

Print Date: 7/30/14  
**Course Objectives/Course Outline**  
**Spokane Community College**

---

---

**Course Title:** Paramedic Operations  
**Prefix and Course Number:** EMS 224

---

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

**By the end of this course, a student should be able to:**

- understand standards and guidelines that help ensure safe and effective ground and air medical transport, operations in austere environments including HAZMAT, crime scene, rescue and extended care situations.
- Understand and implement the Incident command system.

**Course Outline:**

**Paramedic Operations**

- I. Identify current local and state standards which influence ambulance design, equipment requirements and staffing of ambulances. (C-1)
- II. Discuss the importance of completing an ambulance equipment/ supply checklist. (C-1)
- III. Discuss the factors to be considered when determining ambulance stationing within a community. (C-1)
- IV. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of air medical transport. (C-1)
- V. Identify the conditions/ situations in which air medical transport should be considered. (C-1)
- VI. Explain the need for the incident management system (IMS)/ incident command system (ICS) in managing emergency medical services incidents. (C-1)
- VII. Define the term multiple casualty incident (MCI). (C-1)
- VIII. Define the term disaster management. (C-1)
- IX. Describe essential elements of scene size-up when arriving at a potential MCI. (C-1)
- X. Describe the role of the paramedics and EMS systems in planning for MCIs and disasters. (C-1)
- XI. Define the following types of incidents and how they affect medical management: (C-1)
  - Open or uncontained incident
  - A. Closed or contained incident
- XII. Describe the functional components of the incident management system in terms of the following: (C-1)
  1. Command
  2. Finance
  3. Logistics
  4. Operations
  5. Planning
- XIII. Differentiate between singular and unified command and when each is most applicable. (C-3)
- XIV. Describe the role of command. (C-1)
- XV. Describe the need for transfer of command and procedures for transferring it. (C-1)
- XVI. Differentiate between command procedures used at small, medium and large scale medical incidents. (C-1)
- XVII. Explain the local/ regional threshold for establishing command and implementation of the incident management system including threshold MCI declaration. (C-1)

- XIX. Describe the role of both command posts and emergency operations centers in MCI and disaster management. (C-1)
- XX. Describe the role of the physician at multiple casualty incidents. (C-1)
- XXI. Define triage and describe the principles of triage. (C-1)
- XXII. Describe the START (simple triage and rapid treatment) method of initial triage. (C-1)
- XXIII. Given a list of 20 patients with various multiple injuries, determine the appropriate triage priority with 90% accuracy. (C-3)
- XXIV. Define primary and secondary triage. (C-1)
- XXV. Describe when primary and secondary triage techniques should be implemented. (C-1)
- XXVI. Describe the need for and techniques used in tracking patients during multiple casualty incidents. (C-1)
- XXVII. Describe techniques used to allocate patients to hospitals and track them. (C-1)
- XXVIII. Describe modifications of telecommunications procedures during multiple casualty incidents. (C-1)
- XXIX. List the physical and psychological signs of critical incident stress. (C-1)
- XXX. Describe the role of critical incident stress management sessions in MCIs. (C-1)
- XXXI. Define the term rescue. (C-1)
- XXXII. Explain the medical and mechanical aspects of rescue situations. (C-1)
- XXXIII. Explain the role of the paramedic in delivering care at the site of the injury, continuing through the rescue process and to definitive care. (C-1)
- XXXIV. Describe the phases of a rescue operation. (C-1)
- XXXV. List and describe the types of personal protective equipment needed to safely operate in the rescue environment to include: (C-1)
  - a. Head protection
  - b. Eye protection
  - c. Hand protection
  - d. Personal flotation devices
  - e. Thermal protection/ layering systems
  - f. High visibility clothing
  - g. Specialized footwear
- XXXVI. Explain the differences in risk between moving water and flat water rescue. (C-1)
- XXXVII. Explain the effects of immersion hypothermia on the ability to survive sudden immersion and self rescue. (C-1)
- XXXVIII. Explain the phenomenon of the cold protective response in cold water drowning situations. (C-1)
- XXXIX. Identify the risks associated with low head dams and the rescue complexities they pose. (C-1)
- XL. Given a picture of moving water, identify and explain the following features and hazards associated with: (C-2)
  - a. Hydraulics
  - b. Strainers
  - c. Dams/ hydro-electric sites
- XLI. Explain why water entry or go techniques are methods of last resort. (C-1)
- XLII. Explain the rescue techniques associated with reach-throw-row-go. (C-1)
- XLIII. Given a list of rescue scenarios, identify the victim survivability profile and which are rescue versus body recovery situations. (C-1)
- XLIV. Explain the self rescue position if unexpectedly immersed in moving water. (C-1)
- XLV. Given a series of pictures identify which would be considered "confined spaces" and

- potentially oxygen deficient. (C-3)
- XLVI. Identify the hazards associated with confined spaces and risks posed to potential rescuers to include: (C-1)
- Oxygen deficiency
  - Chemical/ toxic exposure/ explosion
  - Engulfment
  - Machinery entrapment
  - Electricity
- XLVII. Identify components necessary to ensure site safety prior to confined space rescue attempts. (C-1)
- XLVIII. Identify the poisonous gases commonly found in confined spaces to include: (C-1)
- Hydrogen sulfide
  - Carbon dioxide
  - Carbon monoxide
  - Low/ high oxygen concentrations
  - Methane
  - Ammonia
  - Nitrogen dioxide
- XLIX. Explain the hazard of cave-in during trench rescue operations. (C-1)
- L. Describe the effects of traffic flow on the highway rescue incident including limited access superhighways and regular access highways. (C-1)
- LI. List and describe the following techniques to reduce scene risk at highway incidents: (C-1)
- Apparatus placement
  - Headlights and emergency vehicle lighting
  - Cones, flares
  - Reflective and high visibility clothing
- List and describe the hazards associated with the following auto/ truck components: (C-1)
- Energy absorbing bumpers
  - Air bag/ supplemental restraint systems
  - Catalytic converters and conventional fuel systems
  - Stored energy
  - Alternate fuel systems
- LII. Given a diagram of a passenger auto, identify the following structures: (C-1)
- A, B, C, D posts
  - Fire wall
  - Unibody versus frame designs
- LVII. Describe methods for emergency stabilization using rope, cribbing, jacks, spare tire, and come-a-longs for vehicles found on their: (C-1)
- Wheels
  - Side
  - Roof
  - Inclines
- LVIII. Describe the electrical hazards commonly found at highway incidents (above and below ground). (C-1)
- LVIV. Explain the difference between tempered and safety glass, identify its locations on a vehicle and how to break it safely. (C-3)

Print Date: 7/30/14