

Critical Incident Leadership

Critical Incident Leadership for Patrol Operations

This course prepares responding officers, regardless of rank, to lead during critical incidents. Participants learn to recognize incident dynamics, set priorities, and take timely action to de-escalate and intervene effectively. Leadership begins with the first responder on scene, shaping outcomes and guiding resolution when seconds count.

Participants will learn to:

- Recognize essential characteristics of a developing incident
- Identify factors that influence the event's progression
- Establish clear priorities
- Take timely action to promote de-escalation and initiate effective intervention toward a successful resolution.

Every critical incident has a first responder. Every first responder has the opportunity to lead. Regardless of rank, leadership begins the moment you arrive on scene.

Student Goals

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1. Identify Critical Incident Characteristics**
 - Recognize key indicators and patterns common in developing critical incidents.
 - Differentiate between routine and high-risk situations requiring immediate attention.
- 2. Analyze Influencing Factors**
 - Evaluate environmental, behavioral, and situational factors that shape the dynamics of a critical incident.
 - Consider how time, location, subject behavior, and public safety concerns affect decision-making.
- 3. Establish Tactical Priorities**
 - Determine and prioritize immediate objectives, such as containment, communication, or medical response.
 - Understand and apply the principles of the Priority of Life scale.
- 4. Demonstrate Sound Decision-Making**
 - Apply structured decision-making models under stress.
 - Justify decisions based on officer safety, legal standards, and agency policy.
- 5. Utilize De-escalation Strategies**
 - Implement techniques to reduce volatility and risk during critical encounters.
 - Communicate effectively with subjects, team members, and other first responders to manage conflict.
- 6. Initiate Tactical Intervention**
 - Coordinate timely and effective intervention actions that move the situation toward resolution.
 - Integrate command presence, communication, and resource deployment appropriately.
- 7. Reflect on Performance and Decision Outcomes**
 - Critically review response actions for effectiveness and compliance with best practices.
 - Identify areas for individual or team improvement following a simulated or actual incident.

Equipment List

Note-taking materials

Students must have an electronic device (laptop, tablet, or smartphone) capable of accessing the MTOA website to complete the required written test as part of the course.