Regional MCI Communications and Exercise (Drill) Plan

Topics
- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Communications and Drills (small exercises)
- Planning process
- SALT Triage and Materials
- Regional Hospital Notification System (RHNS)
- Regional MCI Radios and Talkgroups
- GDAHA Surgenet MCI Page
- OHTrac
- Drill Plan

Objectives
- Be familiar with Regional Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Communications Plan and Job Aid
- Be able to utilize SALT Triage and materials
- Understand use of Regional Hospital Notification System
- Be able to locate and use the HSR3 MCI MARCS Radio Talk Group in your radio template
- Be familiar with the GDAHA Surgenet MCI Page
- Understand relationship of RHNS, Surgenet MCI Page, OHTrac, and MCI-MARCS Radio TG in Mass Casualty incident communications
- Be familiar with MCI Communications Quarterly Triage Drill Day Plan

MCI Communications Planning
- Recognized need to bring together the pieces of communications during MCIs
- Developed RHNS
- Developed plans for use of GDAHA Surgenet MCI page
- Added MCI Talkgroups to EMS radios (for much of the region)
- Hospitals agreed to purchase MCI radios for each ED
- Developed Job Aids
MCI Communications Quarterly Triage Day Drills

- Agreed on by GDAHA Domestic Preparedness Coalition, GMVEMSC, MVFEA, GMCFCA, et al
- 24 hours each quarter
- Day of week will be different each quarter so all ED & EMS personnel have opportunities to participate
- Day selected each quarter by GDAHA Communications Committee
- Communicated to all hospitals and EMS agencies
- More info later

SALT Triage Categories: ID-MED

- Immediate
- Delayed
- Minimal
- Expectant
- Dead

(Ribbon/Tag zebra-striped)

Dayton MMRS Contributions to SALT – Two Mnemonics

- CRAP:
  - C – Follows Commands
  - R – No Respiratory Distress
  - A – No (uncontrolled) Arterial bleeding
  - P – Peripheral Pulse Present

- “Good or Bad”
  - “Bad” answer to any one or more: Pt. is either Red or Gray
REGIONAL HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (RHNS)

- One number for EMS, hospitals, and EMAs to call
- Makes rapid, simultaneous notifications during MCI or other major emergency
- Use whenever an incident could involve a significant number of region’s hospitals
- Also used to indicate no need for action
- Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center (RDC) puts out computerized message

REGIONAL HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (RHNS)

- Use RHNS for any incident likely to involve or concern six or more hospitals (+ or -)
  - Examples include “gear up”
  - “Three dozen seriously injured victims being extricated...”
  - Any request for a CHEMPACK in our region
  - Advise hospitals that patients will need decon
  - EMAs could use for incidents (e.g., tornadoes) involving multiple jurisdictions

REGIONAL HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (RHNS)

- ...or to tell hospitals disaster preparations are NOT needed
  - Middletown school shooting, cyanide spill in Dayton, a local hospital shooting, et al
  - Dispatch Center Job Aid provided
REGIONAL HOSPITAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (RHNS)

- Primary purpose of RHNS is:
  - Let hospitals know what is going on
  - And what preparations are needed or not needed
- Hospitals - do NOT call Dispatch Center to request additional information
- Use MCI radio (more to come)
- Do contact Dispatch to put out an update or to send message to close the incident notification

Numbers for each hospital chosen by that hospital
- Recommended that emergency messages on cell phones should get both text and voice (if one system down, other may go through)

Receiving RHNS Messages
- Alerts hospitals plus regional coordinators, some EMAs, etc.
- RHNS is tested monthly and during most area exercises

To activate RHNS (use the MCI Comm Job Aid):
- Call 937-333-USAR (8727)
- Ask for Dispatch Supervisor
- Request a “Regional Hospital Notification”

Provide information below:
- Name of agency
- Nature of emergency
- Location of emergency
- General statement on severity, such as approximate number of victims
- Any other information to be conveyed

“HSR3 MCI” MARCS Radio Talkgroup
- MCI MARCS - new, additional hospital ED radio to be used solely in an MCI
- Used to notify each hospital of patients they will receive
- Used to provide ALL hospitals with a “common operating picture” simultaneously
- Hospitals can ask questions about incident over HSR3 Radio Talk Group

HSR3 MCI-MARCS Radio Talkgroup
- No alerts on MCI TGs!
- During an event, hospitals turn on MCI talk group (TG)
- Monitor MCI radio
- Request to monitor HSR3 MCI Radio is included in Communications Job Aid, but hospitals should plan to do so on any MCI notification
**HSR3 MCI-MARCS Radio Talkgroup**

