ACCIDENT SCENE: For Training and Investigation

Dave Dyck
Safety Services Manitoba
WARNING: GRAPHIC CONTENT VIEWER'S DISCRETION IS ADVISED
Everything you are about to see, are simulations and special effects
Purpose?

Making up an accident scene can:

• Help sharpen you safety dept.'s investigative skills.
• Possibly expose potential hazards in the workplace
• Help develop emergency protocols in the event of an actual accident
• Great team building exercise.
Where To Start....
What are your Parameters and Objectives ??

• What’s your scope (What do you want to achieve)
• What are your resources?
• What’s your budget?
• What’s your location?
How Real do you want it?
Identify your goals

• Is this a test for the Emergency response team?
• A drill for your safety dept.?
• A surprise to see how your employees will react?
Location, Location, Location

Location is everything:
IF possible try and conduct the exercise at the actual work location
If this is not possible, then an offsite location.

**Remember: the more realistic the area, the more realistic the reaction and results**
Resources

• Any damaged equipment around that can be used?
• Is there anyone who will “Act” as an injured person, or as a witness?
• How much time do you have to prepare, as well as run the incident?
• Cleaning up after?
• Once you have a location and an idea of what you are doing as well as a scope of how large of a exercise this will be. It is VERY important to ensure local FIRE, Police, and Ambulance services are aware.
Local EMS.

Even if every precaution is taken to ensure that everyone know this is a drill. There have been cases where someone panics and actually calls 911 for help. This leads to a un-needed deployment of services that could be needed some where else.
Local EMS.

Every opportunity must be taken to alert all services, that a drill will be conducted and when it is to take place. This could mean stopping by your local Fire/police dept. location to tell them in person, or contacting local non-emergency services (in Winnipeg 311) and asked to be connected to Emergency services and the reason why.
When Setting up the Scene

• Ensure that only key people know about the setup. (the less people know about the exercise the more realistic reaction you will get)
• Prepare all “props” ahead of time.
• Ensure all actors are ready (briefed) and “made up” before the scene is setup.
Accident Makeup
Accident Makeup

DON”T OVER DO IT!!!
Accident Makeup

- Remember this is not a horror movie. You are trying to create a realistic representation of an accident. Sometimes less is better.
Accident makeup

For ideas of what is consistent with the situation you are trying to reproduce, study case files and reports from accident investigations.

Documentaries and News accounts are also a good source of information.
Accident makeup

• Reproduction of an injury on an actor will by far take the most amount of time. But if done properly, it can be the difference from a mediocre exercise to one that really tests the skills and responsiveness of your Safety Dept. and the emergency response team.
PROPS

When incorporating, or adding props it is very important to ensure that it is safe and “decommissioned”
PROPS

If using any type of vehicles (cars, forklift, Etc.)
Ensure all electrical systems are locked out, and all fluids are drained.
Ensure everything is secure
• Tied down
• Blocked
• No change of movement.
Putting it all Together

OK you have got:

• A location
• Actors
• Props

Now lets put it in motion
What are your Objectives?

Are you running this to see if your Emergency preparedness is adequate?

OR

Are you doing this for an exercise in Deconstruction?
If you want to check the response of both the people on the job site and your ERT, then speed and surprise is the name of the game.

Remember: The fewer people who know about this exercise the more realistic response you will get.
• Review the role your actors are playing.
• Ensure your observers are in position.
• **Double check** that the local EMS is aware of what you are about to do.

ACTION!
NOW WHAT?

After the exercise is completed, plan for a debrief. Appointment someone to take notes and interview the responders / investigators right after. The information and impressions will still be fresh in everyone’s mind.
Post Exercise Items

• Ensure the area is cleaned up, and left exactly as you found it.
• Clean up supplies are available for your actors to remove makeup.
• Follow up with local EMS to ensure they are aware that the exercise is over and any calls that come from your location are now real.
Post Exercise Items

• Write up required reports for future “lessons learned”

• Post meeting should be conducted to ensure no one has any “PTS” (post traumatic stress)

** Although PTS sounds like a trivial item, people react to stressful situations differently and some people could be affected deeply by what they perceive as a real emergency
Sound like too much?

The value of an emergency exercise, for training, and investigation purposes has been well documented.

If it is something you think is beyond your field of expertise, there are several agencies that can provide this service for you.
PRESENTATION FINISHED

...ANY QUESTIONS?