

# Rescue Task Force (RTF)



## Course Description

Rescue Task Force (RTF) is a Law Enforcement or armed security team and any combination of Fire and EMS personnel that provides threat-based care and victim extrication in the warm zone of an active shooter or terrorist attack.

This course is designed to teach students the main methods of warm zone care during active violence incidents. Driving tactics as well as a reasonable expectation for success during active violence incidents will be discussed.

## Why Take this Course?

This course will expose Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS, as well as other public safety partners to operating in a warm zone environment to provide point of wounding care to patients. Tactical Emergency Casualty Care lessons will be provided so that all participants can provide appropriate point of wounding care. This course will provide the student with ongoing training ideas for their department as well as identify some common barriers that must be overcome.

## Who Should Take this Course?

**Law Enforcement**

**Fire Service**

**EMS**

## Course Registration:

<https://bcmhds.talentlms.com/unit/view/id:2290>

**Date:**

**Saturday**

**November 2, 2024**

**Time:**

**0800-1700**

**Location:**

**Berrien Springs**

**High School**

**1 Sylvester Ave.**

**Berrien Springs, MI**

**Instructor**

**Jim Etzin**

**Contact Information**

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# High-Risk Unified Commander

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

<https://bcemhsd.talentlms.com/catalog/info/id:166>

Shortly after the April 20, 1999 tragedy at Columbine High School, law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Canada began training on the "contact and extraction teams" approach to threat and casualty management during active violence. However, because conventional fire department and emergency medical services personnel lacked the risk appetite, procedures, training, and equipment to enter the warm zones of such environments and Tactical Emergency Medical Support (TEMS) providers not always being readily available, significant delays in accessing, treating, and transporting victims remained.

In the 25 years since that fateful spring day in Colorado, more and more law enforcement agencies, fire departments, and ambulance services have realized the importance of cooperative effort before, during, and after such critical incidents. This includes not only operations within the inner and outer perimeters but also at the training, command, and public messaging levels. Given the ever-increasing amount of mass violence now plaguing the country, virtually every public safety organization in North America is currently contemplating how to best achieve such collaboration.

However, in many regions throughout the United States, numerous individuals and organizations well-versed in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) are currently advocating for the application of traditional command theories within unconventional environments, including the critical yet dynamic first 30 minutes. Unfortunately, as many of our peers have already discovered the hard way, "corralling guests and filling vests," running formal checklists, and relying on conventional communication is not only challenging but may ultimately hinder operations.

In response to this dilemma, High-Risk Unified Commander (HRUC) was developed to provide front-line supervisors, public safety executives, and training officers with contemporary and realistic strategies, tactics, and related information they can then use to **simultaneously** "stop the killing, dying, and crying." With three of the eight hours of content being interactive (including demonstrations of interior tactics and a tabletop exercise based on current trends), HRUC is a fast-paced yet comprehensive training program that offers emergency responders unparalleled information within a reasonable amount of time. Participants will also learn how to apply past lessons learned and resulting recommendations to future incidents occurring within urban environments with high operational tempo as well as rural ones with limited resources.

## Jim Etzin

Jim Etzin recently retired as the supervisor of the Farmington Hills (Michigan) Fire Department's training division and currently serves as the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services Coordinator for the Oakland County Tactical Consortium (OakTac), a mutual aid organization comprised of 40 law enforcement agencies, multiple fire departments, and other stakeholders protecting approximately 1.3 million residents.

He's also the founder of the International Tactical EMS Association (ITEMS), served as a United States Navy corpsman during combat operations in Operation Desert Storm, and then as a full-time combat medicine instructor for the 1st Marine Division. After becoming the first corpsman to ever attend the United States Marine Corps Military Police School and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) School, he then served as both an operator and medic for the lone full-time Marine Corps SWAT team at the time. In the immediate aftermath of the infamous North Hollywood Bank of America takeover robbery and shootout in 1997, two years prior to the tragedy at Columbine High School, he was the first in the United States to conceptualize extraordinary deployment into active violence environments by conventional fire service personnel.

Mr. Etzin is a member of the review committee for the National Tactical Officer Association's (NTOA) Tactical Response Operations Standard (TROS), represents the NTOA on the National Fire Protection Association's 3000 Standard for an Active Shooter / Hostile Event Response Committee, is currently a subject matter expert for the International Association of Chiefs of Police's Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center, speaks at numerous international, national, and state conferences, and writes journal articles regarding Tactical Emergency Medical Support and collaborative active violence response.

He is a trained hostage negotiator, NTOA Rescue Task Force instructor trainer, has obtained numerous active violence response instructor certifications, and serves as an instructor for OakTac's Active Violence Response, Active Violence Response Supervisor, Warm Zone Care, and Combating Fire as a Weapon training programs. Additionally, he has helped develop a federally funded "Emergency Medical Response to Active Assailant Incidents" computer-based awareness course, as well as one-day operations level and two-day technician level courses.

In April of 2016, he organized the 1st Annual North American Active Assailant Conference (NAAAC). Currently in its eighth year and attended by nearly 2,000 law enforcement officers, fire department personnel, and emergency medical services providers, it serves as the largest conference in the world addressing emergency response to active violence.

Mr. Etzin has also written numerous successful Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant proposals for essential regional equipment and training and leads site visits to communities recently impacted by active violence for the purposes of paying forward lessons learned to other law enforcement agencies and fire departments throughout the United States. Given his 40 years studying, practicing, and instructing special operations medicine and critical incident response, he's considered one of the world's leading authorities on collaborative public safety response to domestic and international terrorism.