical Services to ensure a coordinated effort. This shall include the following:

- Unified Command Post (Fire, Law, EMS, specialized representatives)
- Incident Safety Officer(s)
- Public Information Officer (Joint Information Center)
- Liaisons (representatives from specialized organizations or entities)
- General Staff
  - Operations Section
    - Law Enforcement Branch
      - Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
      - Fayetteville Police Department
      - Hope Mills Police Department
    - Fire/Rescue Branch
      - Stoney Point Fire Department
      - Fayetteville Fire Department
      - Hope Mills Fire Department
    - Medical Branch
      - Triage
      - Treatment
      - Transport
  - Planning Section
  - Logistics Section
  - Finance/Administration Section

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## Response

Upon dispatch to an Active Shooter/Hostile Event, the appropriate apparatus shall be placed enroute to the incident. For both Stations this shall be the first out Engine, and Rescue 13 from Station 13. A staging location shall be designated near the incident as directed by the initial Law Enforcement Incident Commander. The apparatus shall respond emergency traffic to the staging area and notify the appropriate dispatch center that they are staging and the location. Stoney Point Fire Department personnel shall remain with their assigned apparatus and don the appropriate personal protective equipment, to include body armor, helmet, eye protection and gloves, and secure the trauma kits. However, it is important to remember that Stoney Point Fire Department units may be assigned traditional Fire Service tasks such as fire suppression, hazardous materials operations, ventilation, forcible entry, or rescue operations.

## Tactical Emergency Casualty Care

Providing emergency care to casualties within an active shooter or hostile event is a specialized skillset. Only Firefighters trained in emergency medical care shall be assigned to Rescue Task Forces. This shall ensure that all personnel entering the warm zone to conduct operations are capable of the tasks to be performed. Fire/EMS members of the Rescue Task Force shall understand, be trained in, and rehearsed on indirect threat care and operations. This includes:

- Proper wear and usage of personal protective equipment
  - body armor
  - helmet
  - eye protection
  - gloves
- Proper movement and communications within a Rescue Task Force
- Triage and movement of casualties to covered positions for treatment
- Indirect Threat care
  - open airway (head tilt, jaw thrust)
  - hemorrhage control (tourniquet, pressure dressing, occlusive dressing, etc)
- Evacuation
  - carrying techniques
  - drag techniques and equipment

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### Rescue Task Force Operations

Stoney Point Fire Department personnel shall be assigned tactical assignments from Unified Command as needed. Most probably Firefighters from Stoney Point Fire Department and others will be assigned to Rescue Task Forces.

- Rescue Task Forces are comprised of at least 2 law enforcement officers for security and 2 Firefighter/EMTs to triage, treat and evacuate casualties
- Rescue Task Forces shall be numbered and remain together until released by the Rescue Officer or Unified Command
- Rescue Task Forces operate only in the cleared areas of the incident
- Rescue Task Forces move as a team under the direction of the law enforcement officers, identify and mark casualties and victims as they encounter them
  - rapid triage is performed
    - deceased victims are marked with the “Angel” position, being face up with legs crossed and arms crossed above the head
    - walking wounded are given directions
  - casualties are moved to cover with law enforcement providing security
  - airways are opened, and secured if possible (NO CPR)
  - major hemorrhaging is stopped utilizing tourniquets, gauze, and pressure dressings
  - Casualty Collection Points are established
    - secure location to conduct treatment
    - triage and prepare casualties for evacuation
- Rescue Task Force evacuates casualties to the Treatment Area
  - higher level of care
  - preparation for transport to a medical facility

The Rescue Task Force maintains communication with Operations or Rescue Group as assigned to account for casualties, identify hazards and threats, establish Casualty Collection Points and request assistance.

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## Programs

## Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG)

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### References

NFPA 3000

First responder guide for improving survivability in improvised explosive device and/or active shooter incidents (Department of Homeland Security)

White paper for the integrated public safety response to the active shooter/active assailant (State of North Carolina)

Active Violence Incident Joint Response Plan (Cumberland County)

Active shooter incidents: The rescue task force concept (Domestic Preparedness)

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