

## Incident information

- Confirm and communicate the involvement, number and severity of any casualties (persons or animals)
- Question the casualty, other responders and witnesses to understand incident factors and history
- Anticipate casualty condition and potential survivability given the environmental situation
- Establish the last known position (LKP) or place last seen (PLS) of casualties, including times
- Identify the casualty's level of consciousness and offer reassurance where possible

### • Further resource information

- Consider requesting hazardous area response teams (HART), Special Operations Response Team (SORT) or equivalent for bariatric rescue bariatric rescue
- Consider requesting specialist fire and rescue service technical rescue teams for bariatric rescues
- Request the attendance of specialist bariatric medical support teams and ambulances
- Consider requesting specialist resources for detection, identification and monitoring (DIM)

## Resource information

- Request adequate resources to enable effective search and timely extrication of casualties
- Consider requesting specialist appliances and resources to reduce risk and demand on deployed resources
- Request medical support at rescue incidents as soon as a need is identified
- Confirm that required agencies have been requested or notified (e.g. Police, Ambulance, environmental agencies)
- Request attendance of heavy or specialist rescue equipment (consider other agencies and USAR)

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## Risk information

### • Working environment

- Consider isolating sources of noise
- Identify and isolate personal medical equipment that presents a risk to responders
- Avoid handling sharps if possible and take precautions when it is necessary to handle sharps
- Consider the risk from oxygen enrichment when using tools, equipment or defibrillators
- Provide lighting to illuminate hazards to personnel in poorly lit environments
- Consider establishing an equipment, tool, debris or personnel areas
- Evaluate a range of options that avoid committing personnel to work in a confined space

### • Restricted access and egress

- Establish safe access and egress routes to machine rooms and shafts
- Establish, identify and communicate safe traffic routes, establish clear zones and equipment points
- Define routes using physical barriers and clearly illuminate where there is reduced visibility
- Consider the effects of geography on equipment logistics, casualties and crew welfare
- Be aware of security systems and devices which could potentially isolate personnel in risk areas

## • Unstable structure

- Assess and continuously monitor the structure for signs of collapse
- Consider the risk of structural failure at bariatric rescues and request specialist advice or USAR team
- Request specialist advice prior to creating new or wider openings in existing structural elements
- Consider requesting advice on structural integrity from local authority building control teams or USAR Tac Ad
- Consider requesting specialist tactical advice and resources for shoring

## • Confined space

- Ensure that no person shall enter a confined space unless it is not reasonably practicable to achieve without such entry
- Identify the location of suitable access and egress routes before committing crews to a confined space
- Consider implementing a tag line system to assist in tracing and locating personnel working in confined spaces
- Establish a recovery system for personnel deployed into confined space environments and ensure it is in place at all times
- Ensure that emergency arrangements are maintained and resourced for the duration of the incident

## • Electricity

- Isolate any utilities that may affect the incident or crew safety, and secure against reconnection
- Implement high-voltage safe system of work if a yellow 'danger of death' sign present
- Consider isolating the power supplies, considering the impact on any critical systems
- Request and record permission from the designated competent person (authorised person or senior authorised person) before commencing fire and rescue service activities near high-voltage equipment

- Identify, implement and manage safety distances for power sources that cannot be isolated
- Take precautions when carrying metal ladders or other operational equipment; these should be carried horizontally and as low to the ground as possible
- Consider the appropriate use of electrical gloves, in line with service procedures

## • Machinery

- Liaise with the responsible person or process expert to obtain specialist advice on machinery involved
- Liaise with the owner or occupier, on-site engineers or maintenance engineers regarding power systems
- Consider Isolating power supplies to on-site machinery
- Prevent the uncontrolled movement of machinery through shoring, chocking or similar means
- Only competent persons should be used to operate site machinery

## • Unguarded edges

- Use any work equipment or safety device provided in accordance with training and instructions
- Select the most appropriate work at height equipment for the activities and hazards identified
- Ensure that work at height operating systems include an appropriate degree of redundancy
- Ensure that competent personnel assess and monitor the suitability of the structure for working in the hazard area
- Monitor personnel for signs of stress, anxiety, vertigo or dizziness while working at height
- Use ladders for short duration tasks and request other equipment (e.g. aerial appliance) for other activities

## Rescue tools

- Consider extrication methods which do not require the use of tools or equipment
- Select the appropriate rescue tool considering the condition of the casualty, extrication plan and materials
- Provide hard and soft protection between the tool and the casualties, operators and other responders
- Consider positioning a safety officer to monitor rescue tool operation
- Monitor rescue tool performance for indicators of unidentified materials
- Consider rotating crews involved in the use of rescue tools to reduce fatigue, exposure to noise and vibration
- Ensure all personnel wear PPE according to service risk assessment and procedures for rescue incidents

