

**FISCAL YEAR 2004
STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT
PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
AGENCY
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Project B: Managing Civil Actions in Response to WMD Incidents

Section #1:

The City of Providence is the capital of Rhode Island and is the second largest city in New England. Its population is over 173,000, however, on a typical business day, the city's estimated population grows to over 275,000 people. Providence occupies 20.53 square miles and is located 45 minutes from Boston and 3½ hours from New York City via Interstate 95.

The mission of the Providence Police Department is to serve and protect everyone who lives, works, or visits the City of Providence. In addition, the department is responsible for safeguarding the city's critical infrastructure such as: the hurricane barrier, the Port of Providence waterfront area, the Washington Bridge, the Hope Tunnel, Narragansett Electric Power Plant, the Rhode Island Hospital Level One Trauma Center, the city's telecommunications department, historical and tourist sites, and various city government office buildings.

In order to better serve and protect the City of Providence, the Providence Police Department will provide 119 of its full-time sworn police officers with 24 hours of Managing Civil Actions in Threat Incidents: Protester Devices training. This course is sponsored by the Office of Domestic Preparedness and taught by Community Research Associates, Inc., Nashville, Tennessee. The total cost for this course is \$114,240.

When law enforcement officers respond to a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) incident they are required to address any civil disturbances that arise as a result of these incidents. Poor crowd management within the general proximity of a WMD event can easily exacerbate the continued spread of chemical or biological contamination, unless non-public safety persons are prevented from entering and exiting the threat zone. This course provides law enforcement officers with the skills and tactics necessary to prepare for and successfully mitigate protesters and their devices. The primary objective of the course is to teach police officers methods of recognizing, responding to, and counteracting protester tactics, such as: human chains, barriers, and improvised devices. Additional course topics include, but are not limited to: extracting protesters, disabling devices, diverting attempts to create blockages, lock picking, teamwork, and power tools/machines. The Officers attending this course will learn the following:

- Identify how and when certain devices and tools can be applied to restore order.
- Demonstrate the ability to safely use specialized tools and devices to extricate protesters and restore order.
- Identify and protect rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment while still conducting extrication procedures.
- Identify the legal aspects and actions allowed by law when dealing with passive resistance.
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of individual members of an extrication team.

This essential training adheres to the goals and objectives stated in sections 1.10, 3.6, 9.1, and 9.4 of the State of Rhode Island Homeland Security Strategy.

Section #2:

The Providence Police Department will serve as the lead agency on this training initiative. The department is committed to filing electronically all required quarterly financial and programmatic reports in a timely and accurate manner as required by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

Due to the large majority of police officers with little or no formal weapons of WMD and/or civil disturbance training, the department is committed to begin training immediately once grant funds are officially awarded. The Providence Police Department intends to complete the training within a twelve-month period.

The evaluation process will focus on items such as: the quality of the instruction, the adequacy of the materials and training, the degree the officer's learning objectives were met, whether the instructional objectives were achieved, and whether officers feel confident in their ability to apply the skills learned to a WMD incident.

The total cost for this training is \$114,240 and consists of 119 officers receiving 24 hours of training with an average overtime rate of \$40 per hour.

The Providence Police Department looks forward to a favorable response from the application evaluators in order for the Department to enhance its ability to recognize, respond to, and counteract protester tactics concerning a WMD incident or civil disturbance that may arise in the City of Providence.

Managing Civil Actions in Threat Incidents (MCATI): Protester Devices

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Public safety agencies that handle weapons of mass destruction (WMD) incidents are required to address any civil disturbances that arise as a result of these incidents. They need to be trained to understand the principles involved in MCATI. Poor crowd management within general proximity of a WMD event can easily exacerbate the continued spread of chemical or biological contamination unless non-public-safety individuals are prevented from entering and exiting the threat zone.

Civil actions in threat incidents are known by a variety of names: riots, civil disturbances, or protests. From a small peaceful assembly to a large, out-of-control, violent confrontation, public safety officials must be prepared to handle the incident. This course provides State and local public safety agencies with the skills and tactics necessary to prepare for and successfully contend with protesters and their devices. The course combines classroom instruction detailing the history of devices, types of devices, tools to be considered for extrication, and safety considerations. It includes hands-on techniques using tools for defeating improvised protester devices. The course will teach methods of recognizing, responding to, and counteracting protester tactics, such as human chains, barriers, and improvised devices. Additional course topics will include, but not be limited to, extracting protesters, disabling devices, diverting attempts to create blockages, lock picking, teamwork, and power tools/machines.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- ❖ To identify how and when certain devices and tools can be applied to restore order
- ❖ To demonstrate the ability to safely use specialized tools and devices to extricate protesters and restore order

- ❖ To identify and protect protester rights as guaranteed by the First Amendment while still conducting extrication procedures
- ❖ To identify the legal aspects and actions allowed by law when dealing with passive resistance
- ❖ To identify the roles and responsibilities of individual members of an extrication team

COURSE LENGTH

24 hours

PREREQUISITE

Familiarity with power tools

TARGET AUDIENCE/DISCIPLINE

- ❖ Law Enforcement
- ❖ Emergency Medical Services
- ❖ Emergency Management Agency
- ❖ Fire Service
- ❖ Hazardous Material (HazMat)
- ❖ Public Works

CERTIFICATE

Center for Domestic Preparedness certificate of completion

COURSE DELIVERY

Training will be conducted at State or local training facilities.

COST

All training and course materials are free to eligible jurisdictions.