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## Lessons Learned Information Sharing

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# LESSON LEARNED

#### PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

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- Emergency Communications
- Search and Rescue

## Incident Site Management: Establishing a Site-Locating Device to Broadcast the Location of Coastal Incident Scenes

### SUMMARY

Coastal jurisdictions should consider establishing a site-locating device to broadcast the location of coastal incident scenes to emergency responders. A radio beacon, signal flare, or coordinate sharing procedure may be used for this purpose.

### DESCRIPTION

On June 7, 2005, Volusia County, Florida hosted a full-scale exercise (FSE) simulating a man portable air defense systems (MANPADS) attack on a commercial airliner departing from Daytona Beach International Airport. The intent of the FSE was to improve cooperation between agencies likely to respond to a Volusia County ocean mass casualty incident (MCI). The FSE focused on the triage and treatment of MCI victims on or near a quarter-mile portion of Daytona Beach. Exercise planners constructed the incident scene using realistic props, including a full-size aircraft fuselage and cockpit. Prior to the FSE's start, planners positioned these components on the beach and lit smoke canisters to mimic the combustion that would follow an airplane crash.

During the exercise, sea-based responders performed rescue and recovery operations in the waters adjacent to the beach crash site. These responders could not initially locate the incident scene because the beach's vast size, seawall, and other structures camouflaged it. Also, smoke emanating from the crash site was no longer visible by the time offshore resources arrived in the area. The inability of offshore responders to locate the incident site significantly delayed waterborne rescue and recovery operations. Following the FSE, Volusia County Emergency Management concluded that a system must be established to clearly broadcast the location of coastal incidents to all response elements.

Coastal jurisdictions should consider establishing a site-locating device to broadcast the location of coastal incident scenes to emergency responders. A radio beacon, signal flare, or coordinate sharing procedure may be used for this purpose. Transmission of the latitude and longitude coordinates may assist response assets in locating the incident scene.

### CITATION

Volusia County Emergency Management. *Volusia County Ocean Mass Casualty Exercise: After Action Report*. June 7, 2005.

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