

Formation of Effective Multi Agency Emergency Management Teams in a CBR context

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Background

- Victoria arrangements are built on an all hazards approach using whole of state resources if needed.
- 2003 and 2006/7 Alpine fires and 2007 Gippsland floods have seen effective incident management teams deployed.
- So why have multi agency CBR incident management courses?

"TIME"

Questions

- How much multi agency training for incident managers goes on in your state?
- If your answer is very little then how effective are multi agency incident management teams when they are formed?
- In Victoria we have run two courses prior to M2006 and two courses this year.

Lessons from Overseas

- Two case studies of success and failure
- Sarin Attack in Tokyo 1995
- London Bombings 2005
- The first hour or two will see first responders trying to ascertain what has happened
- Fail to plan means plan to fail
- Fail to train means plan to fail as well

What we Know Will Happen

- High Profile Target most likely capital cities
- Weapon of choice – IED
- Tactical response and intelligence gathering
- Strategic Level Command formed

First Hour

Initial response to a CBR event will see each agencies first responders adopt their own procedures:

- Police will Cordon and Contain
- Fire will attempt to rescue victims and mitigate the hazard
- Ambulance will assess the danger for their people and start casualty management if safe to do so.

CBR awareness training is essential for the protection of first responders

First Hour continued

Once on scene the agency Commanders major priority is to seek out and form an Emergency Management Team (EMT) where some tactical decisions can be made to best mitigate the situation. The first meeting must see:

- Agreement on the EMT membership, where it meets and when.
- Understanding as to the effectiveness of cordon and contain measures.
- Early agreement on who is the Incident Controller.
- Appropriate resources used to evacuate casualties with early triage prioritised.
- Immediate analysis of the scene from agency commanders to gain a wider understanding of what the situation is – intelligence gathering
- Situation Reports by agency commanders – reach back

Second Hour

- The second hour would see a greater understanding of what has actually happened or is still occurring. A second EMT meeting should canvas the following:
 - Formation of a action plan comprising simple objectives and tactics
 - Agency responsibilities – whose doing what and what resources are required
 - Safety issues such as minimum PPE for responders
 - Crime scene considerations
 - Logging of agreed decisions
 - Simple media messages to advise the public

How do we train people for this occurrence?

- *Multi Agency CBR Incident Management training will assist agency Commanders to understand the criticality of the early formation of an EMT and the setting of a simple action plan with agreed objectives and tactics.*

Second Hour continued

- The second hour will see the high level strategic groups start to interface with the emergency scene. Intelligence from the scene must be captured at this point and a simple plan created that describes the major strategies to be employed. These can be, but not limited to:
 - The use of the media plans to reassure the community
 - Preservation of life
 - Crime scene considerations
 - High level Government involvement to return the community to normal

How do we train people for this occurrence?

- *Crucial to the successful response to a significant CBR event is the table top scenario based exercising of senior level agency commanders who form strategic groups.*

Question

- How does your State rate for this type of training?
- If the answer is not very well – then what are you going to do about it?

Any Questions