- >90% of EMS communication during MCI should come from Transport Officer or Transport Comm Aide
- Hospital radios may have two primary TGs
  - HSR3 MCI MARCS Talkgroup
  - HSR6 MCI MARCS Talkgroup
- Can be patched together by Dispatch Centers

**GDAHA Surgenet MCI Page and OHTrac**

**GDAHA Surgenet MCI Page**

- Increasingly emphasized to EMS importance of distributing patients to hospitals during MCIs
- GDAHA Surgenet MCI Page allows hospitals to indicate how many patients received, by category
- During MCI, MCI Web Page allows hospitals to indicate by category how many more can be handled
- Update the GDAHA Surgenet MCI page

**Surgenet: OHTrac**

- State of Ohio tool for patient tracking used during any MCI or disaster situation for family reunification
- MCI incident alerts can be sent
  - Not primary method of communication
  - Regional Drills/Exercises and Real World Incidents
- Hospitals responsible for ensuring patients received from incident entered and tracking information updated
  - Including “walk-in” patients
Surgenet: OHTrac

- Can allow dispatch centers to assist a Transport Officer in hospital destination decisions
- EMS & dispatch centers can (at their option) log on and view numbers of each triage level at each hospital
  - Integrating all communication methods helps EMS ensure triaged patients are transported to appropriate hospitals

OHTrac App

- App designed for EMS
  - For agencies using it, allows patient tracking to begin at the scene
- OHTrac
  - Allows increased patient tracking accuracy
  - Provides for family reunification
  - Allows hospitals and other agencies to see the number and acuity of patients en-route

MCI Scenario

- County Fair
- Stage collapse
- Summer
- One EMS unit on site at fair as standby
- Initial estimate of 50 injured, some severe

Hospitals Receive RHNS Notification:

- “There has been an MCI reported as a result of a stage collapse at the County Fair, with initial estimates of 50 injured. All hospitals should update their GDAHA Surgenet MCI page. All hospitals monitor HSR3 MCI MARCS talkgroup.”
Hospital Actions
- Receives RHNS
- Monitors HSR3MCI Radio
- Updates MCI page
  - Indicate number of Red, Yellow, and Green patients you are able to receive
- Prepare to receive casualties
- Make internal notifications
- Prepare for use of OHTrac

Scenario (continued)
- County Fair Stage Collapse
  - 1 EMS unit on scene, full response requested
  - Multiple Victims (Roughly 50)
  - Initial Triage: 26 Red, 14 Yellow, 10 Green, 2 Black

Scenario
- When does it end?
  - IC or delegate should use RHNS again to indicate that all or most patients have cleared the scene
- Hospital receives 2nd RHNS notification:
  - Incident is nearly over; patients have all been transported

MCI Communications
GDAHA Quarterly Triage Day Drills (QTD Drills)

Quarterly Triage Day Drills
- Every patient in every ED gets a Triage Ribbon and Triage Tag
- If not applied by EMS, ED will apply
- Each EMS & ED receiving supply of GREEN Triage “Drill” Tags

QTD Drills or Exercises: Use Green Tags but Real Ribbons!
Quarterly Triage Day Drills

- Tags do not have ties – use Triage Ribbon to attach the Tag
- Each Tag will have a bar-code and a matching number. Patient’s Tag can be scanned into OHTRac
- All patients arriving via EMS should have a Triage Ribbon and a GREEN Triage Drill Tag
- ED personnel place a Triage Ribbon and Drill Tag on any patient (regardless of mode of arrival) without one

Quarterly Triage Day Drills

- EMS places and fills out one GREEN Triage Drill Tag on every patient during QTD Drills
  - Assign patient to appropriate triage color/category
  - Use actual patient information on triage tags
  - Fill out run report as usual
- Each EMS has a Blue Triage Ribbon Kit for use in actual MCIs
- Use actual Triage Ribbons during QTDs
- Each EMS is receiving a supply of GREEN Triage “Drill” Tags through County EMAs
  - White Tags for real incidents; GREEN for Drills

MCI Radio Talk Groups

Drills will incorporate use of the MCI TGs
- EMS agencies will make brief reports to the hospital over the HSR3MCI TG
  - Only items to be covered are number of patients and triage color
  - Possibly one or two word description of medical issue, e.g., chest injury
    - e.g., “Wayne Hospital, this is Greenville Medic 591 on route with one Yellow”
  - Any more extensive information or requests, the Medic Crew will call by cell phone or on the hospital’s regular radio channel
  - No call will be made on MCI TG if crew workload does not permit
Handout Materials

- Attached to this training are copies of:
  - SALT Hospital Handout
  - MCI Communications Job Aid
  - Real and...
  - Current exercise version

Continuing Education

- Complete the accompanying quiz
- EMS Con Ed for this program (for EMS and nurses) provided courtesy of GMVEMSC