

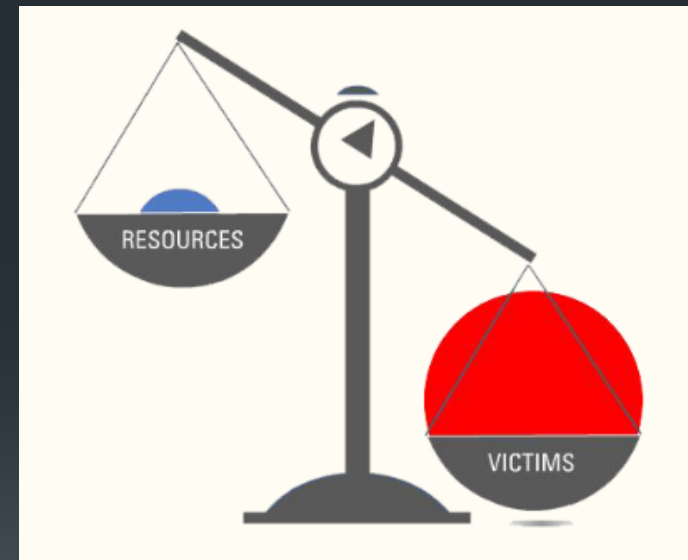
Mass Casualty Incidents: Understanding the Berks County Dispatch Process

Plan and Prepare



What is a Mass Casualty Incident?

- A Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) is any incident in which emergency medical services resources, such as personnel and equipment, are overwhelmed by the number and/or severity of patients



Who is considered a patient?



- A patient is not just a person who is present at the scene
- A patient is any involved individual who is believed to be injured or ill
 - Consider Mechanism



**Minor MVA:
Not an MCI**



**Bus roll over:
Consider MCI**



*Multiple
Vehicle
Accident*

*Building
Collapse*



Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs) represent one of the greatest challenges to a community's emergency response system due to their magnitude and intensity



Passenger Train Derailment

Airplane Crash

HAZMAT Incident



Declaring a Mass Casualty Incident

- May be declared by Incident Command



Remember, **the first trained responder** on location assumes the role of **Incident Commander**

- Responding EMS units may request an MCI response based on information from the scene
- The DES Watch Officer may direct an MCI response based on information from the scene if no units are yet responding

Berks County MCI Levels

Level 1

• 7 - 10 Victims

Level 2A

• 11 - 17 Victims

Level 2B

• 18 - 25 Victims

Level 3

• 26 or More Victims

Berks County MCI Levels



What is the basis for the MCI levels/patient counts as established?

This county level process is based on the tenets set forth in the Eastern PA EMS Council Disaster Operating Guidelines

It does not override those guidelines

It simply defines a more specific process by which expeditious dispatching will be done in Berks County to support a scene being operated under the guidelines

<http://www.easternemscouncil.org/#!disaster-operating-guidelines/cphxk>

Berks County MCI Levels

Why do we not use the levels as identified in the Disaster Operating Guidelines (DOG)?

Per the DOG, a Level 2 MCI is an incident with 11-25 patients

That range is too broad for the purpose of dispatching Berks resources

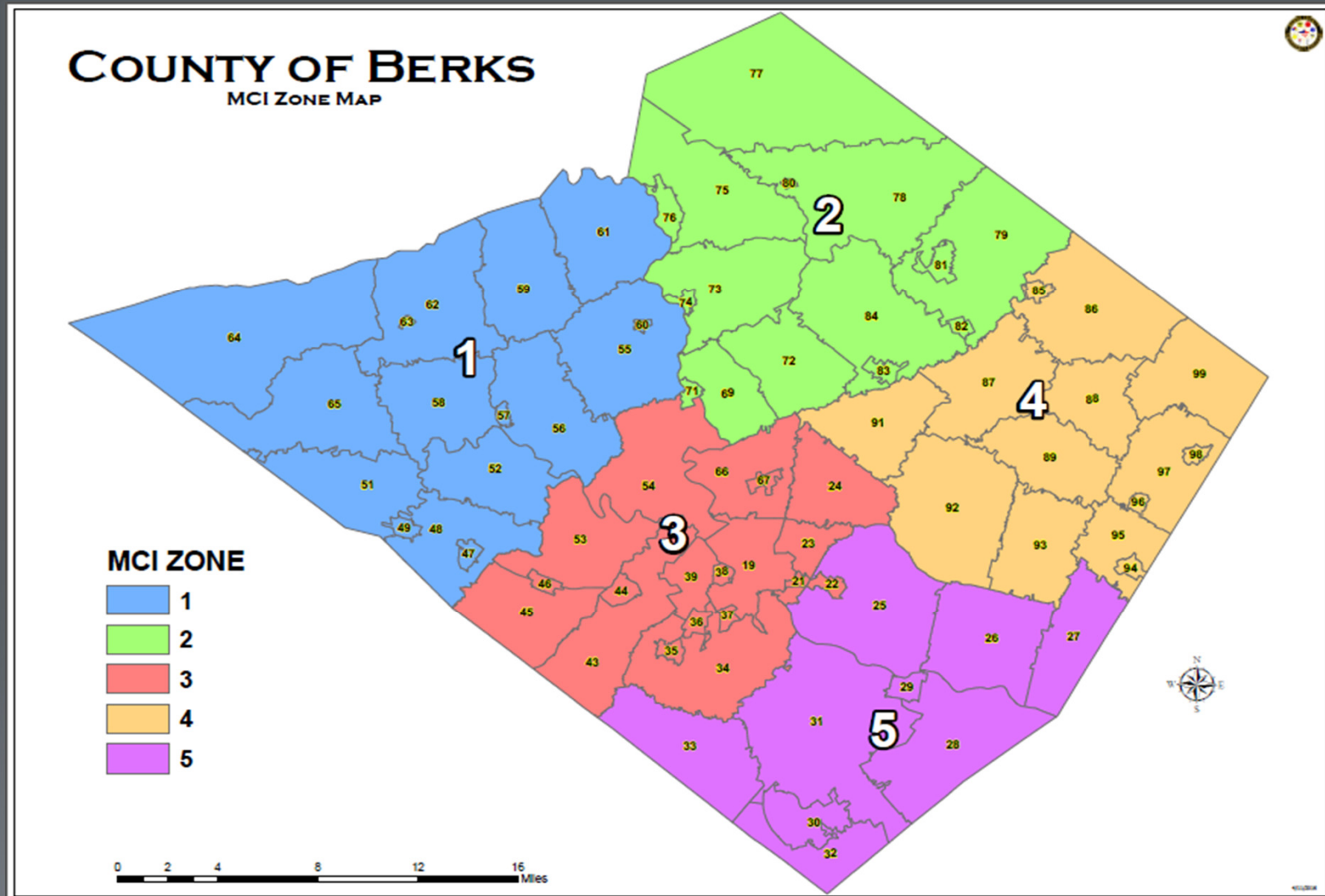
Level 2 is broken into two categories for Berks County purposes:

