## 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003.

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

In the accompanying <u>video</u>, 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<sup>TM</sup> 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 time 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".

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Click **Here** to watch or download the video (4 MB)

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