



HOT WASH A HOW TO GUIDE

Sponsored by MIEMSS to
Help Navigate a Post Incident Hot Wash

DEVELOPED BY

CRASHCORE
Crash Center for Research and Education

What is a Hot Wash?

A Hot Wash, also commonly known as an After Action Review (AAR), is an effective approach for capturing the knowledge gained from incident responses and experiences. They're great for ensuring that the lessons learned from one event are shared with the rest of the department, with a goal of improving overall performance.

The process itself is an active discussion centered around these four general questions:

1. What was supposed to happen?
2. What actually happened?
3. Why did it happen?
4. How do we improve?
5. How do we repeat our success?

This “hot wash” tool was developed by Crash Core and MIEMSS to help EMS clinicians and first responders process what occurred at a motor vehicle crash (MVC) event.

These tools are part of a pilot project; they will not be used for any public information or legal proceedings. They are only to assist first responders in understanding the crash and the related response.

Hot Wash – What To Do

A hot wash includes documenting the scene, vehicle and occupants, as well as a discussion lead by prompts (see next page).

1. Crash Scene Diagram

- Use dry erase/pencil to draw the roadway scene where the crash occurred. Indicate:
 - ✓ Lane direction of travel
 - ✓ Vehicles involved at time of crash (number them #1, #2, etc) Other obstacles/pedestrians/animals of significance
 - ✓ Traffic signals or signs

2. Vehicle #1 Diagram (to be completed for each vehicle involved)

- Complete the “Make/Model” part for vehicle #1 as identified on the Crash Scene Diagram sheet.
- Document these on the pictures of the sedan:
 - Impact/s to the outside of the vehicle (top image)
 - Passengers in the vehicle—where they were seated and found post-crash) (middle image)
 - Intrusions into the occupant space
 - Which airbags deployed (bottom image)

3. Hot Wash Discussion (See prompts on next page)

- Conduct an active discussion centered around these exploratory questions.

Hot Wash Discussion Prompts

Conduct an active discussion centered around these exploratory questions.

1. For this particular incident, what was our strategy?
 - Discuss the team's approach to this kind of incident.
 - Discuss what we expected.
2. How did we execute relative to our strategy?
 - What did we do?
 - What didn't we do?
3. Why was there a difference between strategy and execution?
4. What will we do to refine our execution for a better outcome?
 - Provide 3 IMPROVES
5. How do we repeat our success?
 - Provide 3 SUSTAINS

Hot Wash Feedback

Thank you for assisting Crash Core and MIEMSS in evaluating this tool. Your feedback will help enhance this program and make it more impactful.

1. How helpful was this tool for processing the MVC scene and event?

(least helpful) 1 2 3 4 5 (most helpful)

2. Was this tool helpful for identifying anything to do differently in a future MVC event?

(least helpful) 1 2 3 4 5 (most helpful)

3. Beyond this pilot project, would you consider using this tool after a MVC?

YES NO MAYBE (circle one)

4. Any suggestions to make this tool or pilot project better? (please list)

Who could Crash Core/MIEMSS contact about this hot wash discussion in case we have questions about your feedback?

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone #: _____

After completing these hot wash diagrams and this survey, scan or take a photo of each page and send to: cps@miemss.org. All information will be confidential.

Questions? Call Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, MIEMSS. 410-491-7803.