



## LEAST RESISTANCE TRAINING CONCEPTS

PROCEDURE GUIDE No. 20-93

### **SAFETY OFFICER**

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

#### **Discussion:**

While everyone has a duty and responsibility to remain attentive and be alert for safety hazards, a Safety Officer shall be designated during training exercises and technical rescues to observe activities and ensure operational safety.

#### **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 shall 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 training exercises and responses that involve technical rescues, overhead lifts, and/or other hazards.
- 1.4 In circumstances where responders cannot reliably communicate by direct voice, portable radios shall be utilized.
- 1.5 Responders shall utilize standardized TLAR techniques and best practices, including all applicable safety checks of any equipment that will be under 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.
- 2.4 In the event of a simple incident or when there are insufficient members to formally designate a Safety Officer, incident safety shall be the responsibility of the IC.

### **3 Types of Safety Officers:**

- 3.1 Dedicated Safety Officer: A qualified member whose sole focus involves safety Elements throughout the incident.
- 3.2 Functional Safety Officer: When staffing is short, a qualified member who may be engaged in support tasks during non-critical periods of an incident, but who will serve as Safety Officer during any hazardous tasks, overhead lifts, etc.

### **4 Safety Officer's Responsibilities:**

- 4.1 The duties of the Safety Officer include, but are not limited to:
  - 4.1.1 Participating in the development of the Incident Action Plan
  - 4.1.2 Excluding uninvolved or unqualified persons from workspaces.
  - 4.1.3 Proper use of applicable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE.)
  - 4.1.4 Ensuring proper inspections of all lifting devices and any other equipment that may be placed under a load.
  - 4.1.5 Preventing actions that violate safety policies.
  - 4.1.6 Observing and identifying risks and hazards unbeknownst to persons operating at an incident.
  - 4.1.7 Maintaining Personal Accountability Reporting (PAR.) (Accounting for all members at an incident, including periodic roll calls where applicable.)
  - 4.1.8 Maintaining the personal welfare of responders (periodic hydration, nutrition, etc.)
  - 4.1.9 Providing for rehabilitation during extreme weather.
  - 4.1.10 Safety checking all resources prior to leaving the scene or demobilizing.
- 4.2 The Safety Officer may delegate specific tasks to qualified members, but the Safety Officer shall remain ultimately responsible for all safety activities.
- 4.3 The overarching principle that applies is that rescue actions should never be taken unless issues relating to safety, security and operational effectiveness have been properly addressed.

### **5 "All Stop":**

- 5.1 If the Safety Officer or any other person observes a critical safety issue, he/she will call for an "All Stop."
- 5.2 If an "All Stop" is called, everyone will immediately stop their activities and remain in safe positions until the cause for the All Stop is assessed and cleared.
- 6.3 Generally, only the Safety Officer or Incident Commander will clear an All Stop.

## **6 Interference by Bystanders:**

- 6.1 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, the Safety Officer may call for an “All Stop” until law enforcement arrives to remove them or otherwise provide security before continuing operations.

## **7 Safety Inspections:**

- 7.1 All rigging, accessories, lifting equipment and any elements that may be placed under a load shall be inspected by a Safety Officer or a designated qualified member other than members who are part of the rigging or assembly operation.
- 7.2 Upon demobilization all vehicles (rescue and support trucks, trailers, etc.) shall be inspected by the Safety Officer, a designate, or if the Safety Officer can verify that such inspections have been performed by the vehicle operator that the response vehicle is roadworthy and all equipment has been properly stowed and/or secured.