



Table Top Training Drills

Table Top Exercise- May 2011

Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs)

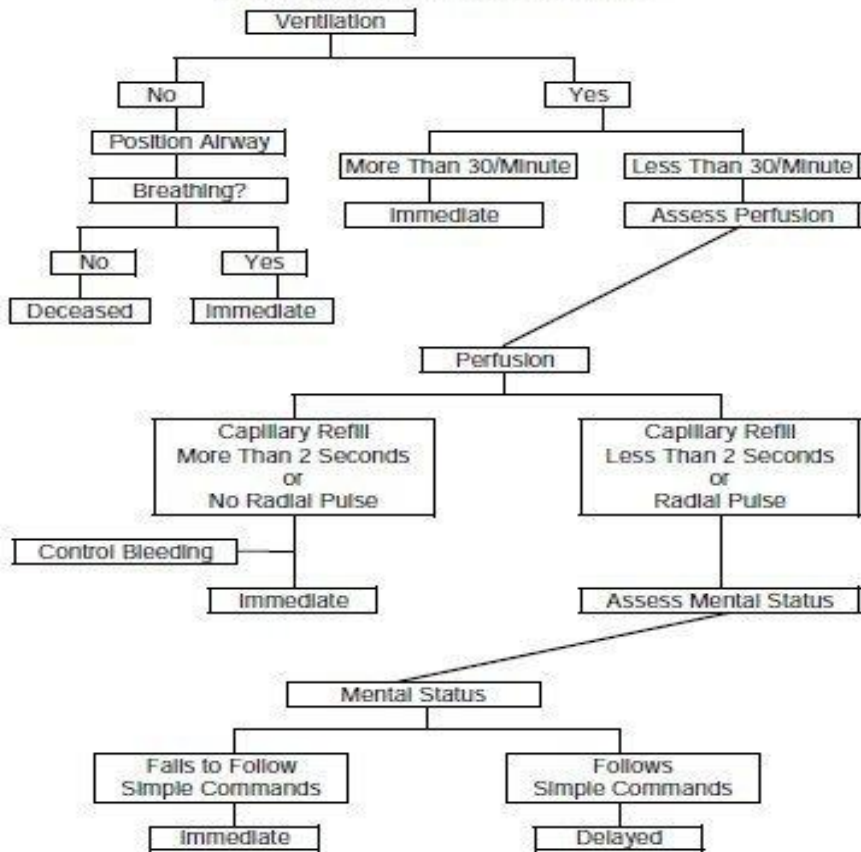
Mass Casualty Incidents or MCIs are incidents that can occur anywhere and at anytime. It may be a carbon monoxide leak, train derailment, bus accident or a multiple vehicle crash, etc. It is an escalating event that includes scene safety, crowd control, multiple victims with numerous injuries or illness and different survivability issues. These types of events can be overwhelming for the first arriving units. Suitable organization, clear and concise communication, additional resources, training and the use of the Incident Command System (ICS) are some of the tools that can turn an incident from utter chaos to organized operational management.

In near miss report [10-777](#) units respond to a "sick person," the incident quickly changes....

"Units were dispatched to a medical call at a processing plant. Dispatch information was that a female was feeling sick. Upon arrival, the engine crew found not one, but three workers complaining of like symptoms. As the crew began to assess the scene further, one of the firefighters had removed the single gas CO detector (attached to our medical bags per SOP) and carried it with him. Upon entering the actual processing area of the warehouse, the detector alarmed and presented a reading of 58ppm. The captain immediately requested the response of a rescue and safety officer and ordered an evacuation of the processing area. It is important to note that the initial patients were in an area that had a reading of 0ppm. The patient count quickly reached 20. All patients were treated and transported by EMS with the assistance of fire department personnel. A secondary search of the facility was conducted with two single gas monitors and one four gas monitor. No leaks were found anywhere within the facility. However, the CO levels remained near 60ppm in the large processing warehouse. The facility was ventilated and air levels were checked every ten minutes until levels returned to 0ppm. Two of the 20 patients were kept in the hospital for evaluation and the other 18 were released from the emergency department after a few hours of evaluation. We consider this a near miss for our four person crew and attribute their quick thinking and detailed scene assessment as well as their ability to manage a MCI event as reasons for a successful incident conclusion."

The National Fire Academy's Field Operation Guide ICS 420-1 has published a simple triage flowchart. Consider this chart, the use of triage tags and discuss your department's SOPs/SOGs regarding all aspects of these types of incidents.

**SIMPLE TRIAGE AND RAPID TREATMENT
(START) SYSTEM FLOWCHART**



NOTE: Once a patient reaches a triage level indicator in the algorithm (i.e., IMMEDIATE TAG box), triage of this patient should stop and the patient should be tagged accordingly.