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Overview & Purpose:

Explain the importance of scene control and how to implement basic scene control measures at a scene

Topics:

- Department SOPs
- Dispatch of personnel
- Accountability system
- Designating staging areas
- Managing non-involved persons
- Managing news media

Pre-Class Assignment:

Complete the Scene Control module on learning.respondersafety.com.

Bring the certificate to class.

Read our department's scene control SOPs

Materials:

- Department SOP handouts
- Copy of NFPA 1091
- Advance warning device(s), such pink drop sign or portable variable message sign
- Tabletop roadway layout with appropriate miniature vehicles (civilian cars, fire apparatus or other blocking vehicles) and traffic control devices
- Scenario Role Cards

Learning Objectives:

- Understand department SOPs on scene control
- Describe how personnel are dispatched and accounted for at the scene
- Explain why scene control is important
- Properly designate staging areas
- React appropriately to various situations of encountering non-involved persons at the scene
- React appropriately to media presence at the scene



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NFPA 1091 JPRs:

- 4.2.6 Manage noninvolved persons found near or within a TIMA

Correlations to Dept Training Rotations:

To be filled in by Instructor

Related SOPs/SOGs:

Titles to be filled in by Instructor

Introduction (10 min):

Introduce the topic of scene control

- Show the TIM in a Minute video
- Relate to 1091 JPRs and departmental training requirements and explain how this training will help fulfill those
- Discuss a struck by or near miss case related to scene control, local if possible. See Appendix A for suggested cases if you do not have a local incident known to the department to discuss

SOP Review (10 min):

- Distribute the department's scene control SOPs and refresh students on the department's policies on:
 - Dispatching (centralized, no self-dispatching)
 - Accountability at the scene
 - When/how staging areas are to be designated
 - When/how a perimeter is to be established
 - What to do when encountering an accident scene while off-duty or prior to dispatching
 - Who is responsible for handling noninvolved persons, including victims' families, members of the public, and the news media, and how these persons should be handled



Discussion (20 min):

Discuss with the group how to handle the following types of noninvolved persons:

- Family member or friend who arrives to pick up a victim
- Distraught person seeking information on victims
- Person attempting to videotape or photograph the incident and the response
- A known reporter or photographer from a mainstream media outlet seeking information and a vantage point to cover the incident
- A person claiming to be a blogger covering the incident in the public interest
- An area resident who wants to watch because they are curious about the response
- An unmanned drone taking aerial footage of the scene

Exercise (15 min):

Tabletop: Set up a scenario on the tabletop that would attract attention from local residents and the news media, such as a multi-car pileup, a bus accident, or a tractor-trailer crashing into an overpass.

1. Ask the group to define the following staging areas for this incident: news media staging, victim/family reunification, and accident witnesses (so they can be interviewed). Have the group mark these areas on the tabletop, discussing their pros and cons, and making safety the priority factor.
2. Discuss with the group how to handle a growing crowd of onlookers as the incident clearance duration wears on and word gets out about the incident.
3. Select people from the group and hand them each a scenario card with their role on it (see below). Select others from the group to be the firefighters approached by each person, set up the interaction, and role-play the interaction.
4. Debrief the interactions. Were SOPs followed? What was done well? What could have been done better?



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Scenario Role Cards for Exercise:

Role: Distraught Parent

You are a distraught parent whose child may have been involved in the accident. Nothing is going to stop you from getting to that scene and to your child.

Role: Self-Dispatched Firefighter

You are a firefighter/EMT who was driving the opposite way, saw the incident, and stopped to help the units that were dispatched. You were not centrally dispatched.

Role: Onlooker

You have active social media channels with a fair number of local followers. One of the things you do is go to local events and post about them. Your car is in traffic approaching the incident, so you pulled over and got out to see what was going on. You are livestreaming on Facebook.

Role: Good Samaritan

You are a Good Samaritan who saw the accident and stopped to help prior to responders arriving. You now don't really know what to do or where to go. You haven't been interviewed by anyone.

Role: Friend of an Unhurt Victim

You are a friend called by an unhurt victim to come pick him up because the car he was in is not driveable.

Wrap Up (5 min):

Recap the most important points of your department's scene control SOP as related to the training experience.

Resources:

Additional resources available at:

https://learning.respondersafety.com/Training_Programs/Scene_Control.aspx



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Appendix A: Suggested Case Studies

Career captain killed, engineer injured, when struck by van of accident victim's son racing to the scene. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/reports/face201209.html>

Bystander arrested at accident scene after threatening to harm victim

https://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2014/05/syracuse_police_tackle_arrest_bystander_near_crash_after_argument_over_racial_bi.html

Property owner arrested for assault on accident victim

<http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1101693#.VOOR58YRm7A>

Woman who hit and killed a teenage pedestrian pretended to be concerned bystander

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2930921/Cheerleading-coach-22-surrenders-month-hit-run-killed-15-year-old-boy-surveillance-video-reveals-returned-crash-site-pretending-bystander.html>

News camera op struck and critically injured

<https://torontosun.com/2012/12/26/injured-citytv-cameraman-bill-atanasoff-gets-christmas-day-with-family/wcm/bf19683e-2548-4403-b87f-69e19b23b239>

Headline: Cameraman struck and killed while covering story

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/19/AR2006121900243.html>

Man arrested for refusing to hand over camera to police.

<https://laceyreporter.com/watch-lacey-resident-catches-bamber-car-accident-camera/>

<https://laceyreporter.com/justice-andrew-prosecutor-acknowledges-incident-handled-better/>

Drone in near miss with NYPD helicopter above George Washington Bridge

<http://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/uptown/drone-hits-nypd-helicopter-2-menarrested-article-1.1858159>

LifeFlight helicopter narrowly avoids collision with drone

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/near-collisions-between-drones-airliners-surgenev-faa-reports-show/2014/11/26/9a8c1716-758c-11e4-bd1b-03009bd3e984_story.html