

- Napa County
- Sonoma County
- Mendocino County



## ON-SCENE PRIORITIES

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### Introduction

On-scene operations are guided by recognized standard procedures and action priorities. The underlying principle is "Don't make it worse". The safety of responders, victims, and bystanders is of primary importance. An accurate "Report of Conditions" is essential to give other responders vital information necessary to prepare for and carry out their roles in an MCI.

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### Report of Conditions

The first arriving unit **must** give an accurate report of conditions which should include the following information:

- Confirmation of location of incident
  - Nature of the incident
  - Estimate the number of victims & Level of MCI (ie Level I or Level II)
  - Request activation of MCI Plan as appropriate
  - Unusual circumstances or hazardous conditions
  - Best access route
  - Type and number of additional resources requested
  - Action being taken ie. "Quick Attack" or "Command"
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### Operational Modes

The first arriving unit will be faced with situations which have an infinite scale of magnitude of seriousness. Two general operational modes are available to choose from:

- **Quick Attack** - chosen when an immediate action is necessary to mitigate the situation **and** the action contemplated will likely be successful.
  - **Command** - chosen when the magnitude of the incident is so great that the compelling need is to create order (and organization) out of chaos **and** any quick action contemplated would likely be unsuccessful in mitigating the situation.
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### Initial Action Priorities

Three initial action priorities are most important and should be done simultaneously. If insufficient resources exist to accomplish this, then do them in the following order:

- **Identify hazards** and determine needs to control or eliminate them. Take immediate action as necessary.
  - **Perform a "START" Triage** on all victims.
  - **Establish Command** and request additional resources needed to build an organization capable of handling the situation. Command may be relinquished to a more appropriate agency or individual. The following "areas" need to be quickly established:
    - **Establish a Command Post** in an accessible and visible location.
    - **Establish Treatment Areas** in a safe location accessible to ambulances (for ease in loading for transport). Identify the location with salvage covers from fire units.
    - **Establish a Staging Area** and report its location to the command dispatch so that additional responders can report for check-in and assignment.
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## ON-SCENE PRIORITIES CONTINUED

### Example of Priority Achievement

A fire unit (or any other agency) with three personnel can simultaneously achieve all three initial action priorities by staffing the following three identified MCI Plan positions:

- Incident Commander (**supervisor**)
- Hazards Group Supervisor (**driver**)
- START Triage (**firefighter**)

### Initial Ambulance and/or ALS First Responder Action Priorities

Ambulance providers have two initial action priorities which they must undertake upon arrival:

**Staff the treatment area** (Treatment Unit Leader) and:

- Establish treatment areas
- Establish entrance & exit corridors
- Establish ambulance loading area
- Perform secondary triage on all patients brought there
- Provide stabilizing medical care to immediate patients in the treatment area
- Standing orders will facilitate initial operations

**Establish medical communications** (Medical Communications Coordinator) with the base hospital and relay the following information: (Initial Report)

- Brief incident overview, including incident Level (I or II). Include location of incident and closest receiving facilities to the incident.
- Estimated patients & corresponding triage categories
- Extenuating or unusual circumstances

These two priorities can be simultaneously attained by staffing the following identified MCI Plan positions:

- Medical Group Supervisor (acting as Treatment Unit Leader)
- Transportation Group Supervisor (acting as Medical Communications Coordinator)

### Scene Priorities

#### Law Enforcement In Charge

Law enforcement's response is built on jurisdictional authority. The responsible law enforcement official in the jurisdiction where an MCI has occurred is in charge unless otherwise expressly provided for, or later agreed to, by the parties. Law enforcement's actions taken during an MCI will concentrate on efforts to secure the safety and well-being of people. These actions include:

- Traffic control for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic
- Providing scene security
- Conducting investigations
- Conducting evacuation if required

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### Reinforced Organizational Principles

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As additional resources arrive, additional components of the MCI Plan may be put in place. Priorities vary based on the situation unique to each incident. The following principles should be used as guidelines.

- Ensure that hazards are identified and mitigated.
  - Complete initial "START" (primary) triage with BLS trained personnel.
  - Utilize ALS trained personnel to staff the Treatment Unit, giving priority to Immediate patients. Recognize that Paramedics are critical resources and should primarily function as ALS providers, **not** supervisors.
  - Prioritize extrication needs and sequences and assign Extrication Teams appropriately.
  - Utilize personnel with supervisory experience to staff supervisory positions within the overall organization.
  - Maintain a reasonable span of control and create supervisory positions as needed.
  - When assignment is complete, check with your supervisor for new assignment.
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