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BASIC COURSE INSTRUCTOR UNIT GUIDE

26

UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

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UNIT GUIDE 26

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HANDLING UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

Given a direct question, the student will identify the actions required of an officer confronted with one of the following unusual occurrences.

- A. Electrical wires down/surface transformers damaged
- B. Malfunctioning traffic signals
- C. Hazardous road conditions
- D. Damage to fire hydrants
- E. Gas leaks

Performance Objective 8.39.1

CURRICULUM

A. Definition

An unscheduled event involving potential or actual personal injury or property damage arising from fire, flood, storm, earthquake, wreck, enemy action, civil disturbance, or other natural or man-caused incident.

B. Enumeration of hazardous occurrence possibilities

- 1. Electrical wires down/surface transformers damaged
- 2. Malfunctioning traffic signals
- 3. Hazardous road conditions
- 4. Damage to fire hydrants
- 5. Gas leaks
- 6. Other possibilities

C. Patrol and traffic responsibilities

- 1. Respond to call or observe occurrence
- 2. Handle or refer to proper agency for handling
 - a. Inform communications
 - b. Fellow officers
 - c. Public

D. Method for Handling Unusual Occurrences

- 1. Electrical wires down/surface transformers damaged

- a. Isolate the area
 - (1) Remove unauthorized persons
 - (2) Barricade the area from pedestrian & vehicular traffic
 - (3) Fluids leaking from transformers and capacitors should be treated as hazardous materials, because they may contain cancer causing substances.
- b. Notify communications of exact situation
- c. Request assistance from:
 - (1) Fire department
 - (2) Gas and/or electric company
 - (3) Additional units (if necessary)
 - (4) Phone or TV cable companies

NOTE: Instructor should contact local utility company for specific information on identification of types of electrical hazards to officers.

- d. Remain in area
 - (1) Continuing crowd control
 - (2) Continuing traffic control
 - (3) Remain until situation is handled

2. Malfunctioning traffic signals

- a. Notify city utilities
 - (1) Specify location
 - (2) Specify problem
 - (a) Lights inoperable
 - (b) Light burned out
 - (c) Delay in phase
- b. Direct traffic
 - (1) Request additional unit(s) if necessary

- (a) Size of intersection
 - (b) Amount of traffic
 - c. Place traffic lights on flash
 - (1) Consider duration of inoperable condition
 - (2) Request traffic unit (may have signal box key)
 - (3) Leave note describing nature of malfunction inside control box
 - d. Leave scene only when:
 - (1) Lights repaired
 - (2) Lights have been placed on flash
 - (3) Temporary stop signs or other controls in place
- 3. Hazardous road conditions
 - a. Inclement weather
 - (1) Wet/slippery highways
 - (a) Flooding
 - (b) Road washed out
 - (c) Ice and snow
 - (2) Fog
 - b. Major highway construction
 - (1) Major road repair
 - (2) New freeway or street construction
 - (3) Housing development
 - (4) Excavation
 - c. Road disrepair
 - (1) Chuck holes
 - (2) Inadequate lighting
 - (3) Street sign down

- (4) Faded or improper road delineators
 - d. Advise appropriate parties
 - (1) Communication
 - (2) Construction company
 - (3) City utilities unit
 - e. Take appropriate action
 - (1) Direct traffic
 - (2) Barricade the roadway
 - (3) Request a sigalert (where appropriate)
 - (4) Verify compliance with construction permit restrictions
- 4. Damage to fire hydrants
 - a. Notify water/utilities unit and fire department
 - b. Control vehicular and pedestrian traffic
 - (1) Reroute traffic if necessary
 - (2) Provide crowd control
 - c. Be alert for flooding conditions
 - (1) Erosion of street
 - (2) Flooding of an intersection
 - (3) Flooding of private property
- 5. Gas leaks
 - a. Immediately notify gas company
 - b. Evacuate the area
 - c. Establish security perimeter at a safe distance
 - d. Avoid sources of ignition
 - (1) Smoking
 - (2) Flares

