

MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT PLAN 2023-2025

PURPOSE

To provide a coordinated response to mass casualty incidents within Eagle County in order to assure rapid, efficient and effective Emergency Medical Services (EMS) triage, treatment, and transportation regardless of jurisdictions or agencies involved.

SCOPE

The Eagle County Mass Casualty Incident Plan was developed by personnel responsible for various aspects of the emergency response to a multi-casualty incident. The Plan is a component of the Eagle County Emergency Operations Plan and as such covers the response to all Mass Casualty Incidents (Mass Casualty Incident) that occur within Eagle County. For the purpose of this plan an Mass Casualty Incident is defined as an incident where the number of patients exceeds the immediately available resources.

AUTHORITY

Authorities and regulations relevant to this plan are found in Colorado Revised Statutes Title 25, Article 3.5 - cited as the “Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Act”.

SITUATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS

Situations that could result in an Mass Casualty Incident include

- Major motor vehicle accidents
- Mass transit accidents (bus, aircraft, railroad)
- Incident during a mass gathering event
- Urban and residential fires
- Hazardous materials incidents
- Construction and/or industrial accidents including building collapses with multiple victims
- Natural disasters
- Healthcare facility or other evacuations
- Acts of terrorism or civil disobedience
- Any other incident that overwhelms the capabilities of local emergency response agencies

Assumptions

- There will be occasions where an incident generates more patients than the local EMS system can accommodate from the on scene treatment, transportation and the definitive care standpoint.
- The EMS System is composed of trained community members, basic life support responders, advanced life support responders, ambulance service providers and definitive care facilities.

- The Ambulance service provider having jurisdiction will be the lead response agency for an Mass Casualty Incident event.
- Medical response is time critical. Rapid response is essential at all levels of government.
- In a Mass Casualty Incident situation, the goal will be to do the greatest good for the greatest number. Patient triage will be conducted to prioritize treatment and transportation decisions.
- Mutual Aid is requested when needed and provided when available.
- EMS includes both public and private medical resources that need to operate in a coordinated manner for maximum effectiveness.
- Eagle County is host to frequent events and situations that create the potential for a Mass Casualty Incident.
- During a major disaster, large numbers of injured, ill, and worried well persons are likely to converge to medical and health care facilities in or near affected areas.
- During any Mass Casualty Incident event, normal calls for EMS services will continue and resources must be dedicated for that purpose.

CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

Incidents will be managed under the principles and practices of the National Incident Management System (NIMS), including the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

- The organizational structure will expand and contract as the needs of the incident warrant.
- Requests for resources from the incident will be ordered utilizing the ICS and single point ordering.
- An event will be created in EMResources to alert regional medical facilities and mutual aid partners of the incident.
- The Eagle County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be activated at the appropriate level for all Mass Casualty Incident events (Appendix B).
- Incident information will be transferred between organizational elements and between the field and supporting communications centers in a timely fashion.
- First responders will utilize the Simple Triage and Rapid Transport method of triage.
- Mutual aid resources should be requested as soon as the scope of the situation is identified as exceeding the capabilities of available resources.
- First responders should utilize all available medical facilities, i.e., urgent care, out of county hospitals, when appropriate. They should also consider the fact that if this is an infrastructure event, some hospitals may be offline due to damage. EMResources should be utilized to identify appropriate available patient receiving facilities.

ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Public Safety Answering Point

- Alert and Notification appropriate Personnel.

Ambulance Agency Having Jurisdiction

- Designate Incident Commander (represented to Unified Command organization).
- Implement agency Mass Casualty Incident protocols.
- Once a Mass Casualty Incident is determined, request EMResource notification.
- Provide Triage, Treatment and Transportation Services.

Area Trauma Centers

- Implement internal Mass Casualty Incident protocols.
- Update “bed count” status in EMResource.
- Request surge capacity as appropriate.

Fire Agency Having Jurisdiction

- Provide representation to Unified Command as appropriate.
- Mitigate hazards as appropriate.
- Provide EMS resources.

Law Enforcement Agency Having Jurisdiction

Provide representation to Unified Command as appropriate.

- Provide scene security.
- Provide any necessary investigation.

Emergency Management

- Activate EOC at appropriate level.
- Support incident with resource management.
- Facilitate state and federal assistance as necessary.

DIRECTION, CONTROL, AND COORDINATION

All personnel involved in an Mass Casualty Incident incident will operate within the scope of their training, certification, assignment and under their own agencies policies and medical direction and protocols. The NIMS standards will be followed for command and management functions to include Incident Command, Multiagency Coordination and Public Information. The Eagle County EOC and Joint Information Center should be activated for all Mass Casualty Incident events.

COMMUNICATIONS

The nature of an Mass Casualty Incident event requires multiple agencies and usually resources from outside of Eagle County. All Mass Casualty Incident events should utilize the Eagle County Incident Radio Communications Plan for Type 3 incidents on all Mass Casualty Incident events.