



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES

	<h1>GENERAL ORDER</h1> 330.01	
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Originating From	Issue Date	Revision Date	Attachments
Operations	1/01/1996	N/A	N/A

SUBJECT: Mass Casualty Incidents

APPLICABILITY: All Personnel

POLICY:

The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) shall initiate the following procedure during mass casualty incidents to enhance the efficiency of treatment, transportation, and accountability of injured persons.

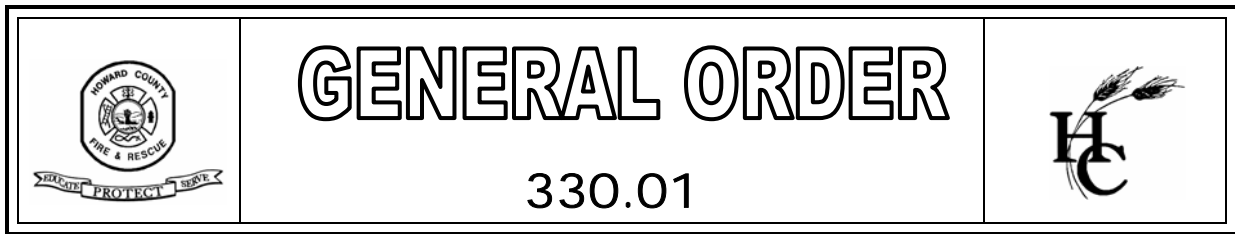
1 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 **Mass Casualty Incident:** Any incident with 8 or more reported patients or any incident where numerous but unknown numbers of patients are reported.
- 1.2 **Medical Group:** A pre-established combination of apparatus which allows for uniform request/dispatch on major EMS related incidents

2 DISPATCH ASSIGNMENT

- 2.1 The term **Amedical group**@ shall be used when requesting additional apparatus for a mass casualty incident.
- 2.2 When the IC encounters casualties beyond the scope of the initial responding apparatus, he/she may request the dispatch of a medical group. Medical groups shall not be used for initial dispatch on the incident.
- 2.3 Each medical group shall consist of:
 - 2.3.1 four transport EMS units
 - 2.3.2 one medic unit
 - 2.3.3 one engine
- 2.4 The dispatch of the first medical group will also consist of:
 - 2.4.1 EMS 1
 - 2.4.2 ESV 10
 - 2.4.3 Mobile Command Post
 - 2.4.4 Duty PIO

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2.4.5 Unit 5

2.5 The number of medical groups requested shall be determined by IC.

3 FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 The first arriving unit shall:

3.1.1 Institute the Incident Command System (ICS).

3.1.2 Survey and access the scene/situation for life hazards that may affect public safety personnel.

3.1.3 Perform initial triage of casualties following the Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment (S.T.A.R.T.) system

3.1.4 Request additional resources as needed.

3.2 Additional units shall stage in a designated area and perform tasks as assigned by the Incident Commander.

3.2.1 These functional assignments may include, but are not limited to the following:

3.2.1.1 Triage Sector/Officer

3.2.1.2 Treatment Sector/Officer

3.2.1.3 Staging Sector/Officer

3.2.1.4 Transport Sector/Officer

3.2.1.5 EMS Communications Officer

3.2.1.6 Logistics Officer

3.2.1.7 Extrication Officer

3.2.1.8 Disposition Officer

3.2.1.9 EMS Control Officer

3.2.2 These sectors/areas/officers shall be clearly identified/designated by the Incident Commander.

4 TRIAGE



4.1 Depending upon the magnitude of the incident it may require several first arriving units to perform triage activities.

4.1.1 Staffing should be based on a 3:1 ratio of victims to rescuers.

4.1.1.1 Two rescuers can typically triage 10-15 victims in 5 minutes.

4.1.2 Triage will consist of identifying patients or areas of entrapment with appropriate colored ribbons/light sticks and treating severe immediate life-threatening injuries/situations **ONLY** (airway/severe bleeding).

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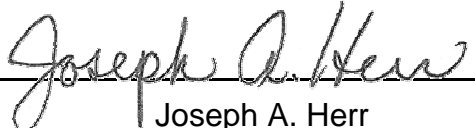
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4.1.2.1 The identifying colors are:

RED	PRIORITY 1
YELLOW	PRIORITY 2
GREEN	PRIORITY 3
BLACK	PRIORITY 4

4.1.3 Those patients who can move themselves or who are being assisted by other victims should be directed to a safe area for evaluation and relocated to appropriate treatment areas.

Approved:



Joseph A. Herr
Fire Chief