

RELATED TERMS

- Mutual Aid
- Incident Command



Lessons Learned Information Sharing

www.LLIS.gov

LESSON LEARNED

PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Emergency Management
- Fire
- Law Enforcement

Incident Site Management: Using Staging Areas to Coordinate On-Site Emergency Vehicle Parking

SUMMARY

Incident Command (IC) should promptly establish emergency vehicle staging areas to coordinate the deployment of resources and minimize on-site parking difficulties during a large-scale incident response. Care should be taken to coordinate among police, fire, and rescue organizations to prevent confusion when positioning resources at an incident site.

DESCRIPTION

The fire that destroyed the Station Club in Warwick, Rhode Island on February 20, 2003, resulted in 100 deaths and over 200 injuries. This incident prompted a mutual-aid response involving approximately 575 fire, police, and emergency medical personnel from over 20 jurisdictions. The response included more than ten fire engines and ladder trucks and dozens of police cars and ambulances.

Space for emergency vehicles was limited by the small size of the incident site and congestion in nearby parking areas. Initially, emergency vehicles parked wherever there was room, sometimes hindering operations by crossing fire hoses or blocking the arrival and departure of other vehicles. Ambulance crews looking for victims often left their vehicles unattended on-site, making it difficult to move them if necessary. Parked emergency vehicles initially blocked both lanes of traffic in front of the club until a fire chief ordered responders to reposition them. Such traffic problems were eventually reduced once an ambulance staging area was created in a parking lot 500 feet from the incident site.

IC should promptly establish emergency vehicle staging areas during a large scale incident response, especially when operations occur in a small or already congested setting. Care should be taken to coordinate among police, fire, and rescue organizations to prevent confusion when positioning resources at an incident site.

CITATION

Titan Systems Corporation. *Rhode Island: The Station Club Fire After-Action Report: State, Local, and Federal Government and the Private Sector*. 13 Jul 2004.

https://www.llis.dhs.gov/member/secure/detail.cfm?content_id=10806

DISCLAIMER

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational

purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email Feedback@llis.dhs.gov or visit www.llis.gov.