## • Heavy and bulky objects

- Consider using machinery or other equipment to assist with manual handling risk
- Request additional or specialist resources to assist with manual handling tasks
- Consider the task, individual capabilities, load and environment (TILE) when carrying out risk assessments for manual handling
- Ensure personnel adopt the provided safe system of manual handling
- Consider task rotation when personnel are carrying out manual handling tasks

## • Animals

- Identify and communicate the presence of animals, and any associated hazards, to emergency responders and the public
- Avoid, contain or control animals if necessary
- Request support with managing animals from owners, keepers, police, vets or welfare organisations

## • Bodily fluids

- Avoid contact with body fluids where possible
- Wear body fluid gloves and cover broken skin with waterproof dressing
- Isolate or cover body fluids following casualty removal
- Instigate decontamination procedures following exposure of personnel and equipment to body fluids

## • Hazardous materials

- Identify and contact the responsible person to understand incident factors and history
- Identify any hazardous materials signage and other indicators as part of scene survey
- Identify whether the incident should be reclassified as a hazardous materials response
- Consider the risk from oxygen enrichment when using tools, equipment or defibrillators
- Carry out testing and monitoring of the atmosphere and use the results to inform the incident plan
- Comply with hygiene arrangements and don't eat, drink or smoke

## Powers, policies and procedures

- Restrict the access of persons to premises or a place if they reasonably believe an emergency to have occurred

## • Further powers, policies and procedures

- Enter premises or a place, by force if necessary, without the consent of the owner or occupier of the premises:
  - if they reasonably believe an emergency to have occurred
  - if they reasonably believe a fire to have broken out or to be about to break out
  - for the purpose of extinguishing or preventing the fire or protecting life or property
  - **NB** Does not apply to Crown property (including ministry of defence) and diplomatic or consular premises
  - **NB** The Master of the ship (or delegated officer) of a merchant vessel must give permission to board

## Objectives

- Maintain the safety of all personnel, other responders and the public
- Save life and reduce harm
- Provide medical care and release trapped casualties
- **Further objectives**
  - Promote community recovery and restore normal operations
  - Minimise the impact of the incident and fire service actions on any identified environmental risk

## Tactical priorities

- Establish a safe working environment for fire crews and other responders
- Identify the number of casualties requiring medical attention and instigate a triage process
- Anticipate casualty condition and potential survivability given the environmental situation
- Develop a plan based on Locate, Access, Stabilise, Transport (LAST) principles
- Develop and communicate immediate release, emergency and full extrication plans
- **Further operational tactics**
  - Check casualty for presence of medical ID, jewellery and other indicators of pre-existing conditions
  - Protect casualties from environmental exposure to reduce risk of hypothermia or hyperthermia
  - Establish emergency arrangements appropriate to the size and complexity of the incident
  - Stay 1 metre from live parts of the system when performing a rescue of person in contact with live electricity

- Stabilise an impaled casualty by immobilising injured area and stemming any blood loss

## Operational tactics

- Make a safe approach to the casualty and maintain a safe environment for all involved
- Identify the casualty's level of consciousness and offer reassurance where possible
- Protect casualties by physically isolating them from immediate harm where possible
- Request specialist medical advice prior to attempting to move casualty unless injuries are immediately life threatening
- Consider benefits to casualty of immediate extrication or medical attention in-situ
- Stabilise life threatening injuries or conditions and maintain casualty care throughout incident
- Select the appropriate rescue tool considering the condition of the casualty, extrication plan and materials
- Implement appropriate space creation techniques in line with the casualty extrication plan
- Extricate the casualty considering their injuries and overall threat to life

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## Communication

- Ensure that everyone on the incident ground is fully briefed on the current hazards, specific risks and control measures including other agencies and organisations
- Share situational awareness and establish a joint understanding of risk with other agencies
- Provide a structured handover when transferring casualty to medical responders

## • **Further communication**

- Establish effective communications with other emergency services and relevant people as soon as possible
- Use intrinsically safe radio equipment in atmospheres where there is a risk of fire or explosion

## **Control**

- Co-ordinate the simultaneous activities of extrication teams and tool operators
- Appoint competent safety officers to monitor specific hazards or activities

## • **Further control information**

- Commit only minimum number of essential personnel to hazard area
- Consider task rotation when personnel are carrying out manual handling tasks
- Instigate the completion of an analytical risk assessment and record significant findings
- Communicate findings of analytical risk assessment to all personnel and other agencies

## **Incident closure and handover**

- Ensure that hazards and risk controls are identified when handing over safety to the responsible person
- Secure the scene to ensure evidence is preserved for internal and external investigations

## • **Further incident and closure information**

- Conduct a debrief at a level appropriate to the size and/or complexity of the incident
- Record and share significant findings from incidents and investigations to inform future practice

