

Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company, Inc.  
**Standard Operating Guideline**

Mass Casualty Incidents

Revised 10-07-2002

**POLICY:**

Mass Casualty Incidents (MCIs) present unique challenges to EMS responders. Any time the number of patients out-numbers the available EMS resources, an MCI exists. In order to effectively manage an MCI, proper command must be established early on in the incident. Additionally, traditional EMS management rules need to be modified to allow for the complexities introduced by a large number of patients. This standard operating guideline addresses some of the issues critical to the successful mitigation of an MCI.

**PROCEDURE:**

Upon arrival at an MCI, the first arriving unit shall perform a rapid scene size-up to ascertain scene safety, the nature of the incident, and an approximate number of patients. This information shall be relayed to Hamburg Fire Dispatch and an MCI declared. Additional mutual-aid units shall be requested and dispatched in accordance with the Town of Hamburg and County of Erie Mutual Aid Plans (refer to the SOG "Dispatch & Mutual-Aid" for more information). Additionally, MERS Control shall be notified of the MCI to prepare hospitals to receive patients.

The first unit on scene shall assume command and implement the Incident Command System (refer to the SOG "Incident Command System" for additional information). The first arriving unit shall not initiate any treatment or transport of patients. This unit shall focus on establishing command, developing structure and providing order to a chaotic scene.

The Incident Commander shall assign additional incoming units to various functions. These include, but are not limited to:

- Triage Officer
- Transportation Officer
- Staging Officer
- Operations Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Safety Officer

Big Tree 8 and Big Tree Rescue 1 contain supplies specially designated for use during an MCI. These include triage tarps & flags, MCI tags, vests, clipboards, etc. These items shall be deployed as early on during an incident as possible.

Every piece of Big Tree apparatus contains a clipboard which has an MCI execution checklist. As early on during the incident as possible, this checklist shall be referenced and utilized (refer to Form 8.1.1).

Triage of patients is critical during an MCI. The Big Tree Volunteer Fire Company shall utilize the "START" triage system and issue a triage-tag to each patient. Patients shall be sorted based upon the universal four-color triage system (Red, Green, Black, Yellow). When ever possible, the Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team of physicians from Erie County can be utilized to aid in triage.