

Training Scenarios

Provide a minimum of 5 training scenarios that could be used to mobilize a mental health response team.

Most of the scenarios listed come from a site of training scenarios; they are all potential, relevant events for our area, including the 5th scenario which we have been concerned about for some time.

1.) Ice Storm - Mass Casualties; On Friday, November 13, 2009, the city of Terre Haute and a large part of the surrounding county are 5 hours into a major ice storm. Ice is continuing to build on the roads and utility lines. The ice is making driving very hazardous and has caused several roads to become impassable. Ice accumulations have stopped transit service in the city. Police, fire and EMS are having trouble responding to calls due to icy roads. Interstate 70 is a 4-lane highway, which runs east/west through the city of Terre Haute. We just received information regarding a major accident on I-70 involving approximately 45 cars. Early reports have numerous injuries. Both city hospitals are approximately 2 miles away. You are told to expect approximately 100 patients from the scene from the scene and were asked to provide Team members at both hospitals.

2.) Flood; It has been raining heavily for two days in the town of Spencer. Six inches of rain have caused small stream flooding, with moderate damage to local roads, parks, and structures in low-lying areas. The White River is running three feet above normal and is rising. The forecast calls for continued showers and thunderstorms for the next three days. If such heavy rainfall occurs, severe flooding should be expected for the Spencer downtown business district and homes along the White River. Small stream flooding will affect the nearby downstream towns of Stinesville and Ellettsville. You have been notified that evacuations will occur, people will be stranded, shelters will be set up for evacuees and your Team needs to prepare for a response.

3.) Plane Crash; The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds were giving a demonstration air show at the Terre Haute International Airport. The wing of one Thunderbird clipped the wing of another Thunderbird during the show. One plane crashed on the runway sending debris into the stands which held over 700 onlookers. One plane crashed less than ¼ mile away on the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course near the Wabash Valley Family Sports Center where a large basketball tournament was taking place; debris with flames hit the Sports Center and numerous vehicles. You were requested by the Vigo County EMA Director office to send Team members to the onsite triage at both locations; as well as Team members at both Terre Haute Regional and Union Hospitals.

4.) Tornado - Town; The area has been under a tornado watch since 1:15 p.m. Since that time a large storm system moving through this portion of the state has begun moving in a direction that is taking it over portions of Sullivan county, including the town of Dugger. The gusting winds, heavy rain and hail accompanying the storm have put local emergency services on the alert for further developments. The weather spotter network has been activated. The EMA director has been advised of the situation and has asked all emergency services heads to assemble at the EOC. The District Mental Health Team Leader has been asked to attend. While at the EOC, a report comes in that the local high school, which is attached to the middle and elementary schools, has received major damage including a collapsed wall; unknown numbers of children/school staff have been injured. EMS is dispatched to the scene; the Mental Health Team Leader is asked to provide a Team onsite and at the Sullivan County Hospital which is approximately 10 miles to the West of Dugger to deal with the casualties and assist with the students/staff families.

5.) Student Suicide; You are notified by the Sullivan County EMA Director that a senior at Sullivan High School has been found dead; it is a possible suicide. The student was a star athlete and very active in school activities including a mentor to underclass athletes; the school authorities are concerned about the mental health welfare of their students and staff. The Director requests an immediate response to the high school and the middle school where the student also mentored student athletes.

Phase 1

National Weather Service (NWS) and weather spotters have reported a tornado approaching the town. At approximately 1:35 p.m., police patrol reports that the tornado has struck a portion of the town leaving a path of destruction 440 yards wide and a mile long. The path of destruction covers the area north of _____ Street, to _____ Street and east of _____ Street to _____ Street.

There is an unconfirmed report that the school has been hit: also reports that an undetermined number of students are trapped under the debris; while others are wandering around the stricken area. Also, on-scene police units report limited access into the damaged area due to large pieces of debris and nails littering the streets. People are crowding the affected area; some are victims, others are sightseers, some are looters. Initial on-scene reports have determined that they hear the sound of something escaping under pressure, possibly natural gas lines were ruptured during the storm, no clear indication of their location has been received.

Phase 2

You are the crew chief in the first arriving ambulance. Police reports indicate a large number of casualties have been located, however, a search by the Fire Department is ongoing and may reveal even more patients. A group of about twenty school age children are approaching your ambulance and it is evident that many of them are bleeding and have sustained some degree of trauma.

Phase 3

Dispatch has notified the appropriate mutual aid units, utilities and response agencies and they are en-route. Bystanders and neighbors are approaching the scene. Several people have video cameras and appear to be filming the incident. As they move closer to the damaged buildings, many of them are coughing and complaining of an unusual odor in the air. After declaring the MCI (mass casualty incident), establishing contact with police and fire officers, you begin to estimate the number of patients. Your best estimate is that you will be dealing with ____ patients.

Phase 4

Word of the tornado touchdown has spread throughout the county. Calls are coming into the police and fire departments. Visitors and the media are crowding the shelter and the perimeter of the scene; both groups are growing increasingly concerned and demanding. News media is demanding to be allowed to film the incident. The hospitals are requesting an estimate on the amount and severity of patients, which they may expect to be transported to their emergency rooms.

Phase 5

The treatment officer has set up a treatment sector across the street from the _____, in the _____. The treatment officer has set out a large yellow and a large red tarp. There is also a smaller black tarp inside of _____ for the patients who were triaged into the black category. As the incident proceeds, you are able to obtain additional assistance from the firefighters at the scene for lifting and moving patients. The area is becoming quite congested as a number of bystanders are congregating near the treatment area in an attempt to locate friends and relatives.