



THREAT SUPPRESSION, INCORPORATED

THREAT SUPPRESSION®

Corporate Headquarters: 525 North Tryon Street, Suite 1600 | Charlotte, NC 28202 | USA

Corporate Mailing Address: Post Office Box 57 | Fort Mill, SC 29715 | USA

Phone: 800.231.9106 **Web:** www.ThreatSuppression.com **E-Mail:** info@ThreatSuppression.com

Joint Public Safety Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon: The ABC²s

Executive Summary:

The Joint Public Safety Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon lecture gives law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, and command personnel a common foundation for incidents in which smoke or fire is introduced during a hostile event. The lecture addresses fire behavior, smoke recognition, blocked egress, denied responder access, trapped occupants, command priorities, and the coordination required to protect responders and victims. Delivered virtually or in person, the lecture provides a scalable starting point for agencies that want shared doctrine and decision-making before adding practical training.

THE CHALLENGE: Many law enforcement agencies and fire departments have not planned or trained for fire-as-a-weapon event, despite these events occurring almost daily in the United States. Most agencies train for fires and hostile incidents separately. This training creates a common operating picture before an agency commits to live-fire facilities, specialized equipment, or complex practical exercises.

Course Overview:

Length	Two- or four-hour lecture, delivered virtually or in person.
Format	Lecture, discussion, case studies, fire-behavior instruction, and joint-response analysis. No live fire or practical stations are included.
Audience	Law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, emergency management, command staff, and public-safety partners.
Class Size	Host-specific and scalable. Final limits depend on the delivery platform, room, and desired level of participant interaction.
Prerequisites	No prior fire or tactical qualification is required. Participants should attend with an understanding of their agency's basic emergency-response responsibilities.
Cost	Customized quote based on delivery method, scope, participant count, travel, and lodging. This course is typically combined with the " <u>Joint Public Safety Response to the Active Assailant</u> " course and " <u>Active Assailant Command and Control: Beyond the 60 Minutes.</u> "

What Participants Will Learn:

Why Fire-as-a-Weapon Requires Joint Training

Fire-as-a-weapon is not simply a structure fire that occurs during a police operation. It is a hostile event in which smoke or fire is introduced to increase complexity, deny entry, block escape routes, trap occupants, attack responders, or increase lethality. The lecture gives law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, and command personnel a shared understanding of how fire changes movement, access, survivability, and operational priorities.

Research, History, and the ABC2 Framework

The course is grounded in acquired-structure burns, commercial burn-building exercises, live-fire training, and repeated joint operations with law enforcement and fire personnel. Participants examine notable fire-as-a-weapon events and the lessons they provide for command, access, egress, responder safety, and victim rescue. The program also uses the ABC2 framework developed by Threat Suppression in 2013: Ambush, Barricade, Civil Unrest, and Complex Coordinated Attacks. Each category creates a different operational problem and requires coordination among law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, command staff, and supporting agencies.

Case Studies and Operational Lessons

The lecture uses case studies from the United States and abroad to show how fire changes a hostile event. Examples include the 1982 Detroit high-rise attack, the 2013 Hialeah apartment fires and barricade, the 2019 Cincinnati apartment fire during a standoff, the 2020 Seattle hostage rescue in smoke and fire, the 2020 Honolulu barricade and neighborhood fire, and the 2008 complex coordinated attacks in Mumbai. The cases examine ignition, fire growth, blocked egress, attacks on responding personnel, evacuation, hostage rescue, property loss, and the consequences of delayed or uncoordinated decisions.

Fire Behavior and Tactical Operations

Participants learn to recognize basic fire behavior and smoke indicators, understand how fire growth and ventilation affect the interior environment, and identify conditions that threaten occupants and responders. The lecture introduces the four phases of fire as used in the course and explains how each phase affects survivability, movement, and tactical options. It also addresses basic ways responders can limit the spread of fire and its byproducts while waiting for or coordinating fire-department support. The lecture does not qualify participants to perform structural firefighting or replace agency-specific fire, EMS, or tactical training. Its purpose is to improve recognition, communication, decision-making, and the timely integration of the resources that a hostile fire event requires.

