



Survival Factors Attachment-Biloxi Fire Department Incident Critique

Biloxi, Mississippi

HWY17MH010

(3 pages)

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BILOXI FIRE DEPARTMENT
INCIDENT CRITIQUE—MARCH 10, 2017
10:00 am, Gruich Center, Biloxi, MS
(Regarding Incident #17-1260 train v. charter bus)

The above referenced incident critique was conducted and attended by numerous agencies involved in the response as well as others that were not. Each agency that had been involved was asked to identify and suggest improvements that could be made for future incidents of this type. Over all, the agencies agreed that the response was well organized and ample resources were provided and utilized to provide swift extrication and transport of all victims and patients. The issues listed below detail the problems encountered and suggested improvements.

Incident Command:

1. Assign a Safety Officer in the incident command system.
2. Ensure that there are an adequate number of safety vests available for first responders.
3. Use some type of visual designation on vests to identify key personnel in the incident command system such as Triage, Safety Officer, PIO, etc.

Communications:

1. It is crucial that agency (area/regional) contact information be kept current and easily accessible to allow immediate communication and mutual aid requests for large scale/mass casualty events. This also includes helicopter resources.
2. Establish early and continued communication with Dispatch. Someone on scene should provide an incident size-up as soon as possible so Dispatch will have a better picture of the scope of the incident. In this particular incident, such factors as which direction the train was headed, what side of the tracks is the location for the response, number of patients, where resources/help are staged, what intersections were blocked by the stopped train; this information would have been helpful.
3. Establish immediate communication with CSX on train schedules and approximate duration of event.
4. Establish communication between KAFB and City; the close proximity of their medical facility can ensure faster response and patient transport time in relation to other area hospitals.

Triage/Patient Care:

1. A system needs to be implemented when performing triage to easily identify and designate patient acuity such as individual patient tags and color-coded tarps for Black, Red, Yellow, Green status for easier processing/transport during mass casualty events.
2. The triage zone should be located further from the vicinity of the accident for easier facilitation of the separate work of rescue/triage.
3. A clearly marked transport lane for entrance/egress of ambulances should be established to mitigate confusion and traffic flow congestion to promote patient transport time. Additionally, have patients brought to ambulance units rather than ambulance crews coming to get patients from triage area.
4. Efforts should be made to compile a clear manifest of the number of people involved (if applicable) and to also establish patient accountability of how many patients were transported, and to which medical facility.
5. Area hospitals should be given advance notification of the potential for incoming patients.

Media Relations:

1. The Public Affairs Manager for the City of Biloxi was assigned to be the liaison PIO between response operations and the media. This helped first responders to focus solely on the emergency response.
2. The designated PIO should confirm identification/cataloging of all members of the media.
3. Defer questions regarding fatalities to the Medical Examiner to mitigate confusion involving public information.

Other:

1. Establish a stress debriefing session as soon after the incident as possible for all first responders. Emphasize the importance of stress therapy and the need for open dialogue about the event.