

Annex P: Transportation Related Mass Casualty (MCI) Emergency Actions

Nature of the Hazard

The City of South Portland is subject to transportation related mass casualty events. Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI) can and do occur on the major roads that traverse South Portland, including the Maine Turnpike, Interstate 295, US Route 1 and other heavily used roads, such as the Maine Mall Road. MCI transportation events can also occur on ships in port (e.g. cruise ships, ferries and other boats, primarily on the Portland side of the river), and at the Portland Jetport (NOTE that the runways are located in South Portland).

Risk Area

The entire city is subject to the risk of a MCI. Areas more prone to transportation related MCI events are the areas around the Maine Mall (which includes the mall area, the turnpike and I-295), around the Cash Corner area (where the Rummery Industrial Complex intersects Route 1, where there are literally hundreds of trucks that enter and exit the industrial park daily), around the Casco Bay Bridge, which is a major transportation route (Route 77), and around the Portland Jetport.

Direction and Control

Transportation related MCI events are generally managed at the scene of the MCI event, using the Incident Command System, mobile command posts, and multiple fire department, EMS and law enforcement resources. The Director of Emergency Services (City Manager) may decide to staff up the city EOC to provide support to the Incident Commander in the field.

Communications

Normal city communications channels will be used to manage response to MCI events. Because such transportation related MCI events generally require a large regional response, it is expected that mutual aid radio channels and other communications channels will be utilized by the IC and by responding units.

Warning

Transportation related MCI events occur with no advanced warning. Areas or the city that may be in danger because of transportation related MCI events will be warned via methods described in the All-Hazards Emergency Plan, including use of the EAS system, use of police officers and firefighters using bullhorns and other devices, using the emergency warning system designed for the hard of hearing and other means. The EOC staff will coordinate warning messages and methods, if activated.

Emergency Public Information

Emergency Public Information (EPI) will be issued as necessary by the EOC staff, through the Public Information Officer (PIO). Methods of EPI dissemination include using the TV camera mounted in the Joint Information Center (JIC). This JIC camera is connected to the SPC TV broadcast studio at City Hall, allowing emergency instructions to be broadcast through SPC TV to about 12,000 households in South Portland and Cape Elizabeth. News releases will be developed as needed by the PIO, approved by the EOC Manager, and then disseminated to the public through Portland area radio, TV and print media outlets as well as city website and social media sites.

Evacuation

IC staff would determine, based on current scene conditions, road conditions, and other factors, if evacuation of the public were necessary. Appropriate evacuation routes would be developed in the EOC, approved by the EOC Manager, and then broadcast to the public via the EPI system described above. A combination of police officers, firefighters, public works staff, and appropriate barricades and other traffic control devices would be employed to effect the evacuation in an orderly and timely manner.

Mass Care

EOC staff in concert with scene IC staff will determine if mass care facilities should be opened and manned. The primary mass care facility in South Portland is the Community Center on Nelson Street, behind the South Portland High School. Approximately 500 evacuees can be processed in this mass care facility. Other city facilities, including the High School can be used as mass care shelters.

Health and Medical Concerns

Area and regional hospitals will be alerted as soon as possible and asked to prepare for an MCI event using their established and tested MCI plans and procedures.

Resource Management

Local resources are generally inadequate to deal with transportation related MCI events. If additional resources are needed, the Portland Regional Dispatch Center will request mutual aid responders from area communities. The Cumberland County Office of Emergency Management will be contacted by the South Portland EOC and requested to facilitate the procurement of additional needed resources if mutual aid resources are inadequate.

Specific Actions for Transportation and Related MCI Events

Fire Department Actions

- Respond as requested and implement SOG for Mass Casualty Incidents.
- Alert area hospitals and EMS services to be on standby.
- Take command and appoint an Incident Commander and ICS staff as appropriate for the event.

- Keep the EOC, if activated, informed of the event and request resources through the EOC as needed.

Police Department Actions

- Assist the Fire Department with the initial response.
- Direct traffic as required to keep the public away from the event and keep approaches to the event location clear for emergency vehicle traffic.
- Work with the fire department as needed as part of a Unified Command structure if law enforcement needs (traffic accident investigation, for example) must be included in command decisions.

Public Works Actions

- Assist with traffic control and with transportation support as needed.

EOC Actions

- Activate the EOC if needed to support Incident Command staff at the scene.
- Coordinate resource requirements, communications, public information and coordination between the city, the county, other mutual aid communities, and the state as needed.