

## **Incident Response Unit Course Overview**

### **Scope**

The aim of this document is to provide candidates with some basic information regarding the three week IRU training module. Specifics such as location of the course, training venue and facilities will be covered within the course joining instructions.

### **Pre learning**

Prior to attendance candidates will have access to pre course learning material and this will include specific pre learning identified from JRCALC. Other aspects of the pre learning focus on navigation skills and basic map reading and guidance documents. It is in the candidate's interest to have a working knowledge of their Trusts Major Incident plan in particular the Bronze level function at scene. Candidates are advised to revise signs and symptoms and treatment of CBR injury / illness. It is understood that in some circumstances the pre learning package will not arrive in time to revise all of the aspects, also that candidates workload prior to the start of the course may hinder learning. In these circumstances candidates are advised to make every effort to achieve an acceptable level of understanding of the material. The pre learning material can obviously be consulted throughout the course.

### **Course Make Up**

Candidates will be assigned to a team with a designated team leader. Depending on the make-up of the course, teams may not comprise of members from the same Trust. This will not only facilitate easier loading of the courses but also assist in sharing of experiences and learning. Each team will be assigned equipment and a vehicle that they will be responsible and accountable for. Some of the equipment is of high value and it is important that these items are monitored throughout the course. Candidates will receive information regarding the equipment and procedures to be followed in the event of breakage or loss.

### **Course Structure**

The course consists of three five day modules. They are constructed in a manner that will facilitate learning in a safe environment. There will be a mix of theory and practical sessions and many presentations by experts in their respective field. There will be ample opportunity to question the subject matter experts who will do all that they can to impart knowledge in the time available. Doctors will take the candidates through Triage and Trauma management as well as specific CBR treatment.

Practical clinical sessions will be conducted that aim to allow candidates to experience the difference in performing normal clinical interventions whilst wearing PPE. There will be a range of practical exercises that will start off with less complex tasks and conclude a final exercise involving the entire course in a complex incident. Commanders will be required to brief their teams and liaise with other agencies.

Sessions will take all of the candidates through the briefing process and provide plenty of opportunity to practice. Overall we aim to make the course enjoyable, challenging and there will plenty of interaction between candidates, instructors and subject matter experts.

### **Aims and Objectives**

Overall Aims and Objectives are provided with the pre learning material. They will also be available during the course along with specific session aims and objectives.

### **Tutorials**

At regular intervals throughout the course, tutorials will be scheduled. These are an opportunity for one to one discussion between candidates and course tutors. Candidates are advised to make maximum use of these sessions, as tutors can only work with information provided by candidates in order to support learning. A record of tutorials will be kept and where required action plans produced and implemented.

### **Safety**

The practical scenarios are challenging in nature and candidates will be performing arduous tasks whilst wearing PPE (PRPS / CR1). There will be an amount of lifting and moving equipment and mannequins as well as live patients. This will be kept to a minimum however candidates must be able to demonstrate competency to perform those tasks during the training. Candidates are required to have received formal manual handling training and to adhere to their trust policies. Risk assessments formal and dynamic are carried out for each exercise venue. A safety brief will be conducted prior to each exercise that will highlight identified hazards. Any candidate who does not comply with the safety brief will be removed from the exercise.

### **Policy**

Candidates will be expected to read and sign course training policies such as code of conduct, equality and diversity, dress, alcohol and grievance or appeals procedure. This is a requirement of candidates and instructors and will assist in ensuring that all those involved in the course adhere to the same high standards. Candidates must also note that elements of the course are conducted at external training venues and that have their own standards must be adhered to and our professional standards maintained at all times

### **Instructors**

Course instructors will deliver theory sessions and act as safety and umpires during exercises. The instructors will do their best to facilitate learning during the course, and each course being slightly different, the course is also part of a learning process for them. Instructors will not be able to answer questions regarding individual trusts implementation of HART.



Relevant Managers from Trusts that have candidates on the course are encouraged to visit and observe training as they are in a better position to answer such queries. There will be a duty instructor each day and during the night, contact details will be provided during course administration.

### **Example Programme**

An example of an IRU course programme is contained in the pre course material. This will not exactly match the course that you will attend but it will however provide a guide to the content of the course. An up to date programme will be made available during course administration.

### **Accommodation and Welfare**

The course venue will be detailed within joining instructions however as a guide accommodation will be single occupancy rooms. Accommodation will normally be provided from the Sunday evening prior to the commencement of the course. All meals will be provided during the course and dietary requirements catered for. On occasions packed meals or hot meals will be provided on the exercise area. Appropriate PPE and clothing must be brought by the candidate, specific PPE will be issued during course administration. Ensure that adequate change of ambulance uniform is brought, there are washing machine facilities. Candidates will be required to work outside in inclement weather and occasional evenings. Specific instructions regarding the venue such as standard of dress for dining rooms, access to venue recreational facilities will be detailed in joining instructions and course administration.

### **Evaluation**

Full and independent evaluation is a fundamental element of each HART training module. Candidates will be required to take part in the evaluation process and provided with the necessary material and equipment to do so. Evaluation is essential in order to develop the training and improve operational capability.

### **Conclusion**

The course is designed to provide candidates with the knowledge required for ambulance inner cordon operations and the opportunity to practice in a safe learning environment. It is essential that candidates arrive with an open mind and positive attitude so that they can gain the most from the course. It is not possible to replicate exactly how a team will deploy however the generic principles will be exercised, mainly focusing on incident worst case scenarios. Obviously day to day HART activities and response is not covered during the course, this is so that maximum benefit can be gained from the time allocated to training. One of the main benefits is that candidates will have the opportunity to work with other candidates from different Trust's. We hope that you enjoy the course and look forward to welcoming you on the course and working with you.