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Health science

Study guide unit 9 Mass casualty incidents

What is a mass casualty incident?

Mass casualty incidents (MCI) are any incident where the number of casualties is greater than the emergency medical resources available. Whether an incident is classed as a MCI is based on:

- How many medical professionals are available
- The type and amount of medical equipment available
- The number of injured people
- How serious the peoples injuries are

What causes a mass casualty incident?



Man-made disasters

- Traffic incidents
- Other transport incidents
- Conflict (wars)
- Explosions
- Industrial accidents

Natural disasters

- Earthquake
- Landslides
- Floods
- Storms
- Wildfires



DANGERS AT THE SCENE OF AN ACCIDENT

If you are the first person to arrive at the scene, you must check for threats to your own and other peoples safety.

- Traffic
- Fire, smoke, fumes
- Falling rocks
- Unstable buildings
- Fallen electrical lines



If any threats are present, stay in a safe place and call 999/998
Leave dangerous situations to emergency services.

Managing a mass casualty incident

If you are the first person to arrive at the scene of an accident, there are some things you can do to gain control of the situation and help those who are injured.

There are two priorities:

- Manage the situation
- Provide first aid

Providing first aid

After managing the scene your next priority is to provide first aid for the injured people. Your actions could save injured peoples lives.

TYPES OF INJURIES

Assess what types of injuries people have (bleeding/unconscious). Sort the injured people into those who are most seriously injured. This people will need treatment first. (TRIAGE)

FIRST AID

First aid that may be needed at a MCI includes:

- First aid for burns
- Emergency care for electrical injuries
- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)
- Stopping severe bleeding
- Providing first aid for broken bones

Managing the situation

CHECK FOR HAZARDS

The first thing to do in a MCI is to check for hazards or dangers







CALL THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Call 999 as soon as possible. Tell the emergency services:

- The location of the incident
- What has happened
- The number of people injured

ABCDEF MASS CASUALTY MANAGEMENT

- A. Assess
- B. Breathing
- C. Cars
- D. Other dangers
- E. Electricity
- F. Fires

 Police 999	 Ambulance 998	 Fire 997
 Directions 7000 1 7000	 Road Assistance 800 4 900	 Safer Driver 800 7 2337



Triage

Triage means to sort people who are injured into the order that they should be treated. For example life-threatening injuries should be treated first and people with minor injuries last.

- Decide how seriously injured the people are
- Treat the most seriously injured first

SALT TRIAGE METHOD

SALT is a four step method to help people who are first to arrive at the scene of an accident to manage the casualties.

Sort

Assess

Lifesaving interventions

Treatment and transport

SORT

Casualties should be sorted into three groups

- Walkers
- Wavers
- Still

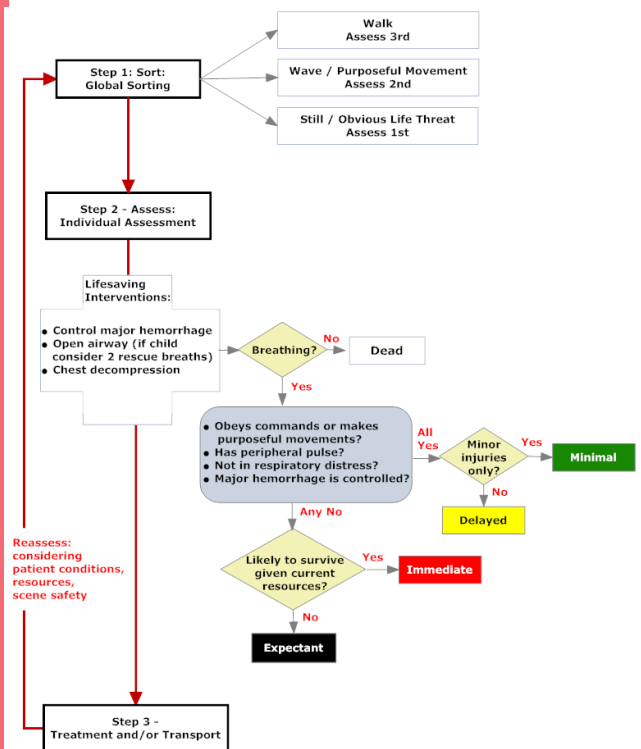
ASSESSMENT & LIFESAVING INTERVENTIONS

These two steps are done together because when a casualty is being assessed they may need a lifesaving intervention.

- Quickly check each injured person - airway & breathing
- If they have injuries that could cause them to die, give immediate first aid
- After giving first aid move to the next person
- Try to spend less than one minute with each casualty so that you have time to check each casualty

TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT

Treatment areas can be set up, move the casualties to the correct area and begin treatment. When the emergency services arrive let them take over.



Categorizing casualties based on their injuries

RED: IMMEDIATE

The most serious casualties who have life-threatening injuries should be classed as 'red'. These people will die if they are not treated first.

Examples:

- Cardiac arrest
- Major burns
- Major trauma injuries
- Uncontrollable bleeding

YELLOW: DELAYED

Yellow is for people who have serious, but not life-threatening injuries. These people cannot usually move by themselves.

