

Shepherd Tri-Twp Fire Department MASS CASUALTY INCIDENTS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this SOP is to outline how Mass Casualty Incidents [MCI] will be responded to and managed differently than our normal response system.

SCOPE: This SOP is applicable for all EMS incidents that require more than 4 ALS units to provide patient care, or that clearly have caused 25 or more serious injuries/deaths.

GENERAL: Most MCI's occur without notice, yet require a major response effort. Because of the number of casualties, first arriving emergency workers are often overwhelmed.

PROCEDURE: The first arriving fire department officer or senior firefighter at the scene of a MCI shall establish command. The initial Incident Commander (IC) shall remain in command until command is transferred or the incident is stabilized and command is terminated. Command is responsible for the completion of the tactical objectives.

The general tactical objectives, listed in order of priority, are:

1. Remove endangered occupants and treat the injured.
2. Stabilize the incident and provide for life safety.
3. Ensure that the functions of triage, extrication, treatment and transportation are established as needed and performed appropriately.
4. Provide for the safety, accountability and welfare of rescue personnel and victims.

Command must consider the fact that if strong control of the incident is not gained quickly, it could easily escalate into an out-of-control situation. A MCI could have a lot of unorganized, well-intentioned efforts by civilian personnel. This situation may make the entire operation unsafe. Command must focus attention early on in the MCI to have a good strong Command structure that will support the operation.

PRE-RESCUE OPERATIONS:

Emergency Personnel:

If a MCI happens while emergency personnel are on a scene, accountability of personnel shall be done. The command shall have all personnel report to the staging area to account for all emergency personnel.

Scene Perimeter:

Command should place a perimeter around the entire MCI and keep incoming civilian personnel out of the area. A central location should be established for entering and leaving the perimeter.

This point of control is to ensure that only appropriate personnel are entering the scene.

No one will be allowed to enter the scene unless they enter through this point of control.

Non Essential Traffic:

Command should attempt to make roadways to and from the MCI scene open for emergency traffic. This may include working with the police department for re-routing of all traffic around the scene.

Victim Staging Area:

Command should establish an area away from the MCI scene for treatment and transportation of victims.

Emergency Personnel and Apparatus Staging – Level One and Level Two:

Command should establish staging areas for incoming emergency personnel and apparatus. Level one staging should be no further than one block from the scene and shall be used for personnel and equipment that will be needed at the MCI scene. Level two staging should be used for personnel and equipment in reserve; this could also include specialized equipment from outside resources. The distance from the scene should be far enough from the scene as not to congest the area but close enough for prompt response of equipment and personnel.

Command shall establish a Staging Officer for the Level One staging area. The Staging Officer shall keep status of all personnel and equipment leaving and entering staging. If a Level Two staging is needed, a Level Two Staging Officer shall be established and shall keep status of all equipment and personnel leaving and entering staging area.

Command shall contact the Level One Staging Officer for personnel and equipment that is needed at the scene.

Condition of the MCI deems large enough to have a Level Two staging and the command has the need for mutual aid from outside departments, the location of the level two staging should be added with the page for the personnel and equipment to report.

All incoming equipment and personnel entering or leaving either staging area shall report to the Staging Officer.

All apparatus should be placed in both staging areas so that they are facing the direction of travel to the scene.

All personnel and equipment shall remain in staging areas unless otherwise directed by command.

If a second alarm (e.g. fire or medical) is reported, command shall be notified. The Command shall then notify the Staging Officer for appropriate personnel and equipment to respond to second incident. If a Level Two Staging has been established then the Level Two Staging Officer shall be notified for the appropriate personnel and equipment to respond to the second incident. After the incident is completed, the personnel and equipment that had left Level Two Staging shall report back to the staging area and report in with the Staging Officer and the Staging Officer shall then notify command that the incident has been completed and equipment and personnel are back in staging.

RESCUE OPERATIONS:

Once Command has been established, the IC should quickly survey the scene for any hazards or safety concerns and should be marked for crews to take precautions until said area is deemed safe or stabilized (e.g. cribbing, shoring). The IC should establish the Incident Command System including one personnel as Safety Officer to oversee scene safety.

Triage should be started as soon as possible; command should appoint one personnel as Triage Officer. The Triage Officer should be the most knowledgeable medical personnel available. No triage should be done to patients that are in a collapse or unsafe portion of incident until said area is deemed safe or victim is brought out of the said area for triage. If the area contains hazardous material and there are victims inside the hazardous area, the victims shall be brought to the triage officer after removal and decontamination by a Hazardous Material Team.

During the triage stage the patients should be marked with the triage tags, the tags are used to identify the severity of injuries. Triage should continue and reevaluations of all patients until all patients are removed to the Triage and Transportation area. When possible the patients should be treated and transported in the following area:

IMMEDIATE (RED TAG)
DELAYED (YELLOW TAG)
MINOR (GREEN TAG)
FATALITY (BLACK TAG)

After all victims that are not in an area deemed unsafe or in a collapse zone have been triaged and moved to the triage and transportation area, the IC should establish rescue teams for the collapse or hazardous area. These teams shall be two trained personnel and could include members of Hazardous Material teams, Technical Rescue (e.g. confined space) or other specialized teams that may be needed to ensure rescue of all victims. Other resources (e.g. cranes, front end loaders) may be needed and could be essential to

the rescue operations; they should be operated by qualified operators under the direction of the rescue teams.

When the search teams are searching a building and have received a “positive” find (e.g. acoustic, voice), the building should be verified again by another means if possible (e.g. search dogs or shouting). If the building is known to have live victims trapped, rescue teams shall make all possible attempts to locate the victims. If the rescue team must support structural components of the building prior to entry, they shall do so and make the area as safe as possible prior to rescue operations.

Once an area of the collapse or hazardous area has been cleared of all victims, the area should be marked as such and command notified that the area is cleared. The marking of the area cleared is to let other rescue teams know that the area has been searched and all victims are removed.

After all located victims have been removed from the building; the rescue teams should “pull out” of the collapse or hazardous area and update the marking system. Rescue teams should keep in mind that any cribbing and shoring in place should be left in place. The removal of those systems could precipitate a secondary collapse.

Prior to termination of the incident, Command shall account for all personnel that have been operating at the collapse site. Each company officer should ensure crew and equipment accountability before returning to service. If Command has not previously addressed the issue of C.I.S.D., he/she may consider doing so during the termination phase.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Consider rotation of crews
2. Heat and cold, consider the affect on victims and rescuers
3. Consider the effects of rain or snow
4. Time of day, proper lighting for night time operations
5. Consider the effect on family and friends; keep family informed

This policy is a guide, incidents are rarely the same, the Incident Commander has the authority to deviate from this policy if he/she sees fit.