TACTICAL MEDICINE: BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The Diversity of the Calgary Metro TEMS Unit

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries - Introduction

- Overview of Demographics
- The Diversity of the Calgary TEMS Unit
  - TEMS protocols
  - High angle rescue
  - K9 medicine
  - Deployment
- Development of the Calgary Zone RTF program
- Alberta College of Paramedics Tactical Paramedic Competency Profile
- TEMS involvement with the International Public Safety Association (IPSA)

*No conflicts of interest related to this material*
The City of Calgary - Demographics

- The 2018 civic census puts Calgary’s population at 1,267,344.
- The city proper has a population density of 1,329 people per square kilometer (3,442/sq mi) spread over 825 square kilometers (318 sq mi).

Reference: http://worldpopulationreview.com/world-cities/calgary-population

The Calgary Police Service

Sworn members: 2,000
Unsworn members: 1,000
Stations: 8
Legal jurisdiction: Municipal

Crime Statistics: In 2017, CPS received a total of 570,109 calls for service.
- Homicides – 29 (3rd highest in country)
- Vehicle Thefts – 6,861 (highest in country)
- Domestic Violence – 4,371 (highest in country)

Reference: https://pub-calgary.escribemeetings.com/filestream.ashx?DocumentId=51159

The Calgary Police Service Tactical Unit

- 3 teams of 10 tactical officers
- Average 400 calls per year:
  - Approx. 200 Gun Calls
  - Approx. 120 Warrants
  - Approx. 50 Suicidal Subjects, Hostage Takings, Tactical Vehicle Interventions, Explosives calls and VIP Witness Close Protection calls.
Calgary Metro TEMS

Statistics:
- 2002: Inception of TEMS - approx. 70 tactical callouts.
- 2005: By third year TEMS was responding to approx. 400 callouts annually.
- 2018: Currently doing between 500-600 tactical/K9 events.

Calgary Metro TEMS

Hiring:
- Held to same standard and security as Police.
- Fitness Testing
- Phobia and Skills testing
- Background and polygraph.
- 80 hour orientation.

Calgary Metro TEMS High Angle Operations

The High Angle Operations course includes:
- Belay techniques
- Anchor systems
- Rappel techniques
- Knot familiarization
- Rescue/hauling systems
Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review

High Angle Rescue

- Received call for individual in crane control booth. Unknown motive or situation.
- 340 feet/30 floors up. TEMS required up at crisis point.
- Offender placed in a diaper harness and lowered to ground

Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review

High Angle Rescue

- TEMS should have the training to work and be competent in any environment where the tactical/SWAT team is deployed.
- "Good medicine in bad places." Remote assessment and medical planning
- Train for these events (3 crane specific calls over 4 years in Calgary)
Calgary Metro TEMS Protocol highlights

• TEMS protocols current with TCCC/TECC guidelines
• Calgary TEMS medics are considered to be trauma care specialists within AHS EMS.
• On the horizon: IM TXA, finger thoracotomy, blood products.
• Goal of Calgary TEMS unit is to push innovative treatments and protocols down to frontline EMS.

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries
Advanced Trauma Care Protocol Case review

Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review
C-Train Crash Injury
Calgary Metro TEMS Deployment

Paramedic Response Unit (PRU):
• Dedicated resource for CPS Tactical Unit callout and training (24/7)
• Single Advanced Care Paramedic on a SUV
• EMS first response, still support EMS system
• Self-dispatch to EMS/CPS high acuity calls due to training and skillset.

Calgary Metro TEMS Deployment

Paramedic Response Unit (PRU):
• The only EMS resource to carry Police communications.
• Created our own ability to self-dispatch and deploy on police events.
• End result has been supporting Police outside of just the Tactical environment.

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries Deployment Case Reviews
Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review

*Officer Down*

- Call started as an armed robbery and attempted car-jacking
- Police respond back into area after a suspicious person was called in.
- Officer who was canvassing the area was ambushed with gunfire from near by house. Officer is hit and goes down

Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review

*Officer Down*

- TEMS arrives O/S within 2 min. TEMS applied SAM chest seals to anterior and posterior chest. No other injuries found. Pt placed on soft litter.
- Ambulance escorted onto scene. Pt carried and placed into back of ambulance as more gunfire rang out. They quickly move ambulance out of the hot zone.
- Suspect barricades himself in detached garage, starts it on fire. Fire grows as random gunfire is exchanged with police.

Calgary Metro TEMS Case Review

Stolen Vehicle/Pursuits

- Starts as a stabbing and attempted arson. Offender steals a truck and flees the scene.
- Spotted several hours later driving erratically. Followed by unmarked police units. Heads out of the city limits.
- Multi-jurisdictional chase after attempted traffic stop. Spike belt deployed, vehicle eventually stops.
- TEMS able to treat offender at the point of arrest
Calgary Metro TEMS K9 Medicine

- TEMS now supports K-9 on tracks and other K-9 involved events.
- 2010: Developed treatment protocols in conjunction with local veterinarians for PSD’s.
- 2016: Extensive PSD treatment protocols signed off by the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association and the Alberta College of Paramedics.

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries
Interoperability

- TEMS created the EMS response protocol to an Active Shooter/Hostile Event (ASHE) for Calgary.
- Introduced the concepts of Rescue Task Force (RTF) Teams consisting of Police, EMS and Fire to our front line staff.
- Not feasible to rely solely on TEMS or Police resources.
- Program now expanding provincially to all EMS practitioners.
Rescue Task Force

- TEMS trained 4 EMS platoons in the Calgary Zone. Ongoing Tri-Service training bi-annually.
- Training is now part of the Calgary Police/EMS/Fire new recruit orientation.
- Calgary is currently the only city in Canada to have a mutual agreement signed off by the Tri-Services (Police, EMS, Fire) Chief’s.
- Received the Paramedic Chief’s of Canada Award of Excellence in 2018 for ASHE Program.

Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries

STOP THE BLEED
SAVE A LIFE
**Alberta College of Paramedics**

Provincial TEMS Competency Profile Proposal:
- In the process of creating a profile of competencies, best practices and training matrix for the province of Alberta.
- Based on the Canadian Tactical Paramedic Profile (May 2008) and the more recent updated NITIC Core Competency Domains (2016).
- Goal: Tactical Paramedic to be classed as a specialty designation in Alberta under the provincial Advanced Care Paramedic designation (ACP-Tactical Specialist).

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**International Public Safety Association**

IPS A TEMS Committee

[www.joinipsa.org](http://www.joinipsa.org)

**Tactical Medicine: Beyond Boundaries**
Thank You
Questions?

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