

Tactical Moves:

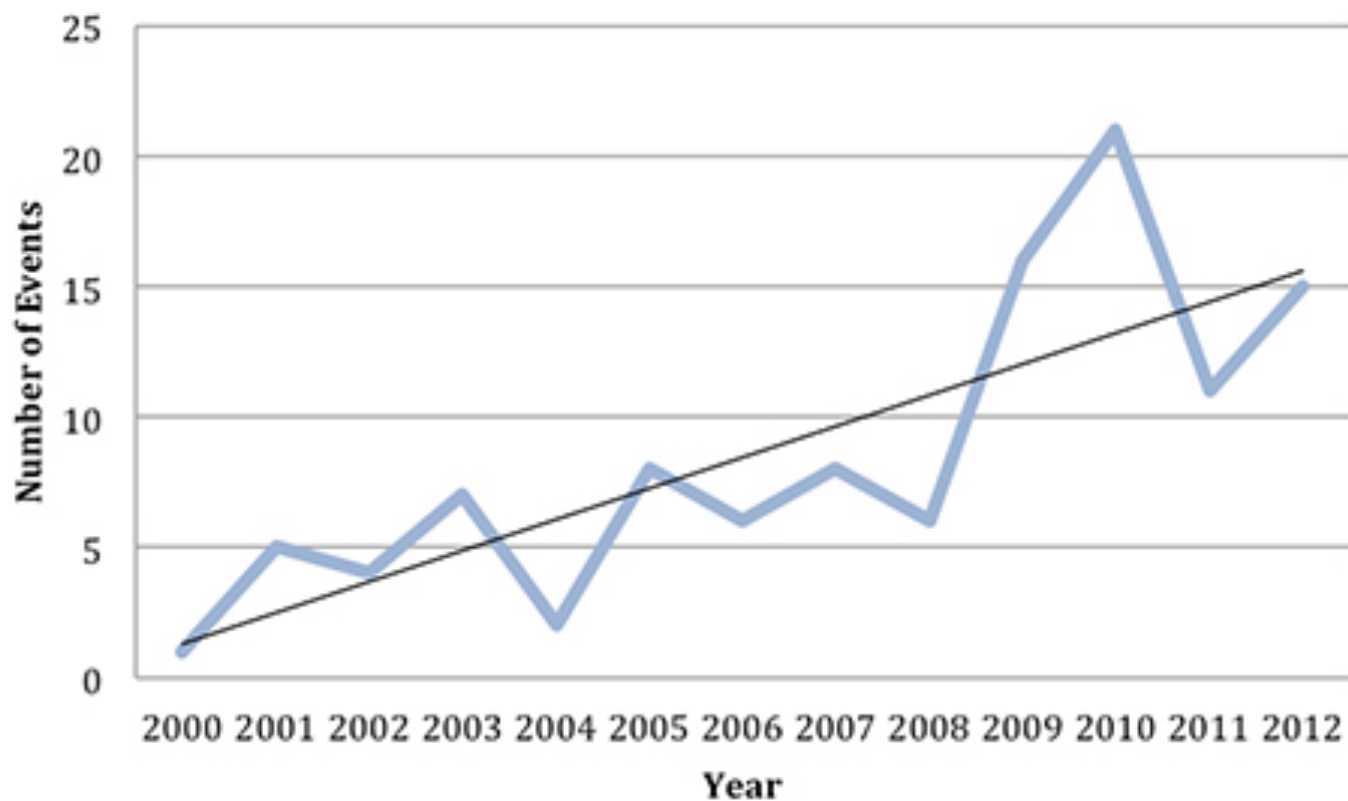
How Philly Fire is Preparing for Fire Fights



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The Problem



<http://leb.fbi.gov/2014/january/active-shooter-events-from-2000-to-2012>

Nickel Mines

- October 2006, Nickel Mines, PA
- 5 Amish girls murdered in school



Change in Police Response

- Traditionally, police response was contain incident, wait for SWAT
 - While police waited, people died
- Post-Columbine, move toward rapid intervention by first LEOs on scene

Traditional EMS Response

- Stage in secure area until police have mitigated threat - can take hours
- Some police departments and EMS agencies have TEMS providers
 - Committed to mission, not civilian care

The Pendulum Swings

- Hartford Consensus
- FEMA active shooter guidelines
- IAFF position statement
- Response to active shooter incidents is a joint police, fire, EMS responsibility

And Now for Philadelphia...

**“I once spent a year in Philadelphia,
I think it was on a Sunday.”**



The Philadelphia Story

- PPD and PFD realized new approach needed for active shooters incidents
 - Paramedics could deploy with police into areas cleared *but not secured*
 - Start treatment in Warm Zone, then extract the victims

2010



The Philadelphia Story

- Treatment based on TECC
 - Tactical Emergency Casualty Care
- Security for medics provided by police officers assigned to that role
- Would need appropriate policies, training, and equipment, including PPE

The Details

- Rapid Assessment Medical Support (RAMS)
- Police arrive on scene, form “Contact Team”
 - Moves toward shooter or sound of gunfire
 - Moves past victims, IEDs, other potential threats
 - Objective is eliminate threat



The Details

- Contact Team calls in “Rescue Team” once immediate area cleared
 - Several PPD officers and RAMS team of 2 ALS providers and EMS officer
 - Police role is solely security for medics
 - EMS officer coordinates RAMS movement, communication with police

The Details

- RAMS team initiates basic care until they run out of supplies or patients
 - They then evacuate victims
 - As more EMS assets arrive on scene, additional Rescue Teams may be formed to assist with evacuation



Medical Care

- Care in Warm Zone:
 - Hemorrhage control
 - Occlusive dressing to chest wounds
 - Chest decompression
 - BLS airway interventions



The Training

- All 250 PFD medics went through day-long training consisting of:
 - Lectures on medical care, equipment, protocols
 - Tactical movement exercises with PPD SWAT



RAMS Equipment

- On many ALS ambulances now, system-wide later this year



Some Issues To Consider

- Initial and ongoing funding
- Buy-in from law department, labor
- Skills maintenance, ongoing training
- Medics comfortable working with SWAT
 - What about with street cops?
- “I didn’t sign up for this”
- What about the FF-EMTs?

Summary

- Increasing number of active shooter incidents calls for new EMS mindset
- Goal of RAMS program is not to create tactical medics
- Gives medics greater situational awareness, more training, better equipment to respond to new reality of prehospital care

Thank You

