

MASS TRAUMA

Essential Elements of Information – (EEI)

EEI contain Situational Awareness information on People, Systems, and Services Providers that is critical to acquire in the first and perhaps second operational periods. Specific elements stated here may not apply in every event. Additional elements must be generated as the event evolves through Recovery.

Impact of Event or Scenario

A mass trauma event will occur unexpectedly as a result of an airplane crash, multi-vehicle accident, or a terrorist attack with high explosives. Depending on the size of the event, much of the response will be handled within county and mutual aid resources. The SEOC may be activated at a reduced-level to monitor the situation. A very large event with hundreds of casualties or multiple simultaneous events will require a higher level of EOC activation.

A very large, mass casualty event may require:

- activation of the Florida Emergency Healthcare Volunteer Registry (FEHVR)
- establishment of multiple alternative medical treatment sites (AMTS) facilities,
- dispatch of behavioral health strike teams for responders, survivors, and family members,
- establishment of family reunification centers,
- implementation of the State Ambulance Deployment Plan,
- activation of the Florida Emergency Mortuary Operations Response System (FEMORS) for mass fatalities,
- requests for Federal deployment of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATS),
- Special Consideration for managing children who are in school or child care at the time of the event,
- and requests for Federal deployment of Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Teams (DMORT).

A terrorist event may also include chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear devices. See respective EEI on these subjects. The mass casualty event can also bring down power lines and require evacuation and sheltering of uninjured or lightly injured survivors located in and around the event.

People

People include vulnerable populations, the general population, and responders. Vulnerable populations may be classified as static or transitory.

Static populations consist of people who have medically complex conditions, those who are functionally disabled, frail-elderly, and children who are two years old or younger. Evacuation of persons in this category can exacerbate their medical condition causing stress and behavioral health issues. Loss of power for air conditioning can quickly cause heat stress issues among frail elderly.

Transitory populations are those who have chronic medical conditions, seniors in high-rise buildings, and children older than two years old. Power outages will cause immediate issues for persons who are dependent on electricity for oxygen generation and other medical devices. Prolonged power outages with loss of air conditioning and elevators can degrade the health of seniors in high rise buildings who otherwise would not need additional care.

Populations in both categories are vulnerable to extreme stress from a mass casualty event and require immediate and perhaps extended behavioral health assistance and support.

Depending on the area, there may be large numbers of transient vulnerable populations (tourists) that will require post-event assistance.

Systems

Systems include healthcare, medical care, infrastructure, transportation, and communications. Event damage of those in the vicinity of an explosive or airplane crash and power loss will reduce or negate the effectiveness of key systems when they are most needed for recovery.

Service Providers

Service providers are those who provide health and medical care and support services. Damaged facilities, power loss, and traffic disruptions will reduce or negate the ability of service providers to serve affected populations.

Essential Elements of Information

People Information

- General Evacuation Orders
- Ad hoc (“Gypsy”) shelter assessments
- Verify injury reports
- Verify mortality reports
- Vulnerable population status
- Responder health and safety issues
- Current rumors
- Risk communications

- Schools and child care in the affected area(s)

Systems Information

- Deployment of RERAs
- Medical Examiner capability and activation of and deployment of FEMORS
- Fatality storage capability
- Deployment of Federal assessment teams, ESF 8 assets, DMATs and DMORTS
- Identification of logistics staging areas
- Activation of the Florida Emergency Healthcare Volunteer Registry (FEHVR) – number, location, and status of volunteers
- Implementation of the State Ambulance Deployment Plan status
- Activation and deployment of Behavioral Health Strike Teams
- Evacuation routes
- Agency for Persons with Disability (APD) assessment of sheltering status
- Children’s Medical Services (CMS) assessment of sheltering status
- Information on coping/stress reduction/psychological first aid Infrastructure damage assessments
- Areas of power outages and anticipated returns to service

Service Providers

- Hospital status reports
- Hospitals Diversion status
- Hospital bed status
- Casualty Collection Points
- Alternative Medical Treatment Site locations and status
- Primary Care system status
- Health care and medical facility status reports (including dialysis centers, cancer treatment center, and hospice)
- CHD status
- APD assessment
- CMS assessment
- Pharmacy Status
- Dialysis Center assessments
- Non-hospital health care facilities status
- Regional Disaster Behavioral Health Assessment Teams deployed – number and location