

Coping with Mass Casualties

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Mass Casualties?

Mass Casualties?

- How many victims make up a mass casualty event?

Mass Casualties?

- “An event causing illness or injury in multiple patients simultaneously through a similar mechanism, such as a major vehicle crash, building collapse, explosion or exposure to a hazardous chemical.”

Disaster?

Disaster?

- “In a disaster the capacity of the community to respond is exceeded and there is a need for external assistance.”

Disaster?

- International Federation of Red Cross uses a surveillance definition of; 10 or more people killed, 100 or more affected, a declared state of emergency or an appeal for international assistance”.

Predicting Mass Casualty Events?

Southland

Southland

- What are the potential local hazards which could result in mass casualty events?







Southland

- What are the potential local hazards which could result in mass casualty events?
- By asking this question we are actually beginning a formal risk assessment

Southland

- Transportation – “Planes, Trains and Automobiles” (and Boats and Buses!)
- Weather related events (It isn’t always warm and sunny in Invercargill)
- Industrial and chemical related incidents
- Earthquake / tsunami etc

Southland

- Thursday 5th July 2012
- Tourist bus with 30 Chinese tourists rolled on the Te Anau - Mossburn road.
- Three helicopters and five ambulances sent to the scene
- 15 injured and transported to Southland Hospital (2 to Dunedin Hospital)

Southland

- 18th July 2012
- Leaking fumes from a ship berthed at Tiwai Point Aluminium Smelter
- 16 victims inhaled fumes and taken to hospital for assessment and treatment

Southland

- 31st January 2009
- Chlorine gas chemical spill at Edendale Milk Processing Plant
- 5 taken to hospital, more than 40 assessed, decontaminated and treated at the scene

Southland

- 4th January 2012
- Boat capsized in Foveaux Strait
- 5 on board
- 3 survivors

Southland

- Monday 9th July 2007
- Icy Monday
- More than 60 ice related injuries before 10.30 a.m.
- Multiple fractured arms, wrists, ankles, legs, hips etc

Southland

- 24th September 2008
- Jet boat carrying 22 passengers on Shotover River flipped
- 21 rescued, 1 died
- 8 taken to Queenstown Hospital with injuries

Planning for the next Mass Casualty Incident

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- There are multiple parties involved

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- Each party should have their own plan
- Plans should be integrated to work together

Integration

- Local Healthcare Providers (GP's)
- Ambulance
- Local and Regional Hospitals
- Police
- Fire Brigade
- Search and Rescue
- Civil Defence

Your Own Plan!

- Personnel available
- Communication
- Equipment available
- Facilities available

Remember...

- Look after your own physical and mental health and that of your staff!
- (Particularly applies if you go to the scene of a mass casualty event)

Triage

- Dominique Jean-Larrey

Triage

- Australasian Triage Scale (ATS)
- Manchester Triage Scale (UK)
- ESI Triage algorithm (US)
- Canadian ED Triage and Acuity Scale (CTAS)
- Military Triage
- Disaster Triage

Simple Triage

- **Green** – Minor injury / walking wounded
- **Yellow** – Serious injury but no immediate life threat
- **Red** – Immediately life threatening injury
- **Black** – Dead or none survivable

Reminder...

- Triage is a fluid process. Patients or victims will often be triaged several times at several points in their treatment journey. Triage category can be changed when appropriate.
- For example triaged for transport and triaged again on arrival at a Healthcare facility

Treating Patients

- Work as near as possible (in the circumstances) to how you work normally and where your skills are.

Post Event

- Debrief?
- PTSD?
- Returning to normal functioning (recovery)
- Review