

# **Ambulance Strike Team/ Medical Task Force Leader Course**

## *Course Information Packet*

Emergency Services Training Institute

Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service  
200 Technology Way  
College Station, Texas 77840

## Course Overview

### Course Background

Ambulance Strike Teams have yet to be defined, typed, and accepted within the national emergency response community. Especially during disaster declarations, ambulance personnel are an extremely valuable delivery resource and during large-scale disaster response can provide: medical triage, on-scene medical care, transportation to hospitals, shelter medical care and other ESF 8 categories of medical care.

Historically, the following six observations have been identified at many large scale disasters relative to pre-hospital and on-scene medical care:

1. Within the first two to eight hours after a mass casualty or catastrophic event, the community's primary field medical response may be from both fire and non-fire based ambulance and medical first responder entities.
2. Ambulances have self-dispatched in past events. Self-dispatching of any resources can cause negative consequences up to and including the towing of ambulances blocking access to the scene (Avianca Flt. #52 aircrash on Long Island, Jan. 1990).
3. An organized response within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) framework and using the Incident Command System (ICS) is superior to an unorganized response.
4. To date, ambulance resources have been managed by several or no regionally recognized systems.
5. To provide the best possible response during a major disaster, it is imperative to move forward with one unified system that is both NIMS compliant and can be easily assimilated by both Fire based and non-fire based ambulance providers.
6. Management of single resources becomes cumbersome whereas the supervision of resources organized in task force teams is a proven manageable model (span of control).

### Course Description

Recent large-scale catastrophes and terrorism incidents have demonstrated the need to apply the "Strike Team" concept (an organized group of personnel and equipment applied to an emergency response), first implemented during massive wildfire campaigns, to the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response discipline. This course will train EMS personnel in leadership or management positions to serve in the role of Ambulance Strike Team/Medical Task Force Leader. Participants will be taught to prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant events while functioning in a supervisory role over trained personnel ambulances on Mutual Aid assignments to jurisdictions confronted with large numbers of patients requiring mass care or medical evacuation.

## Course Overview Continued

### Course Purpose

The Ambulance Strike Team Leaders Training Program will prepare qualified individuals with the skills and training necessary to lead an Ambulance Strike Team (AST) through the following responsibilities:

1. Assuring the safety and operability of Strike Team personnel and equipment.
2. Coordinating the movement of the personnel and equipment traveling to and returning from an incident.
3. Supervising the operational deployment of the team at the incident, as directed by the Division/Group Supervisor, Operations Section Chief, or Incident Commander.
4. Maintaining familiarity with personnel and equipment operations, including assembly, response, and direct actions of the assigned units, keeping the team accounted for at all times.
5. Contacting appropriate Incident personnel with problems encountered on the incident, including mechanical, operational, or logistical issues.
6. Ensuring vehicles have adequate communications capability.
7. Maintaining effective and positive public relations during the incident.
8. Prior to deployment, determining mission duration, special circumstances, reporting location and contact information.
9. Ensuring completion and submission of ICS documents for timekeeping and Demobilization.

In summary, the AST Leader must have the capability and experience to manage, coordinate, and direct the actions of the ambulance crews at a wide variety of emergency situations. This includes maintaining all required records, and ensuring the logistical needs of all personnel are met during the entire activation of the team.

## Course Details

**Course Length:** 16 hours, typically delivered over 2 days, 8 hours each day.

**Delivery Location:** At a location designated by hosting jurisdiction.

## Course Details Continued

**Delivery Method:** Classroom presentation, table-top practical exercises and role playing.

**Educational Credits (CEU):** 16 hrs by the Continuing Education Coordinating Board for EMS

**Certificate:** TEEEX Certificate of Completion.

**Prerequisites:** To be eligible to attend, participants should have completed:

- ICS-100, 200, 300, 700, 800 or equivalent courses
- 3 Years Supervisory Experience or endorsement by local jurisdiction

**Target Audience:** This course is designed for personnel from the following disciplines:

- Fire Service (FS)
- Hazardous Material (HazMat)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Emergency Management Agency (EMA)
- Public Health (PH)
- Health/Medical

**Class Minimum/Maximum:** 36/48

**For More Info:** Michael Schuler

Phone: (979) 458-2150•Fax: (979) 458-3533

Email: [mike.schuler@teex.tamu.edu](mailto:mike.schuler@teex.tamu.edu)