Tactical Decision-Making and Simulated Analysis

Participants compare basic, moderately complex, and complex fire-as-a-weapon events and use case studies to examine go or no-go decisions. The discussion considers fire conditions, threat activity, building construction, occupant information, available suppression support, and the time required to establish a coordinated response. It introduces SWAT hostage-rescue considerations, the use of an armored vehicle as a protected firefighting position, hose movement with armored vehicles, and the coordination of breaching, ventilation, entry, and rescue teams. A facilitated simulated event requires participants to analyze changing conditions, communicate priorities, identify resource needs, and recognize when the incident must transition to a more capable joint response.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of the selected program, participants will be able to:

1. Define fire-as-a-weapon events and distinguish them from conventional structure fires and ordinary tactical incidents.
2. Describe how perpetrators may use smoke and fire to increase complexity, deny entry, block egress, trap occupants, and attack responders.
3. Explain the ABC² framework: Ambush, Barricade, Civil Unrest, and Complex Coordinated Attacks.
4. Describe the history and operational lessons of significant fire-as-a-weapon events.
5. Recognize basic fire behavior and smoke indicators that affect responder and occupant survivability.
6. Identify how fire growth, smoke movement, ventilation, water application, and building construction affect tactical decisions.
7. Explain the respective responsibilities and limitations of law enforcement, fire, EMS, dispatch, and command personnel during a joint response.
8. Describe how blocked egress, denied access, and changing fire conditions can alter rescue and entry priorities.
9. Identify the information that should be communicated when requesting fire-department resources during a hostile fire event.
10. Explain why law enforcement and fire personnel must establish shared priorities before attempting entry, rescue, or suppression support.
11. Apply fire-as-a-weapon concepts to residential, commercial, high-rise, vehicle, barricade, and civil-unrest incidents.
12. Identify the knowledge, equipment, facility, and staffing requirements that apply when an agency transitions from lecture to practical training.
13. Describe the four phases of fire used in the course and explain how fire growth, smoke, and ventilation affect survivability and tactical options.
14. Apply a go or no-go decision framework to case studies involving fire conditions, hostile threats, occupants, access, and available resources.
15. Explain tactical considerations for hostage rescue, armored-vehicle support, hose movement, breaching, ventilation, entry, and rescue coordination.
16. Analyze a simulated fire-as-a-weapon event and communicate operational priorities, resource needs, and transition points for a joint response.

Host Agency Requirements:

The host agency is responsible for coordinating the course, registering participants, obtaining any applicable continuing-education credit, and providing a suitable classroom or virtual-delivery environment. For in-person delivery, the host should provide a computer, projector or display, reliable audio, and adequate seating for the confirmed attendance. For virtual delivery, the host should provide the meeting platform, participant access, and a point of contact who can manage attendance and technical issues.

The lecture-only configuration does not require a live-burn facility, fire apparatus, practical-training props, training weapons, simulated munitions, or participant protective equipment. If the host adds a tabletop discussion, demonstration, or later practical component, the facility, equipment, staffing, safety, and attendance requirements will be addressed in a separate course plan before scheduling.

About Threat Suppression:

Threat Suppression, Incorporated is a research-driven safety, security, and public-safety training and consulting firm founded in 2012. The company is a leading provider of integrated active assailant training for the Department of War, providing more than 165 classes at 45 major installations. The company has invested more than 50,000 hours in internal active assailant research. Threat Suppression serves as a principal member of NFPA 3000 and participates in multiple state and federal ASHE workgroups that shape national active assailant preparedness standards and policy.

The company's leadership has commanded active assailant events and was lead author on the 2021 Oxford High School mass shooting after-action report, one of the most comprehensive analyses of an active assailant incident response. Threat Suppression provides active assailant preparedness, rescue task force training, emergency management support, behavioral threat assessment and management, exercises, after-action reviews, and physical security services to federal agencies, military installations, public safety organizations, healthcare systems, schools, and private organizations. Our work combines operational experience, applied research, and field-tested instruction.

In 2013, the company developed the ABC2 framework for fire-as-a-weapon response and began conducting joint research and live-fire training with law enforcement and fire personnel. Since then, Threat Suppression has conducted more than 75 live-fire structural burns and provided training to federal agencies, military installations, SWAT teams, fire departments, and other public-safety organizations. Our work combines operational experience, applied research, and field-tested instruction.

To Schedule or Learn More:

Phone: 1-800-231-9106

Email: info@ThreatSuppression.com

Course Page: www.threatsuppression.com/fire-as-a-weapon

Website: www.threatsuppression.com