

Emergency response

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An incident that is – or has the potential to become – a major and/or critical incident produces an environment that makes decision making harder. These situations (Hine and Bragias, 2021) are characterised by:

- uncertainty
- unpredictability
- time pressure
- complexity

In this type of incident, police responders will often need to fulfil multiple responsibilities, using different skillsets simultaneously. This may include:

- protecting lives
- identifying suspects
- securing and controlling the scene
- triaging

Where an incident also involves interoperability, there are likely to be challenges in communication, coordination and collaboration (Davidson and others, 2022).

Effective management of these incidents requires a clear command structure. Contingency planning for emergency response includes [Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles](#) (JESIP), allowing for the escalation of the incident in response, where necessary.

Where a police-only response and command operates, principles that are relevant, such as coordination and communication, can still be harnessed.

Tags

APP Critical incidents Major incidents