

Preparedness in the Southwest Course

Module 10: Mass Casualty

A Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) occurs when the number of victims overwhelms the local capabilities and resources. The response to an MCI often requires allocation of resources (e.g., infrastructure, personnel and supplies) in order to provide disaster care while maintaining essential services.

The goal of this module is to provide an overview of planning and responding to an MCI in the face of scarce resources, and the role public health plays in ensuring an effective response to an MCI.

Learning Objectives:

1. State the definition of a mass casualty incident and the goal of a mass casualty response.
2. List the differences between non-biological and biological mass casualty incidents.
3. Discuss the planning considerations pertinent to a mass casualty incident.
4. Describe the public health roles in non-biological and biological mass casualty responses.
5. Discuss the challenges of surge capacity regarding infrastructure, personnel and supplies.
6. List the local and federal response assets available for mass casualty incidents.

Core competencies addressed:

Competency 1: Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise

Competency 2: Describe the chain of command in emergency response

Competency 3: Identify and locate the agency emergency response plan (or the pertinent portion of the plan)

Competency 4: Describe his/her functional role(s) in emergency response and demonstrate his/her role(s) in regular drills

Competency 6: Describe communication role(s) in emergency response:

- within the agency using established communication systems
- with the media
- with the general public
- personal (with family, neighbors)

Target Capabilities:

Triage and Pre-Hospital Treatment

Medical Surge