**Purpose:** To establish minimum requirements for the Interagency Deployment of Law Enforcement (LE) and Fire/EMS Departments in the Metro Boston area for Response to Active Shooter and all Hostile Event Mass Casualty Incidents, which include Improvised Explosive Devices (IED’s) and other acts of terror and violence that result in numerous victims requiring hemorrhage control.

**Objective:** This document is intended to provide baseline *minimum standards* for public safety departments across the Metro Boston area to aid in interoperability via the use of common procedures, terminology and tactics. It is not intended to provide all operational considerations. Departments are encouraged to develop local policies and procedures to enhance the integrated response required to mitigate these dynamic incidents.

**Acknowledgements:**

1. Agencies should develop guidelines in accordance with the DHS First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in Improvised Explosive Device and/or Active Shooter Incidents[[1]](#footnote-1), Improving Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response[[2]](#footnote-2), NFPA 3000, along with the latest updates and revisions associated with this topic as disseminated.
2. LE and Fire/ EMS agree that traditional practices of first responders need to be realigned and enhanced, with an emphasis on early hemorrhage control and a more integrated response.
3. The **“THREAT”** model shall be the standard UNIFIED COMMAND strategy**:** **T**hreat Suppression; **H**emorrhage Control; **R**apid **E**xtrication of victims; **A**ssessment by EMS; and **T**ransport.
4. LE and Fire/ EMS Departments shall provide the following:
5. Awareness level training on the following ASHER concepts and terminology: UNIFIED COMMAND, Threat Suppression, Rescue Task Forces (RTF’s), Force Protection, Warm Zone Entries, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) and Hemorrhage Control
6. Interagency training in the deployment of Rescue Task Force’s for “Warm Zone Entries” with “Force Protection” (FP)
7. Senior officer interagency training in the establishment and use of UNIFIED COMMAND
8. Annual refresher training
9. LE and Fire/EMS Departments shall endeavor to provide the proper personal protective equipment including but not limited to ballistic vests, helmets and eyewear.
10. LE agencies will ensure all officers are trained on initial Contact Team Threat Suppression engagement tactics and strategies, and Force Protection deployment.
11. Fire/ EMS agencies will ensure that all members are trained in Hemorrhage Control as part of the First Responder’s basic skillset and Rescue Task Force deployment.

**Incident Management Objectives:**

1. Local LE and Fire/EMS shall establish a UNIFIED COMMAND upon arrival in accordance with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), with a priority on the following objectives:
2. Establishment of Hot (Direct Threat), Warm (Potential Threat – Cleared by LE but not secured) and Cold (No Significant Danger) Zones
3. Primary Law Enforcement Objective: Threat Suppression
4. Primary Fire/EMS Objective: Hemorrhage Control with FP, Extrication and Transport
5. Assemble an adequate amount of resources/ Expand ICS as needed
6. Identify an Evacuation Corridor
7. Establish a Casualty Collection Point (CCP)/ or multiple CCP’s as needed
8. Establish a Fire Control Group if the element of fire is introduced

1. Due to the complexity of the inter-agency response, LE will use a separate channel to coordinate Threat Suppression and Fire/EMS will utilize a separate channel to coordinate the Rescue Task Force’s Tactical Emergency Casualty Care deployment. An inter-agency hailing channel should be provided if necessary.

**Operational Guidelines:**

1. LE will pursue the Shooter(s) to neutralize the threat, typically not stopping to provide aid to victims, while providing updates to UNIFIED COMMAND on the location of the active threat and known groups of victims. It is imperative for LE to report when the threat is most probably contained or eliminated.
2. Fire/EMS will stage on site utilizing protective cover of apparatus or other substantial objects, gather Hemorrhage Control/TECC equipment, assemble and stage Rescue Task Forces, standing ready for deployment in the Warm Zones with Force Protection by LE as directed by UNIFIED COMMAND.
3. UNIFIED COMMAND will deploy Rescue Task Forces (RTF’s) for entry into WARM ZONES under armed Force Protection from LE as reasonable based upon current incident intelligence.
4. RTF’s will administer TECC point-of-wound gross hemorrhage control and rapid extrication through the evacuation corridor to the CCP; and, EMS shall conduct Triage, Treatment and Transport from the CCP to definitive care.
5. UNIFIED COMMAND shall continue to manage the Recovery Phase until all victims, personnel, investigative and all other applicable on scene issues are resolved.

**We, the following signatories, acknowledge the foregoing provisions of this MOU as the mutually agreed upon framework to standardize all Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response (ASHER):**

**Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Chief of Fire Department Chief of Police Department**

**Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_**

1. First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in IED and/or Active shooter Incidents/ DHS June 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Improving Active Shooter/ Hostile Event Response/ Best Practices from Interagency Board September 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)