Emergency Medical Responder: A Skills Approach

Fifth Canadian Edition



Chapter 31

Multiple-Casualty Incidents and Incident Command



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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 multiplecasualty incident, including using the START system.
- Discuss ways to reduce the psychological impact of disasters on patients and rescuers.



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Multi-Casualty Incidents

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

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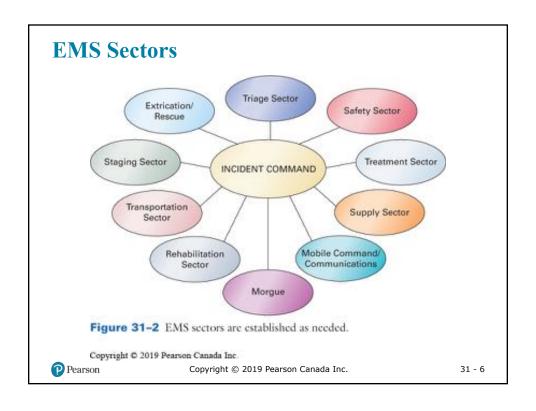
Incident Command System

EMS sector officers appointed for large incidents.

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

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EMR's Role at an MCI

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



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Scene Assessment (1 of 2)

During scene assessment, identify:

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

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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



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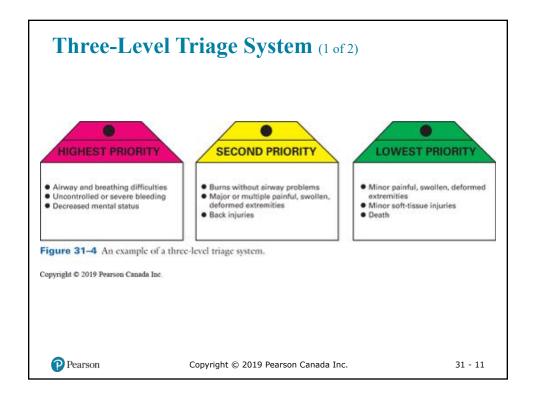
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When Relieved by Superior, Report:

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



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$Two-Level\ Triage\ Systems\ (2\ of\ 2)$

- Immediate
- Delayed

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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

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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



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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)



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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



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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

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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



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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



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