2A: 11-17 patients

2B: 18-25 patients



Berks County is Divided into 5 Zones



** Located in Appendix K of the Berks County DES Field User Operations and Procedures Manual **

Initial report
comes from IC
on scene



Berks, Chief 54, I have a bus roll over with at least 30 injured. I am going to need an MCI response!

Dispatch determines this will be a **Level 3** MCI response in **ZONE 1** (Bethel Township)



MOST IMPORTANT = Provide number of patients and specifically ask for an MCI response!



Berks County MCI Levels

What resources will you be getting?

Level 1 MCI (7-10 victims)

- Primary EMS station dispatched
- 8 ground transport units (at least 6 being ALS)
- 1 helicopter on stand by
- Primary fire station dispatched and next engine dispatched to set up landing zone
- 1 QRS certified company dispatched
 - Companies already dispatched will be skipped
- DES Duty Officer notification
- MedCom notified to coordinate hospital patient capacity
 - Accomplished by DES



Level 2A MCI (11-17 victims)



- Primary EMS station dispatched



- 11 ground transport units (at least 7 being ALS)
- 2 helicopters dispatched and 2 on stand-by
- Primary fire station dispatched and next 2 engines dispatched to set up landing zones

- 2 QRS certified companies dispatched
 - Companies already dispatched will be skipped
- Mass Casualty Trailer on stand-by
 - City of Reading (then surrounding counties)
- DES Duty Officer notification
- MedCom notified to coordinate hospital patient capacity
 - Accomplished by DES
- EMS Officer all-call for staffing considerations.

Level 2B MCI (18-25 victims)

- Primary EMS station dispatched
- 20 ground transport units (at least 14 being ALS)
- 4 helicopters dispatched and 2 on stand-by
- Primary fire station dispatched and next 4 engines dispatched to set up Landing Zones
- 4 QRS certified companies dispatched
 - Companies already dispatched will be skipped
- Mass Casualty Trailer
 - City of Reading (then surrounding counties)
- DES Duty Officer notification
 - Possible activation of ESF 8 in EOC
- MedCom notified to coordinate hospital patient capacity
 - Accomplished by DES
- EMS officer all-call for staffing considerations
- IC consider asking for mass transit

Level 3 MCI (25 or more victims)



- Primary EMS station dispatch
- 25 ground transport units (at least 20 ALS)
- MedCom contacted:
 - 4 helicopters dispatched
 - 4 helicopters on standby
- Primary fire station dispatched and next 4 engines dispatched to set up Landing Zones
- Six (6) QRS certified fire companies
 - Companies already dispatched will be skipped
- 2 Mass Casualty Trailers
 - City of Reading
 - Surrounding counties
- DES Duty Officer notified
 - Possible activation of ESF 8 in EOC
- MedCom notified to coordinate hospital patient capacity
 - Accomplished by DES
- EMS Officer all-call for staffing considerations
- IC consider asking for mass transit

Understanding MCI Needs

- A patient is any involved individual who is believed to be injured/ill
 - Consider mechanism
- The most important piece of information to provide “Berks” is the **number of patients**
 - Resources can be dispatched either from the number of patients or by the Incident Commander stating the MCI level
- Multiple Ops talk groups may be used to support incident operations
- All county EMS Officers will be paged and advised of an ongoing MCI within the county and asked to consider staffing additional units



Understanding MCI Needs

- Helicopters should be used outside of normal protocols to transport critical patients to distant hospitals to allow ambulances to be used for transporting to local hospitals
- As part of this plan, closer units are *intentionally skipped* so that EMS units are available to handle other calls
 - Specific requests for relocates will NOT be honored due to the predetermined skips
- Keep in mind, when requesting Mass Transit, it may take more than 1 hour to coordinate the response DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS and longer in off-hours
 - For mass transit to be useful during a MCI, **the request must be made early in the response in order for this resource to arrive at a useable time**





The success of this plan is dependent upon interagency cooperation. Agencies failing to follow the plan by *self dispatching and/or self relocating* during an MCI will have detrimental effects both to the MCI and to general EMS operations throughout the county.





QUESTIONS,
COMMENTS,
CONCERNS?



Address to:
Your Agency's Management Team
OR
Berks DES
BerksDES@countyofberks.com