First In For The Big One...The First Critical Minutes

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The actions of the first arriving unit sets the tone and lays the ground work for what will happen in the next hour. Are you ready? Do you know what those critical actions are? This is a powerful session on learning to effectively manage serious calls: establishing command, size-up, arrival reports, triage, requesting and using resources. It's critical operational information that most of us in EMS have had to learn the hard way. This session can help replace years of trial and error and make EMS operations run more smoothly.

Jon Politis started in emergency services in 1971 and has served as a firefighter, ski patroller, Paramedic, Paramedic Program Director, State EMS Training Coordinator and EMS Chief. He holds a BA degree from Castleton State College and a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Marist College. He served as the Chief of the Town of Colonie EMS Department from 1989 to 2010 when he retired. In 2010 he was the recipient of the NAEMT Rocco V Morando EMS lifetime achievement award. Jon continues to practice as paramedic, is an active volunteer firefighter and alpine ski patroller. He also works as a Paramedic-Ranger in Grand Teton National Park and is a member of the Jenny Lake Rescue Team. Contact

Presentation Outline:
- Role of first arriving units
- Definition of an incident
- Establishing command
- Scene size up for EMS
- Components of an arrival report
- Resource utilization

Objective 1: Explain the importance of a good scene size up.
Objective 2: Describe using ICS and MCI principles at small incidents.
Objective 3: Describe rapid assessment and triage.