

Training for Terror - Operation Dark Cloud August 03, 2003

Safe Environment Engineering was invited to participate in Operation Dark Cloud. Our participation was somewhat unconventional.

Operation Dark Cloud was a field exercise conducted at the Northridge Fashion Mall on August 3rd, 2003.

The scenario was a multi-agency response to a terrorist act.

In the accompanying [video](#), a fog machine was used to simulate a chemical release. Since the victims were lying on the floor in close proximity to the fog machine, there was a concern that the carbon dioxide used to create the fog would displace the oxygen and actually create "real" victims.

Life•line™ Portable Safety Monitors with attached oxygen monitors were staged around the alleged victims to monitor the air. Safe Environment Engineering's job was to monitor the oxygen levels at a Portable Monitoring Console (also known as a Portable Incident Command and Control Console). If the readings went below OSHA's established safe threshold, at the direction of LAPD HAZMAT we were to stop the event. A few times we got close to the thresholds, but fortunately, all victims were retrieved without incident.

Being the only civilian to participate in the exercise was truly interesting and offered a unique perspective at what goes on inside the "Hot Zone".

David M. Lamensdorf
President
Safe Environment Engineering

Click [Here](#) to watch or download the video (4 MB)

Safe Environment Engineering
25061 W. Avenue Stanford, Suite 30
Valencia, CA 91355
Ph: 661-295-5500 Fax: 661-294-9246
<http://www.safeenv.com>