

BA Teams - Improvements for Best Practice

SUTO

Generally good standard of Start Up, Test Out.

Some cases of missing exposed skin around flash hood and thumb loops not used (outside of glove cuff)

SEARCHING

More efficient use of TIC would have enabled teams to scan most of the compartments, therefore leaving only smaller unseen areas to be physically searched. Points of reference maintained by most teams for orientation but sometimes narrowed search due to number two following number one instead of spreading out to cover a wider area.

'Close contact' of BA Team members was sometimes stretched, to the point of being in separate compartments or one inside, one outside the building.

FIREFIGHTING

TIC use was at times deemed to be more procedural than effectively tactical. Conditions and casualties were missed at the earliest opportunities delayed objectives. Hose management and route taken was sometimes not considered meaning teams had to retrace their steps. Teams were not always aware of environment and any changes caused by their actions - creating Air Tracks, over application of water gas cooling for show instead of need. Inappropriate timing of fire attack when withdrawing with casualties creating large amounts of steam.

COMMUNICATIONS

Generally good comms between team members. Comms to EOC/OIC needs to be more structured and tactically relevant - conditions, fire development, layout, changes in location / level of team, casualties located. EOC's need to let the BA team work without consultant radio disturbance unless safety critical info needs to be passed.

ENVIRONMENT

Consideration of the environment needs to be fully realised by the teams prior to making entry into heated compartments. Use of TIC will also give them temperatures, flow of fire gases, air movement, fire location and compartment layout. This info can be used tactically by the team to monitor their firefighting actions and the suitability of any structural changes they make.

CASUALTIES

Casualties were sometimes withdrawn via a longer route than necessary, handled inappropriately and exposed to steam near fires from ill timed firefighting actions. Consideration and action towards improving / containing developing conditions needed

to be implemented, especially when the focus of BA Teams had moved to casualty removal.

VENTILATION

Ventilation strategy needs to be clearly communicated. Effects of vents made in the relation to flow paths, air tracks and crew location needs to be clearly understood. Teams demonstrated some knowledge of unwanted air tracks early on in the scenario by closing down compartments but need to carry this tactic on throughout the incident, understanding its relevance.

OVERALL

Teams demonstrated a very determined, strong and enthusiastic effort with some excellent skills and foremanship displayed overall. Teams need to be fully aware of their impact on the environment throughout the scenario and choose the best tactics to deal with what they face. The main focus of this type of incident is indeed the fire and the impact it is having within the property and on persons trapped. At the earliest opportunity, if this fire is extinguished, a ventilation strategy employed and through search conducted. A more balanced approach and a mind set of 'less haste, more speed and efficiency' would surely add to their very good team work.

WELL DONE ALL.