

# Take 5 To prepare

## Resilience and specialist operations team briefing note:

### Specialist Operations Response Team (SORT)

SORT is a national requirement and capability under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and NHS Core Standards and ensures NHS Ambulance Trusts are able to respond quickly to a Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) or an incident where Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) compounds have been used; thus ensuring quick and effective medical care to patients can occur at the earliest available opportunity.



In April 2021 the CBRN element of SORT was merged with the Trust's ability to deploy staff to a Marauding Terrorist Attack, creating the new SORT capability.

All SORT members will now undergo 7 days of training each year which will include...

- 3 days of CBRN training
- 1 physical competency assessments each year
- 2 days of MTA training
- 1 day which can be used for additional SORT training or exercising

Those staff who don't complete the 7 days of training will be stood down from responding with the team until they are back up to speed with all SORT elements.

During the training and exercising SORT staff complete each year they will cover both the theory and practical element of the following subjects.

- Setting up the Trust Clinical Decontamination Unit (CDU)
- Wearing PRPS (Powered Respirator Protective Suit) PPE
- Learning dry decontamination & wet decontamination techniques
- Learning triage techniques in full PPE
- Learning to erect the tented modules to provide shelter at Major Incidents
- Wearing MTA PPE
- Responding in a MTA hostile environment
- Treating patients who have been stabbed or shot within a hostile environment
- Zoning of an MTA Incident
- Learn to set out and resource a Casualty Clearing Station

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Staff will stay in their substantive role and will complete the SORT training / exercising on overtime (rather than abstractions).

As a SORT member of staff you will be expected to respond, if available, to any incident the Trust deems it necessary to deploy SORT to, be that within the East of England or to support another Ambulance Trust.

Staff wishing to join SORT must be a qualified AAP or above, physically fit, able to pass the Physical Competency Assessment and Occupational Health Assessment.

Follow the link to watch the National Ambulance Resilience Unit (NARU) SORT video to find out more...

<https://naru.org.uk/videos/are-you-interested-in-joining-sort/>

If joining SORT interests you, and you fit the above criteria, then please complete this short application form.

<https://tinyurl.com/EEAST-SORT-Application>

Once we have received your completed application form we will assess your suitability and share assessment and course dates with those who meet the criteria to join SORT.

Further information can be requested by sending an email to [SORT@eastamb.nhs.uk](mailto:SORT@eastamb.nhs.uk)