Examples:

- Broken bones
- Minor amputations (fingers/toes)
- Flesh wounds
- Possible head injury (confusion/don't know where they are)

GREEN: MINOR

Green is for people who have minor injuries. They can move by themselves and do not show any signs of head injuries or confusion.

Examples:

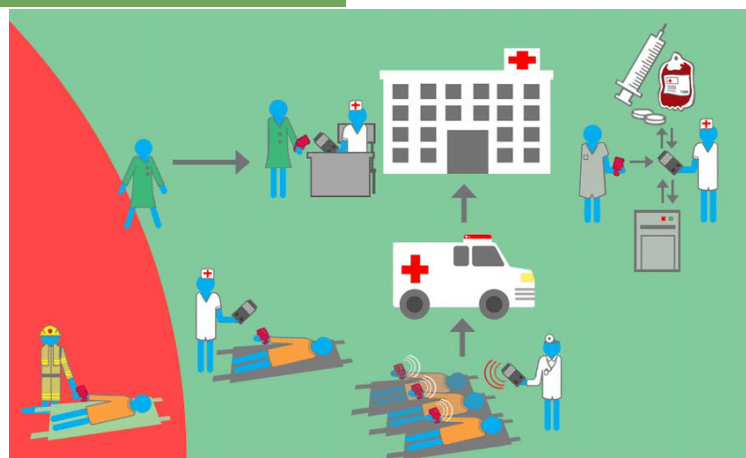
- Minor cuts
- Minor fractures (broken fingers)
- Minor burns
- Sprains

BLACK: DEAD OR EXPECTED TO DIE

This category is for people who have already died or will die soon.

They will have injuries that are too serious to survive, even with medical attention.

These people will not receive any treatment.



Actions to take during a disaster

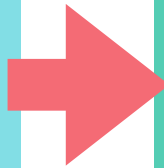
Disasters can happen at any time, often without warning. Being prepared for emergency situations can help to prevent injuries or loss of life. Knowing what to do if a disaster happens makes you a valuable member of your family, community and country.

EARTHQUAKES

A sudden violent shaking of the ground, because of movements within the earth crust. It's not the shaking that's dangerous. It's the effect that the shaking has on everything around it.

Earthquakes can cause:

- Buildings and other structures such as bridges to shake and fall
- Roads to split or crack
- Landslides and rockfalls in mountain areas
- Massive waves called tsunamis if an earthquake happens under the sea



ACTIONS TO TAKE

Stay calm - this will help you to think clearly and make quick decisions

Stay where you are - trying to move in an earthquake is dangerous

Use the drop - cover - hold technique

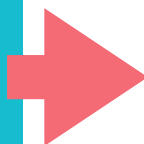
- Drop - get on the floor before you are knocked over and injured
- Cover - protect your body, especially your head from falling objects. Look for anything that is strong enough to protect you
- Hold - once you are in a safe position hold on

FLOODS

The United Arab Emirates sometimes experiences storms and heavy rain. This can lead to flash floods.

Flash floods can be very dangerous because they can happen so quickly that people are caught off-guard.

They can be life-threatening if people encounter high, fast moving water while traveling in a car.



DRIVING DURING A FLOOD

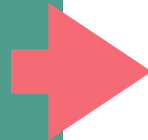
1. If possible do not drive into an area where heavy rain or flooding is predicted.
2. If you can't see the road in front of you because of heavy rain, pull over and stop somewhere safe.
3. Do not drive through water that is more than 10cm deep, it can damage the engine of your car.
4. If you must drive through shallow (not deep) water, drive slowly.
5. Once through the water, check your brakes to see if they are still working as the water could have damaged them.

WADI FLOODS

A wadi is a valley in the mountains.

During heavy rainfall, wadis can flood and this can be very dangerous.

The flood can happen very quickly and can be strong enough to wash cars away.

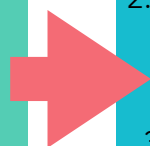


WADI FLOOD SAFETY

1. Watch for weather changes, listen to weather forecasts and check official media and social media websites for warnings.
2. Stay away from the area of wadis if it is raining
3. Do not walk by, or try to cross, fast-flowing or high water
4. Do not park your car in valleys or near wadis if it is raining
5. Call 999 if there is an emergency

SANDSTORMS

A sandstorm happens when very strong winds blow sand in desert countries. The sand and dust can be harmful to health. However, the most dangerous effect of sandstorms is that they cause reduced visibility on roads which can lead to accidents.



ACTIONS TO TAKE DURING A SANDSTORM

1. If possible, stay indoors. Close your windows and turn off the air conditioning. Stay away from windows and doors.
2. If you are outside, cover your nose and mouth to protect you from the sand and dust.
3. If you are driving, turn on your lights, close the windows and turn off the air conditioning.
4. Drive slowly, if the visibility is so low that you can no longer see, stop your car somewhere safe.



After a disaster

Watch for falling hazards

What should I do if I'm inside?

Avoid the kitchen there are many hazards



What should I do if I'm outside?

Go to a safe area

Stay away from busy roads

Get help
Call 999

Help other people & move casualties if their life is in danger

Be careful of aftershocks



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THE SUPREME COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY
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