

CT Pediatric Disaster Coalition Tabletop Exercise



Exercise Goals:

- 1) Discuss disaster response interface between EMS and Hospital Emergency Responders in your city and EMS region
- 2) Describe ideal communication between EMS providers and ED staff in mass casualty events
- 3) Consider surge capacity and capability of EMS agencies and the hospital, including alternate care sites.
- 4) Review memoranda of understanding and transfer agreements with other EMS agencies and hospitals.

Background: On an icy morning, a Whalley School bus hit a patch of ice on the highway. The bus was en route to a field trip at the science center. Children from a wide range of ages attend Whalley School. The bus went off the road into the grassy median, and landed on the driver's side of the bus after rolling once. There were 32 occupants aboard, including a teacher, chaperones and the driver.

It is 11:00 am. The school bus is three miles from your hospital. The victims have been extricated, and are in the median of the highway.

911 has been activated, and the first ambulances, fire vehicles and police cars are responding to the crash.

Phase I EMS and Prehospital Response to Disasters

- 1) How are EMS agencies in your city dispatched (CMED, Valley Shore, other)?
- 2) How many ambulances would be available to respond to this Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)? Would that number be different if it were 11 pm rather than 11 am?]

- 3) Who is responsible for medical oversight of the EMS response to the MCI?
- 4) Has an MCI involving children occurred in your city?

Phase II Communication

- 1) What information does EMS receive about an MCI prior to arrival?
- 2) What information is communicated to the receiving facility by EMS?
- 3) What barriers are there to effective communication? In prior MCI responses, have initial estimates of the number of victims, assessments of the nature of the disaster, or other details pertinent to the response been inaccurate?

Phase III Surge Capacity and Alternate Care Sites

- 1) Where would child victims of the crash be dispositioned, by triage level? Where would the adults be transported?

Red and Yellow patients will go to SMITH HOSPITAL, Green patients transported to JAMES HOSPITAL. Catchment area is "River to River to Reservation".

- 2) At this hospital, how would a decision about the following be made?
 - a. Generating surge capacity (e.g. alternate care sites)
 - b. Generating pediatric-specific surge capacity
 - c. When capacity has been reached or exceeded
 - d. When a disaster requires evacuation internally or externally

Looking at the map of the hospital and the city, identify potential alternate care sites for ill and/or injured child MCI victims.

- 3) What additional EMS resources can be requested if the readily-available ambulances and intercept vehicles are inadequate?

Phase IV Memoranda of Understanding, Transportation Certificates and EMS Interagency Assistance

- 1) Does your hospital have memoranda of understanding with other hospitals regarding MCIs, diversion status, transfers in the event of evacuation or other events that might overwhelm your hospital?
- 2) How are EMS interagency assistance agreements determined in your EMS Region?