(3) Starting cars

- e. Observe and report changes in conditions

INITIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AT A MAJOR DISASTER

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following initial responsibilities of the first units to arrive at the scene of an air crash, major vehicle accident, or disaster scene:

- A. Request needed assistance and equipment
- B. Provide for emergency medical aid
- C. Establish security perimeter
- D. Identify and admit authorized personnel

Performance Objective 8.39.2

CURRICULUM

- A. Responsibilities of first officer arriving at aircrash, major vehicle accident or disaster
 - 1. Request needed assistance and equipment.
 - a. Emergency medical assistance
 - b. Additional police units/supervisor
 - c. Tow trucks
 - d. Notification of other agencies
 - (1) CHP
 - (2) Sheriff
 - (3) Harbor police
 - (4) Fire department
 - e. Special investigators
 - (1) FAA
 - (2) Military
 - (3) Hazardous materials experts

NOTE: Optional role play at end of instruction. An officer/student given a simulated situation (aircrash, accident, disaster) will perform the tasks which have been identified as the responsibilities of the first officer on the scene.

- 2. Establishment of perimeter security

- a. Isolate the area
 - b. Establish traffic and crowd control
 - c. Barricade roadway
 - d. Establish command post
 - e. Establishment of entrance and exit corridor
 - (1) Use routes that are easily located
 - (2) Use routes that are the most efficient
 - (3) Keep routes free from unnecessary traffic
 - (4) Assign officer for monitor and observation
3. Providing for emergency medical aid
- a. Determine most seriously injured (triage/sort)
 - b. Solicit assistance from qualified person(s)
 - c. Notify hospital(s)
4. Identification and admission of authorized personnel
- a. Personnel to report to staging officer at command post.
 - b. Keep number of personnel to a minimum
 - c. Require authorized/recognized I.D.
 - d. Restrict areas

HANDLING AN AIRPLANE CRASH

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following factors peculiar to the handling of an air crash:

- A. Civilian Aircraft
 - 1. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)/National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will investigate
 - 2. Common freight carriers frequently carry limited quantities of hazardous materials
- B. Military Aircraft
 - 1. Military authorities are in charge
 - 2. There may be dangerous weapons problems
 - 3. There may be classified materials present
 - 4. Police cannot authorize the news media to enter
 - 5. There may be hazardous materials aboard

Performance Objective 8.39.3

CURRICULUM

- A. Aircrash procedures
 - 1. Civilian
 - a. Federal Aviation Agency (FAA)/National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) will investigate
 - b. General procedures
 - (1) Render assistance to casualties
 - (2) Cordon off area
 - (3) Protect from looting
 - (4) Notify FAA
 - (5) Try to obtain the following information:
 - (a) Aircraft tail number
 - (b) Color of aircraft
 - (c) Type of aircraft
 - (d) Number of people on board

NOTE: Optional Handout: "What to do and how to report Military Aircraft accidents"

2. Military

a. Military authorities are in charge

- (1) Cooperation is the key**
- (2) Law enforcement is there to provide logistical support and perimeter control**

b. Problem with dangerous weapons involved

- (1) Most officers are not qualified to handle the weapon properly.**
- (2) Ordinance expertise is required**
- (3) Defer all problems to military experts**

c. Classified materials may be involved

- (1) Keep out unauthorized personnel**
- (2) Protect the scene**

d. Police cannot authorize news media to enter the scene

- (1) Refer media inquiries to military person in charge**

HANDLING A SITUATION INVOLVING EXPLOSIVES

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following "tactical" considerations required on arrival at the scene of a suspected or actual explosive device:

- A. Hazards of using the police radio
- B. Avoid handling suspected device
- C. Immediately isolate the object and evacuate as reasonable
- D. Determine need for and request specialized assistance

