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“Joint Public Safety Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon”

*****Officers throw a flash bang into a house with a barricaded subject. The house catches fire. SWAT is unable to effect firefighting operations and the perpetrators dies inside with witnesses hearing audible screams for help from the perpetrator.*****

*****A husband takes his wife and two children hostage. During the course of negotiations, the perpetrator pours gasoline in the house and lights the house on fire with everyone inside. The house burns down, killing the perpetrator and the three hostages.*****

*****Officers serve a warrant on a suspected narcotics dealer. Upon making entry, the perpetrator ignites the gasoline-soaked carpet. Officers are trapped and receive severe burns trying to evacuate.*****

*****Two terrorists are held up on the fourth floor of an eight floor building. They have lit several fires on the fifth floor. There are multiple hostages trapped on floors five and above quickly dying from the smoke and heat. The terrorists then take up barricade positions to attack responding officers.*****

Fire is one of the oldest weapons known to man. However, after thousands of years there is still a struggle to manage fire when used as a weapon. The class *“Joint Public Safety Tactical Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon”* was developed to train law enforcement and firefighting personnel how to operate when fire is either intentionally or unintentionally introduced during law enforcement operations. This course focuses on events in which there is both an armed perpetrator and a simultaneous fire.

The use of fire as a weapon adds to the complexity and lethality of any hostile incident. Not only do officers have to deal with the dangers normally associated with tactical entries and building sweeps, but fires quickly make the situation much more complex and dangerous for victims and responders. Fire growth and fire spread times do not allow for a long decision-making process; requiring law enforcement to have contingency plans in place before the first sign of smoke or fire.

Attacks such as the complex coordinated attacks in Mumbai, India (2008) demonstrated that criminals are willing to use fire as a weapon to increase the victim count. Many people fail to realize that United States law enforcement have experienced many incidents where fire is used as a weapon. Incidents involving barricaded suspects, attacks on responders, and warrant services have resulted in injuries and deaths from the fire. Notable incidents have occurred in Philadelphia; San Diego; Webster, New York; Siloam Springs, Arkansas; Oregon City, Oregon; Fayetteville, North Carolina; and Cowpens, South Carolina.

There is an average of one event per week in the United States where fire-as-a-weapon is used in conjunction with a ballistic or explosive attack. In one third of the last 100 thwarted school shooting attacks, the perpetrators had improvised incendiary devices or improvised explosive devices. National and international intelligence analysts recognize the increasing use of fire-as-a-weapon in both criminal and terrorist attacks.

In 2012, al-Qaeda's monthly jihadist terror publication Inspire Magazine dedicated the Winter 2012 edition to fire-as-a-weapon. The article called for Western jihadist to use fire to target first responders, destroy property, and cause panic in the community. In 2016, ISIS published an article in their monthly jihadist training publication Rumiya. The article was entitled, "Just Terror Tactics" and stated that the new ISIS terror weapon is fire. The article encouraged anyone wishing to join the jihad campaign to use fire-as-a-weapon as their primary method of attack. Since 2012, the FBI has arrested multiple al-Qaeda and ISIS sympathizers who were planned complex fire-as-a-weapon attacks in the United States.

Threat Suppression was the first company in the world to offer training on law enforcement response to fire-as-a-weapon events. This course is firmly grounded in several years of research, including numerous live structural burns with SWAT teams. Threat Suppression has trained numerous SWAT teams from the FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshals, and multiple local/state SWAT teams.

In this four-hour lecture course, participants will learn about the history of fire-as-a-weapon in combat, at terrorism events, and during criminal activities. The participants will review multiple case studies of fire-as-a-weapon events. This course will cover the "ABC²" fire-as-a-weapon events. This includes (A) ambush, (B) barricade events, (C) civil unrest, and (C) complex-coordinated attacks. Participants will then learn about considerations in their community when addressing integrated police/fire response to these events.

The second part of the lecture focuses on tactics at these events. These tactics were developed using years of research and conducting multiple structural burns with local, state, and federal SWAT teams. Participants will discuss a "basic" fire-as-a-weapon event, a "moderately complex" fire-as-a-weapon event, and a "complex" fire-as-a-weapon event. Participants will discuss "go" versus "no-go" fires and have the opportunity to make these decisions with case studies. Participants will learn specific tactics for SWAT operators to use when effecting hostage rescues in a fire-as-a-weapon event.

Participants will also learn how to use armored vehicles as a protected firefighting area, including deploying and moving hose with armored vehicles. Participants will also discuss the various types of equipment available for us at these events. Last, participants will have a fire-as-a-weapon simulated event that they must analyze to effectively mitigate the event.

Our courses:

- One-day “hands-on” class, *“Patrol Officer Introduction to Fire-as-a-Weapon Events”*
- Two-day “hands-on” class, *“Tactical Operator Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon Events”*
- Two-day “hands-on” class, *“Managing Fire-as-a-Weapon in Large-Scale Civil Unrest Events”*

For more information on these courses, please email info@ThreatSuppression.com