



THREAT SUPPRESSION
INCORPORATED

THREAT SUPPRESSION® INCORPORATED

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Presentation Title: *“Creating a Tactical Fire Company Program”*

Presentation Description:

In 2013, the Charlotte Fire Department conducted a needs assessment and found that specially trained fire companies could assist SWAT teams during tactical operations. A workgroup was formed to determine if any other fire departments had a similar program. After a nationwide search, it was determined that one small fire department in Colorado had a similar program. However, this program was very limited in the role that they performed with SWAT.

The needs assessment found that SWAT was often tasked with activities that the fire department was much better trained and equipped to do. This included heavy breaching, setting up rope system for tactical rappel operations, integration with police on the skirmish line at civil unrest, responding to fire-as-a-weapon events in which a hostile perpetrator was still conducting homicidal actions, responding to hostage/barricade events, and responding to suicidal jumper calls. Similar to the tactical medic concept, the Tactical Fire Company concept was created.

Fire companies were selected in the city based on geographical location to high risk occupancies (downtown high-rises, universities, and so forth). A 40-hour initial course was created and all members at the selected stations were required to attend the training. In addition, a quarterly continuing education program was established that would ensure recurrent training and knowledge for the program.

This course teaches the concept that was created by the instructors and introduced at the Charlotte Fire Department in 2015. The tactical fire company program has been tested at numerous events, including the 2016 seven-day Charlotte riots, mutual aid response to the 2018 Silent Sam protest at UNC-Chapel Hill (two deployments), the 2019 UNCC active shooter event, the 2020 Graham, NC civil unrest mutual aid response, the 2020 Gastonia, NC civil unrest mutual aid response, the 2020 George Floyd protests, and the 2020 Republican National Convention. In addition, tactical fire companies have responded to hundreds of SWAT callouts, assisting Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department SWAT with tactical operations on scene.

Numerous fire departments around the world have requested additional training to create programs similar to this program. Several departments have already created similar programs, directly modeled after this program. The two lead creators of this program will teach this class. They will present the 40-hour initial training class which includes 20 hours of lecture and 20 hours of practical. In addition, they will discuss hurdles to implementation encountered along the way.

They will discuss the current state of the program and future goals. Upon completion of this program, agencies may elect to purchase the presentation material (800+ PowerPoint slides, videos, and pictures) if they would like to adopt the program at their department.

This class is capped at 50 students. This course teaches fire companies how to integrate in with law enforcement to perform at numerous high-risk, high-impact events, including:

- Active shooter events
- Fire-as-a-weapon events
- Large-scale civil unrest events
- Explosive events
- Vehicle-as-a-weapon events
- Suicidal jumpers
- Hostage/barricade events

Day 1:

0800-0900: Lecture, *"Introduction to the Tactical Fire Company Program"*

0900-1000: Lecture, *"The Tactical Mindset"*

1000-1100: Lecture, *"Introduction to Explosive Devices"*

1100-1200: Lecture, *"Understanding Hostage/Barricade Events"*

1200-1300: [Lunch on your own](#)

1300-1700: Lecture, *"Current Trends in Active Shooter and Hostile Events"*

Day 2:

0800-1200: Lecture, *"Joint Public Safety Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon"*

1200-1300: [Lunch on your own](#)

0300-1700: Lecture, *"Response to Large-Scale Civil Unrest"*

Day 3:

0800-1000: Practical skills (Group 1), *"Vehicle-as-a-Weapon: Extrication in the Hot Zone"*

0800-1000: Practical skills (Group 2), *"Fire Department Integrated Tactical Breaching"*

0100-1200: Practical skills (Group 2), *"Vehicle-as-a-Weapon: Extrication in the Hot Zone"*

0100-1200: Practical skills (Group 1), *"Fire Department Integrated Tactical Breaching"*

0800-1200: Practical skills (Group 3 and Group 4), *"High Threat Casualty Extractions"*

1200-1300: [Lunch on your own](#)

1300-1500: Practical skills (Group 3), *"Vehicle-as-a-Weapon: Extrication in the Hot Zone"*

1300-1500: Practical skills Group 4), *"Fire Department Integrated Tactical Breaching"*

1500-1700: Practical skills (Group 4), *"Vehicle-as-a-Weapon: Extrication in the Hot Zone"*

1500-1700: Practical skills (Group 3), *"Fire Department Integrated Tactical Breaching"*

1300-1700: Practical skills (Group 1 and Group 2), *"High Threat Casualty Extractions"*

Day 4:

0800-1200: Practical skills, *"Joint Public Safety Response to Fire-as-a-Weapon"*

1200-1300: [Lunch on your own](#)

1300-1700: Practical skills, *"Integrated Response to Large-Scale Civil Unrest"*

Day 5:

0800-1200: Practical skills, *“Movement and training with SWAT”*

1200-1300: [Lunch on your own](#)

1300-1700: Practical scenarios and capstone exercise

Course Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn and discuss fundamental concepts of the tactical fire company program, including equipment, costs, policies and procedures, role creep, labor union concerns, community involvement and more.
2. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn and discuss the tactical mindset and how to view incidents from a law enforcement perspective.
3. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn and discuss the four types of hostage events, include suicidal individual (self-hostage), barricade, hostage-barricade, and doomed captive.
4. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn and discuss the basic components of explosive devices, including the switch, power source, initiator, container, and explosive charge.
5. At the conclusion of this program, participants will learn and discuss current trends in active shooter and hostile events, including weapons, injury patterns, tactics, and more.
6. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice integrated response to fire-as-a-weapon events.
7. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice integrated response to large-scale civil unrest.
8. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice vehicle extrication in the hot zone.
9. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice high-threat extractions.
10. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice tactical breaching.
11. At the conclusion of this program, attendees will learn, discuss, and practice fire integrated movement with SWAT.

Resources Needed:

- Providing a suitable location for the lecture training.
- Providing audiovisual equipment, including screen, projector, and lavalier microphone.
- Provide a suitable location for the training, a fire training center is an ideal location.
- Provide a fully equipped engine company and fully equipped ladder company.
- Hydrant with a capacity to flow at least 1,500 GPM.
- Provide a forcible breaching door.
- Provide APRs with training CBRN filters for CS gas exposure.
- Provide an armored vehicle (BearCat, MRAP, etc.).
- Provide two four-door junked vehicles.
- Provide blue/red guns (training guns).
- Provide issued tactical evacuation equipment.
- Provide all issued ballistic protective equipment.
- Provide all students with gloves, helmet, and eye protection.
- Minimum of four weighted mannequins.
- Provide support of local SWAT (10 operators) and civil unrest teams (10 officers) to participate in the training.
- Provide a large building to practice movement with SWAT in the building (a school or office building is ideal). This can be done using a law enforcement shoot house if no building is available.
- Two smoke machines and smoke concentrate.
- Radios for students to use.
- 20 role players for Day 5 practical scenarios and capstone exercise.

Time Needed:

40-hour week