Performance Objective 8.39.5

CURRICULUM

- A. Bomb threats, bombings, or found bombs
 - 1. Police officer's duties
 - a. Hazards of using police radios
 - (1) Radio transmissions can activate electrical explosive devices
 - (2) All police radios including hand-held portables must be turned off prior to arrival at the scene
 - (3) Use landline communications only
 - b. Avoidance of handling suspected device
 - (1) **Do not open, lift, or move any suspected device, or disturb any switches or wires**
 - c. Immediate isolation of object and reasonable evacuation
 - (1) In bomb threat cases where a device has not been located, the decision to evacuate is the responsibility of the person in charge of the premises
 - (2) Systematic search utilizing person familiar with location.
 - (3) Isolate the device
 - (4) Assist with evacuation of buildings
 - (a) Control and direct traffic
 - (b) Handle crowd control

(c) Maintain perimeter security

NOTE: The two CHP publications, "Hazardous Materials Training" Module I, Student Manual and "Handling Hazardous Material Incident Module II" will be invaluable to instructors presenting this block of instruction. These manuals may be obtained by contacting the CHP, Commercial and Technical Services Section, Box 898, Sacramento, CA 95804.

d. Determination of and request for specialized assistance

- (1) Notification
 - (a) Explosive Ordinance Division or Bomb Squad
 - (b) Fire Department
 - (c) FBI, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, U.S. Treasury Department (when applicable)

NOTE: Division II, Chapter 7 of H&S Code provides the most comprehensive sections relating to the illegal use and possession of explosives.

METHOD OF EXTINGUISHING FIRES

Given a word picture depicting a fire emergency, the student will identify the preferred method of extinguishing the fire (i.e., dry combustible, flammable liquid, electrical, and combustible metals) and the available fire fighting resource (e.g., water, dirt, fire extinguisher, etc.). The preferred method of extinguishing a fire is based on the following classifications.

- A. Class A fires (dry combustible) should be extinguished with water or a combustion retarding chemical
- B. Class B fires (flammable liquids and gases) should be extinguished using oxygen deprivation techniques such as CO₂ or foam
- C. Class C fires (electrical) should be extinguished using nonconducting chemical agents
- D. Combustible metals fires should be extinguished using a nonreactive heat absorbing material

Performance Objective 8.40.1

CURRICULUM

A. Introduction

Police officers, in the course of their duties in the field, should be prepared to take appropriate action when confronted by an uncontrolled fire condition. Swift reaction will minimize unnecessary loss of life and property.

B. Classification of fires

Major groups of fire types have been established for easy recognition. Student should be able to recognize the following three types readily:

1. Class "A" fires (common combustibles)
 - a. Wood
 - b. Paper
 - c. Cloth
2. Class "B" fires (petroleum based fires)
 - a. Gasoline
 - b. Oil
 - c. Solvents
 - d. Flammable gases
 - e. Plastics

- f. Vinyls
- 3. Class "C" fires (electrical)
 - a. Generators
 - b. Electrical panels
 - c. Appliances
 - d. Wiring

C. Methods for extinguishing

- 1. Class "A" fires
 - a. Cool with water
 - b. Hose, buckets, fire lines
 - c. Physical removal
 - d. Use class "A" extinguisher

NOTE: The actual putting out of fires can best be demonstrated by fire personnel. The instructor could have them give an actual demonstration in the parking lot of: type of fires; how to put them out; and type of extinguishers.

- 2. Class "B" fires
 - a. Smother with non-flammable blanket, soil, etc.
 - b. CO₂
 - c. Foam
 - d. Class "B" fire extinguisher

NOTE: Fire extinguishers are also rated by coverage area. Use fire extinguishers or hose lines directly at base of fire.

