



LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-92

“WORK IT OR LEAVE IT”

Issue Date: 1-14-2020



This Procedure Guide supersedes all previous guides in order to comply with the latest Lyon County, state and national training and operations standards.

Discussion:

The intent of responders is to solve whatever problem(s) that may confront them at an incident. However, circumstances beyond their control may create unreasonable risks, prevent safe operations, or create situations where success is very unlikely. This Procedure Guide shall provide general guidance in making determinations whether to engage or not engage in a rescue activity.

“Leave it” does not always mean leaving the scene. “Leave it” may take the form of standing by until appropriate resources arrive to address the safety or operational concern.

1. Safety Policy:

- 1.1 Safety is the overarching priority in all responses. No procedure or protocol provided in any Procedure Guide shall supersede the use of sound judgment as may be appropriate to maximize incident safety.
- 1.2 All responders shall wear appropriate helmets at all times, and wear ANSI Class-II or Class-III vests or jackets whenever operating on or near any active traffic lanes.
- 1.3 A qualified Safety Officer shall be designated for all technical rescue responses.
- 1.4 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.
- 1.5 Responders shall utilize standard TLAR techniques and practices, including all applicable safety checks of any equipment that will carry any load.

2 Incident Organization / Chain of Command:

- 2.1 Each response shall have an Incident Commander (IC) who will direct the activities being undertaken.
- 2.2 All but the simplest responses shall have a qualified Safety Officer who will enforce applicable safety policies.
- 2.3 The IC, in consultation with the Safety Officer where applicable, shall make a final determination whether to work or leave an incident.

3 Incident Assessment:

- 3.1 Upon arrival a complete and comprehensive size-up shall be undertaken, risks and probable rescue activities shall be determined, and information shall be relayed to incoming units.
- 3.2 Factors shall be assessed and considered that would likely impact operational safety and/or mission success.

4 Decision Making Model (General):

- 4.1 Decision making shall be based on objective assessments of facts and probabilities.
 - 4.1.1 If operational safety parameters can be achieved and there is a likelihood of a successful outcome, work it.
 - 4.1.2 If scene security cannot be maintained, leave it (perhaps until law enforcement arrives.)
 - 4.1.3 If safety hazards exist that cannot be mitigated, leave it (and request appropriate resources to mitigate the hazards.)
- 4.2 The overarching principle that applies is that rescue actions should never be taken unless issues relating to safety, security and operational effectiveness can be properly addressed.

5 Interference by Bystanders:

- 5.1 Interference by bystanders are common occurrences that create distractions that can impact the safety and performance of field operations. Furthermore, allowing bystanders to interfere can create liability issues. If bystanders encroach into the operational area and refuse to step back or they otherwise create distractions, law enforcement should be called to remove them before continuing operations. Bystanders can behave unpredictably and are a clear indicator that a "Leave it" decision is warranted until the scene can be controlled.