

Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER

A SKILLS APPROACH

MEETS PARAMEDIC ASSOCIATION OF CANADA'S
NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL COMPETENCY PROFILE



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Chapter 31

Multiple-Casualty Incidents
and Incident Command

Objectives (1 of 2)

- Describe the criteria for a multiple-casualty situation.
- Describe the Incident Command System (ICS) and the role of command in a multiple-casualty incident.
- Describe the functions of commonly used EMS sectors.
- Discuss the role of the EMR in the multiple-casualty situation.



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Objectives (2 of 2)

- Explain the procedure for transferring command.
- Discuss three-level and two-level triage systems.
- Summarize how to conduct triage at a multiple-casualty incident, including using the START system.
- Discuss ways to reduce the psychological impact of disasters on patients and rescuers.

Multi-Casualty Incidents

A multi-casualty incident (MCI) is any event where three or more patients are involved.

Incident Command System

EMS sector officers appointed for large incidents.

- Triage Officer
- Treatment Officer
- Transportation Officer
- Staging Officer
- Safety Officer

EMS Sectors



Figure 31-2 EMS sectors are established as needed.

EMR's Role at an MCI

- Establish command
- Assess the scene
- Request additional resources
- Begin triage

Scene Assessment (1 of 2)

During scene assessment, identify:

- Scene safety
- Number of patients
- Needs for extrication
- Estimated number of ambulances needed

Scene Assessment (2 of 2)

During scene assessment, identify (cont'd):

- Other factors affecting scene and resources
- Number of sectors needed
- Area to stage resources

When Relieved by Superior, Report:

- Nature of the problem
- Potential hazards
- Number of patients
- Time since emergency occurred
- What has been done

Three-Level Triage System (1 of 2)



Figure 31-4 An example of a three-level triage system.

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Two-Level Triage Systems (2 of 2)

- Immediate
- Delayed

Figure 31–5 Commonly Used Triage Tags



Figure 31–5 Commonly used triage tags.

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Begin Triage with a Primary Assessment (1 of 2)

- If the patient is alert and talking, and has no major breathing problems, reassure him/her and move on
- If the patient is unconscious, open the airway. If no pulse, move on

Begin Triage with a Primary Assessment (2 of 2)

- If the patient has severe bleeding, quickly apply a pressure dressing and elevation. Then move on

START System

- Have those who can walk unassisted go to specified area. Label them **Priority 3 Green**
- Do triage, starting with primary assessment.
(Breathing, Circulation, Mental Status)

General Guidelines for MCIs (1 of 2)

- Don't become overwhelmed
- Assign representative to provide accurate information to patients ASAP
- Reunite patients with families ASAP
- Group patients with families and neighbours
- Identify high risk patients
- Provide structure

General Guidelines for MCIs (2 of 2)

- Encourage *walking wounded* to do necessary chores
- Help patient confront reality of disaster
- Don't give false assurances
- Try to reassure those refusing help
- Arrange group discussion to share feelings as soon as physical needs are taken care of
- Encourage all those involved to get follow up

Reducing Stress in Rescuers (1 of 2)

- Ensure rescue workers are fully aware of exact assignments
- Assign rescue workers to tasks according to their skills and experience
- Have rescuers rest regularly away from disaster hub
- Have workers circulated among rescuers to monitor for signs of stress

Reducing Stress in Rescuers (2 of 2)

- Provide plenty of food and drink
- Encourage rescue workers to talk among themselves
- Offer rescuers access to trained counselors post incident