- 3. Class "C" fires
 - a. Turn off power source
 - b. Smother with non-flammable material
 - c. Class "C" fire extinguisher
 - d. CAUTION. Do not use water

D. Fire extinguishers

Type

Classification of fires

Water
Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
Dry chemical
Tri-class dry chemical

A
B & C
B & C
A, B & C

E. The Fire Triangle

Heat Fuel

Oxygen

All three elements, heat, fuel, and oxygen, must be present at the same time to have a fire. If one of these elements were removed the fire will extinguish.

PRINCIPLES FOR SEARCHING A BURNING BUILDING

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following principles of a safe and effective search for victims in a burning building:

- A. Staying close to floor
- B. Thoroughness in searching
- C. Remaining calm and working at measured pace

Performance Objective 8.40.2

CURRICULUM

A. Fire survival

1. Introduction. Officer may become confronted with a fire condition in which persons are trapped and rescue may be necessary. This section will assist in preparing the student for this type of situation.
2. Approach to fire
 - a. Determine kind of fire. Smoke can be a clue.
 - b. Notify communication with a request for fire fighting units and medical personnel if needed. Indicate kind of structure(s) involved.
 - c. Ascertain if a rescue will be necessary. Estimated time of arrival of fire fighters should be considered. They are experts at rescue and are better equipped.

NOTE: Smoke color may denote kind of fuel:

- A. Yellow smoke: chemical fire
- B. White smoke: normal combustibles (usually non-chemical or petroleum)
- d. If committed to a rescue:
 - (1) Determine the safest route of entry. Have an escape route.
 - (2) Stay low. Crawl and feel the way. Failure to do so may result in falls down stairways, through floors into elevator shafts and other openings. Minimize exposure to toxic gases and fumes if present, i.e., burning plastics, etc.
 - (3) Victims can be anywhere. Inspect closets, areas under

beds, behind furniture, and in shower stalls. Listen for sounds of coughing, crying or moaning.

- (4) Feel closed doors prior to opening. Use extreme caution if doors are hot. Oxygen starved fire may violently explode outwardly if the door is opened.
- (5) Don't become trapped! Have an escape route! A stairway above a fire is like a chimney flue. If trapped in a room, close the door(s) and open or break the windows.
- (6) Remain calm and work at a measured pace.

SIGNS A BURNING BUILDING IS UNSAFE TO ENTER

Given a direct question, the student will identify the following signs which indicate that a burning building may be too unsafe to enter.

- A. Placards, signs, or other evidence indicating the presence of toxic, combustible, or explosive materials
- B. Puffing smoke, air drawn inward, little or no visible flame indicating a backdraft
- C. Hot rolling smoke and flame coming from openings around building, indicating possible flashover

Performance Objective 8.40.3

CURRICULUM

A. Danger signs to consider

Certain danger signs have been presented in order to alert the rescuing officer to life-endangering situations. Superheated smoke and gases in a tightly sealed building or room will explode violently if a door is improperly opened. This is referred to as a backdraft explosion. Other danger signs to consider are:

1. Presence of any highly combustible material or explosives.
2. Toxic chemical gases or fumes.
3. Fire storms in wildland fires may trap you and others.
4. Type of clothing worn.
5. Absence of flames within a burning structure accompanied by dense smoke pulsating from cracks in the structure. The roof may also be pulsating if poorly reinforced. This condition should alert the officer to the extremely dangerous "breather" fire. This is the most dangerous kind of fire. It is oxygen starved and can literally explode when a door or window is opened. Carbon monoxide will ignite at temperatures of 1004° F. A normal house fire generates temperatures between 1000° and 1800° F.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

AND

REFERENCES

This section is set up as reference information for use by training institutions. These materials can be used for instruction, remediation, additional reading, viewing, or for planning local blocks of instruction. This list is not an endorsement of any author, publisher, producer, or presentation. Each training institution should establish its own list of reference materials.

**TOPICAL LIST OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND
REFERENCES INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION**

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

POST Video Catalog, information Services (916) 227-4856