

To all interested persons:

Below you will find a template for a Mass Casualty Incident protocol. This protocol can be used to assist your county EMS association with the development of a county specific plan.

As with any countywide plan, it should not be used without first consulting all the parties involved!!!!



XYZ County
Emergency Medical Services Association

"Serving the Citizens of XYZ County"

MCIRS



Mass Casualty Incident Response System

(LIST ALL ENTITIES INVOLVED)

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Purpose.

The purpose of the Mass Casualty Incident Response System (MCIRS) is to provide a standardized system that will provide needed resources to an Incident Commander in a more effective and efficient manner to increase the preservation of life and quality of care given during a mass casualty incident.

General Conditions.

1. The Incident Command System, as required by NIMS, shall be established prior to a MCIRS request.
2. The XXXXX Triage System will be the standard triage system used by all departments.
3. A standardized Triage Tag will be used countywide and selected by the EMS Association.
4. Responding agencies shall report to a designated staging area or command post in the interest of accountability, safety and the prevention of freelancing.

Operations Overview.

To achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency, certain objectives must be met with each response. These objectives are outlined below and later described as operational phases. Keep in mind that these phases are not intended to be a “step-by-step” requirement.

These phases simply describe a flow of operational objectives or events that should be met to help ensure the best possible management of a mass casualty incident and this system.

1. Initial agency response
2. Establishment of Incident Command
3. Scene Report
4. MCIRS Request
5. Secondary response
6. Continued Incident Management
7. Release/Termination
8. Incident Review

Within each of the following descriptions are also operational guidelines recommended during a MCIRS request.

Operations – Phase 1.

“Initial Agency Response”

Upon receipt of a call for service by the County 9-1-1 Center, the primary jurisdiction shall be dispatched and provided all pertinent call information in accordance with established protocols. The primary agency responding, based on dispatch information, may request a MCIRS Level Response or choose to wait until a scene assessment has been made.

Operations – Phase 2.

“Establishment of Incident Command”

Incident Command shall be established by the primary agency in accordance with their policies and procedures, but nevertheless, Incident Command shall be established when a MCIRS Response is requested. A scene assessment has been completed and reported to the Communications Center with initial operations started (i.e., triage, BLS care, etc.)

Operations – Phase 3.

“Scene Report”

The scene assessment (status report) shall be given to the Communications Center for documentation and any additional inbound units.

Example:

IC: “Dispatch, _____ Command.”
9-1-1: “_____ Command, go ahead.”
IC: “Dispatch, we have 2 cars & 1 minivan involved. There are 8 patients with possibly 2 entrapped. Dispatch a Level 1 Response to this location.”
9-1-1: “Understood, Command. Level 1 Response, standby for dispatch.”

Operations – Phase 4.

“MCIRS Request”

Upon a MCIRS request (as shown in Phase 3) the IC may add any additional resources that may be needed to help manage the incident. The Communications Center, upon the request, shall dispatch the requested resources by following the MCIRS Guide for that specific jurisdiction. The IC may upgrade or downgrade response levels as needed.

Special consideration should be given for the need of specific equipment to accomplish the plan of action, since the MCIRS is an “EMS” specific resource guide. For example: additional pumpers for water support during extrication, scene lighting and generators or additional units and personnel for landing zone operations.

Operations – Phase 5.

“Secondary Response”

The secondary response is defined as the units responding per the MCI Level Response requested by the IC. Responding units shall adhere to standards set forth in the approved Incident Command/Incident Management program as prescribed by NIMS. Responding units shall report to a designated location or assignment upon arrival. Personnel shall stay with their units until assigned to a specific job function, with exception made for incoming command staff requested to assist in a unified command or to staff a position in the existing chain of command. Responders are not to arrive on scene and begin an operation without being properly assigned and accounted for. Freelancing will hinder the effectiveness of the operation and put responders or other victims at risk. Freelancing also compromises the integrity of the Incident Command structure.

Operations – Phase 6.

“Continued Incident Management”

The Incident Command System shall continue to manage the incident and expand or decrease as needed. The utilization and proper management of resources determine the effectiveness of any MCI. The IC may establish a Unified Command or a Unified Command Post, dependant on the need or size of the operation. The IC or their designee shall continually update pertinent operational information to the Communications Center (i.e., patient status, patient destinations, etc.).

Operations – Phase 7.

“Release / Termination”

The Incident Commander shall release units as soon as possible, in the interest of maintaining optimal coverage for all assisting jurisdictions. No units shall return to service without accounting for their personnel and clearing accountability with the IC or their designee.

The IC shall terminate the established command upon completion of the operation and relay any pertinent information to the Communications Center (i.e., any vehicles left on scene, etc.)

Operations – Phase 8.

“Incident Review”

After the use of the MCIRS, a review shall be conducted. These reviews will be used solely to address the effectiveness of the system and to modify the system or components, as needed. The review can also identify training objectives regarding MCI operations. Each participating agency (inclusive of law enforcement, 9-1-1, hospitals, etc.) will be asked to be represented in the review.

MCI Response Levels.

The following response levels are based on a standard patient to transport unit ratio. They are intended as guidelines for reasonably needed basic resources based on the number of patients. The IC, at their discretion, may request additional or specialized equipment. These responses are to be requested by the identified Incident Commander only. Communications shall not automatically dispatch a MCIRS without authorization from a responding departmental officer or the established and identified Incident Commander.

Note: An apparatus cannot have command. (i.e., XX51 is on location and has command) The individual establishing command needs to do so using their Fire Car number.

MCI Level 1 (5-10 victims).

2 BLS Transport Units

1 ALS Transport Unit

Air transport notified to standby status upon initial dispatch.

Communications to notify the (2) closest hospitals & the on call trauma center.

IC and Triage/EMS Officer to be established immediately.

Ensure Law Enforcement is dispatched.

MCI Level 2 (11-20 victims).

6 BLS Transport Units

2 ALS Transport Units

1 Air Transport launched, additional Air Transport notified to standby status (if available).

Communications to notify the 3 closest hospitals & 2 area trauma centers.

County EMS Coordinator notified of incident.

Ensure Law Enforcement is dispatched.

MCI Level 3 (over 21 victims)

8 BLS Transport Units

2 ALS Transport Units

2 Air Transports launched

MCTU dispatched (Mass Casualty Triage Unit)

Communications to notify the 4 closest hospitals & 2 area trauma centers.

County EMS Coordinator notified.

Ensure Law Enforcement is dispatched.

Closing.

As previously stated, this plan is designed to enable an Incident Commander to call for needed resources in a more effective and efficient manner. Secondly, the program is designed to take the guesswork out of dispatching a large amount of resources, knowing that those operations will also be overwhelmed during the time frame of the incident.

A MCIRS Guidebook will be provided for each jurisdiction, the Communications Center and Emergency Management. The goal of this plan is to utilize cooperative efforts to increase the preservation of life and quality of care during a MCI.

This plan may be utilized for any type of dispatch where the number of victims could reasonably overwhelm the local resources. It shall be the responsibility of the local jurisdiction (Incident Commander) to determine if simple mutual aid from 1 additional department is adequate or to upgrade the response to a Level 1, 2, or 3 response.