MIMMS – Major Incident Medical Management and Support

INTRODUCTION
History

- 46 Countries – NATO Standard
- Imported in 2008 by NDOH
- Roll out to all provinces before FIFA 2010
- Western Cape – training about 800 First Responders per annum
MIMMS – Who

- Provincial EMS Services country wide
- Private EMS – country wide
- South African Military Health Services
- Forensic Pathology Services (W.Cape)
- State and private hospitals
What is a MAJOR INCIDENT?
Major Incident Definition

An incident where the NUMBER, SEVERITY, or TYPE of LIVE casualties, or by its LOCATION, requires EXTRAORDINARY resources.
Major Incident Definition

An incident that presents a serious threat to the health of the community

An incident that disrupts the health service
Major Incident Frequency: civilian

UK 3-4 per year, range 0-11
SA data??? – database needed
Major Incident Classification

- Compensated
- Uncompensated
Major Incident Classification: uncompensated

Uncompensated Major Incident = DISASTER
CSCATT TT

- Command and Control
- Safety
- Communication
- Assessment
- Triage
- Treatment
- Transport
MIMMS

Command and Control
Command and control are the cornerstones of major incident management
• Good command and control requires good communication both vertically and horizontally
Command and Control

IMC

PC

Local Authority

FC
Scene Command and Control
Control of Movement

- Outer cordon
- Inner cordon
Command and Control

Tiers of Command

- Bronze (operational)
- Silver (tactical)
- Gold (strategic)
Command and Control
Bronze (operational)

- Bronze commanders are directly responsible to their silver commander

- The first EMS vehicle on scene become silver command (Incident Medical Commander)
Command and Control
Sectors

• A number of sectors may exist within a single incident

• Each sector is a bronze area

• Each sector has forward commanders

• Silver control oversees all bronze areas
Command and Control
Silver (tactical)

- Incident commanders form “Silver Control”

- Incident commanders may physically move into the Bronze area

- More senior officers may take over the job as they arrive
Command and Control
Gold (strategic)

- Distant from the scene
- Chief officers of emergency services
- Local authority and other representatives
Command and Control Health Services

- Ambulance
- Medical
MIMMS – Pre hospital
HMIMMS – Hospital
Incident Medical Commander

- **Command**
  - In charge of Health Service resources
  - Delegation of key tasks to other officers

- **Safety**
  - Overall responsibility for safety of health service personnel (delegated to Safety & Security Officer)

- **Communications**
  - Liaison with other commanders
Incident Medical Commander

• Assessment
  • Health service scene assessment
  • Need for additional ambulances
  • Need for medical support
  • Need for voluntary agency support
  • Need for equipment
Incident Medical Commander

- **Triage**
  - Oversee scene triage
  - Determine the use of the expectant priority

- **Treatment**
  - Oversee treatment

- **Transport**
  - Organise the provision of suitable transport
Sector Medical Commander

- Bronze controller
- Direct health service resources to ensure correct triage on the site
- Direct health service resources to ensure correct treatment on the site
- Direct health service resources to ensure adequate and timely transport to the Casualty Clearing Station
Command and Control
Summary

- One service will have overall CONTROL
- Cordons will be set up
- Different tiers of COMMAND will operate
- Incident Medical Commander is in charge of the health service response
Poor communication is the commonest failing in major incident management.
Communication
Causes of Poor Communications

• Lack of information

• Lack of confirmation

• Lack of co-ordination

Poor discipline and poor liaison
I was left with the clear impression that opportunities to pass vital information between the emergency services were missed.

Desmond Fennell, OBE QC
Investigation into the Kings Cross Fire
Questions ?