

Washoe County Multi-Casualty Incident Plan

A Multi-Casualty Incident (MCI) is defined as a single geographically focused event, which produces casualties of a sufficient number and severity that special operations and organizations are required at the scene. These resources respond for the purpose of hazard mitigation, triage, treatment and transportation of victims.

MCI's present emergency workers with special problems. Unlike other large-scale incidents for which the Incident Command System (ICS) was initially developed, MCI's primarily involve human casualties. These incidents require organizational and management skills not routinely used during the course of the normal workday.

Because of these special characteristics, the following county plan has been developed. This plan provides the guidelines necessary to effectively, efficiently and safely manage MCI's in Washoe County.

Among the special characteristics encountered during MCI's are the need for coordination between multiple responding agencies and organizations; the need to manage the scene so that appropriate resources are focused on individual patients; and the need for flexibility and creativity, because no two MCI's are exactly alike (location, time of day, patient count, responding personnel, etc.). The final key characteristic is that all **MCI's are evolutionary** in nature: MCI's have a beginning, middle and an end.

In the earliest stages of an MCI, there may be too few resources, compared to need. The inclination is to provide direct, hands-on patient care. However, the critical need is to establish a scene management structure, so that when additional help arrives, it may be efficiently and effectively deployed. During the middle stages of an MCI, there are generally enough resources. Scene management is responsible for effective assignment of these resources. The final stage of an incident is the recovery and demobilization. No longer is there any excitement or particular sense of urgency.

Due to the need for coordination between multiple responding agencies and organizations, the Multi-Casualty Incident Plan (MCIP) adopts the ICS. The cornerstone of the ICS is the development of an incident-specific management structure. The Incident Commander (IC) will establish an on-scene organization to manage the activities of responding emergency workers and to coordinate with off scene agencies. Those responding, regardless of agency or organization affiliation, should expect to participate as assigned within this on scene organization. Depending on the size and duration of the incident, the IC may directly supervise operations or delegate this responsibility to an Operations Chief. The field operations will fall within the responsibility of Operations. It is important that medical personnel, treatment areas

and medical management be easily identifiable. The MCIP describes the types of functions that may likely be performed during medical operations.

Of special note, an MCI may require the implementation of various specialty Branches within the ICS structure. While other incident activities and Branches may be necessary, such as traffic control, fire suppression and the like, the Medical Branch is focused on medical management of the injured. The key positions within the Branch should be filled by the most qualified, available personnel on scene.

The need to manage the scene rather than focus directly on individual patients is one of the most difficult concepts for responding workers to implement. In order to best serve the patients, many activities must be conducted that have little or no direct patient contact. These activities might include communications, record keeping, personnel, equipment and supply staging/logistics, scene security, public information and other tasks as determined by the IC.

The essential purpose of response to an MCI is to administer to the needs of the patients and the community, to mitigate suffering and to minimize loss of life. No plan can fully prepare for all of the variations that can occur during an MCI. It is the responsibility of the IC and all responding personnel to be aware of the resources available and to make effective use of those resources. It must be remembered that the MCIP only provides a framework, or a guideline. On scene management must be flexible and creative to meet the needs of the entire incident.

The MCIP is designed to provide guidelines for response to an MCI. It also includes an Alpha MCI and Family Service Center Annex. It is encouraged that the plans be used as training documents for all emergency responders.



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7/13/18

Date



Kitty Jung
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6.28.18

Date